

June 6, 1979

Mr. Chairman, the essential point of our whole Statement is to impress on you that there are important reasons why the Congress should affirmatively and specifically direct the Commission to assure the availability of channels needed to meet vital public safety needs. We want you to impress upon the Commission the special priority to be met in this area even when the Commission is under intense pressure from many directions to make channels available for a broad variety of users. We have special short-term and long-term requirements because of the public responsibilities involved in protecting lives and property. We can't move as fast as many others because of the planning, budgeting, political and other considerations which I am sure this Committee understands inherent in governmental activity. And it is easy for an agency under intense pressure to respond to short-term considerations without giving proper

attention to the long-term importance of frequency require-
ments in areas such as public safety.

I repeat, everything that we are saying in our
Statement is designed to impress upon you the importance
of emphasizing legislatively to the Commission the special
nature and importance of assuring itself affirmatively that
public safety needs are being met.