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It's a privilege to belong to APCO

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June 18, 1973

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TO: The Executive Committee

FROM: The Executive Secretary 

SUBJECT: Project Thirteen; Project Fourteen

1. The Board of Officers is considering making a grant application to LEAA for the purpose of embarking upon the first phase of Project Thirteen: THE APCO INFORMATION SYSTEM.
2. The Board has discussed this matter at some length with LEAA. Briefly, the phases now being considered are along the following general lines:
 - a. A Review and Assessment of Communication Planning at the State Planning Agency (SPA) Level of the Fifty States.
 - b. A related study of other federal and nationwide telecommunication planning, funding and regulatory measures.
 - c. The establishment and operation of an APCO information exchange system which keeps such information current and available.
3. LEAA is interested in the development of Phase One. At the completion of Phase One, APCO and LEAA will evaluate its result and its impact on funding possibilities for the remaining indicated phases.
4. Briefly, Phase One will develop a "yardstick" for measuring the current level and type of communication planning now being done at the SPA's; using on the one hand the technical considerations that a statewide telecommunication SPA plan should address (The APCO Police Telecommunication Text - Project Three), and on the other hand the applicable (standard 23) goals of the Communication Task Group of the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals. It is possible that, before this phase is completed, APCO could be involved in traveling into the fifty states, possibly in conjunction with a sub-contractor. APCO's report would be provided to the fifty states and to LEAA, indicating how each state "measured" up to the developed criteria, with recommendations for individual state consideration. It is possible that a number of additional project phases might become evident and useful. For example, one such task might be to revisit the states and establish and conduct workshops for the purpose of assisting the states in developing state wide communication planning. Another possible spinoff could be an examination of the value of our coordination service as it relates to a vital and necessary input to this type of planning, perhaps with a study to be made

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of the current and possible future status of the coordination function - particularly in view of the FCC Spectrum Management Center experiment.

5. The Board has considered this proposed program with great care. It feels that APCO will gain stature by entering into the effort; that it will make lasting and important positive contributions to all of its members at their own levels.
6. On the other hand, the Board realizes that such gains require an increased level of effort, and that the greater the level of effort the greater the possibility of criticism. External justifiable criticism is a reward, but the Board also feels that the Executive Committee should know in advance that there could be some adverse membership reaction in the following possible areas:
 - a. APCO will rise to a level of national visibility not now occupied. It will, therefore, accept new obligations and accrue a related different type of responsibility.
 - b. This will come about by APCO assuming a more active role in making judgments and recommendations which, however, it has already said its members should do in their own communication planning (Police Communications Text).
 - c. As a result, APCO could find itself, to a lesser or greater extent, taking positions in critical communication planning matters, both in regard to the federal government and in regard to state, county and municipal governments. Positions, in this relationship, speaks to attitudes and opinions APCO may be required to assume and offer to the parties concerned.
7. In summary, with reference to Project Thirteen, APCO in effect will be putting into actions what its written words, and aims and objections, speak to. The Board in fulfilling its constitutional responsibility, endorses and asks your support for the implementation of Phase One of Project Thirteen.
8. In this regard, from those of the Executive Committee who support this effort, the Board will appreciate a positive vote in the poll, rather than reliance upon the silent (no response) provision for the affirmative. Those members who may vote in the negative are, of course, required to record their vote in writing.
9. Please reply to this poll to this office by not less than first class mail postmarked no later than July 3, 1973. Your active consideration in this respect is appreciated.
10. Project Fourteen - A STUDY OF VOICE BREVITY CODES - approved by you by means of a vote cast on April 25, 1973, has been funded by the Office of Telecommunications Policy of Executive Office of the President. You will find more information about this action in the forthcoming July issue of the BULLETIN. The Board intends for this project to justify your faith in its judgement. You will be kept informed as all of the projects progress.

cc: Counsel