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29 January 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

FACTS 1244

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Some information on the theft of \$60,000 from WBAI, but first some background information.

Previously, I had written to you that the Internal Revenue Service had initiated an audit of Pacifica Foundation on the basis of the same information, which I had provided to Mary Mitchelson, Inspector General of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Ergo, Mitchelson did not tell the truth concerning the sufficiency of an investigation.

Even more amazing the IRS, Exempt Organizations, thanked me for my information- quite the contrary to the adversarial letters, which were sent to me by the CPB. Extraordinary, Dear Chap.

And as you should know the IRS ordered that the accounting practices of Pacifica be changed to reflect Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The Department of Labor also initiated an investigation into Pacifica's labor activities on the basis of a letter, which I had sent. My letter concerned the use of consultants for more than a one year period. The Department of Labor sent me a letter thanking me for my advice. So much nicer than the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Prior to 2010 \$60,000 of broadcasting equipment was stolen. They year is important because in 2010 the Stephen M Brown Group took control of WBAI.

Bernard White, Program Director of WBAI, and Tony Riddle, General Manager of WBAI, ordered \$60,000 of broadcasting equipment for WBAI. The broadcasting equipment was delivered to an address in Newark, where the father of someone (Riddle or White?) lived. The father then said that the equipment had been stolen.

Several individuals have questioned Bernard White about this theft of equipment. White has always provided evasive answers. But it has been widely discussed by members of the Stephen M Brown Group, which presently controls WBAI.

R Paul Martin, Chair of the WBAL Finance Committee and a member of the WBAL Local Station Board, has stated that the equipment was stolen. Jim Dingeman, Chair of the WBAL Community Advisory Board, has said that the equipment was stolen. Carolyn Birden, member of the WBAL Local Station Board, has said that the equipment was stolen.

Frank Lefever, member of the WBI Finance Committee and a member of the WBAL Local Station Board, said that the equipment was purchased with money from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and after it was stolen, the equipment was "donated" as a Community Service Grant. Lefever said that he wrote about this on the WBAL Blue Board- so some of the information should be able to be verified.

As you are aware all thefts in excess of \$10,000 must be reported. (I believe that \$10,000 is the threshold for a felony theft.) As an IRC 501 (c) (3) corporation, which receives federal funds, this theft must be reported and the money recouped.

Now please remember that Lefever has said that CPB funds were involved in this theft. You do not need a subpoena to investigate this matter.

I suggest that the Federal Communications Commission investigate this matter and defund WBAL. The federal government cannot reward a conspiracy to cover up a felony.

Better yet, conduct an investigation into Pacifica's broadcasting license; after all, it is supposed to be reviewed every year. Strip Pacifica of the WBAL broadcasting license. And get the Department of Justice involved.

I will be writing to you again- with something even better.

Sincerely,



Edward Manfredonia