An Appeal to
A PUBLIC SERVANT

PRESIDENT KILLIAN WAS HONORED BY BEING ASKED in the winter of 1949-50 to serve on the National Communications Policy Board. This is a five-member Federal Government agency. It is now considering whether there should be a merger of the international communications companies (cable and radio-telegraph companies). In accepting his position on this Board, President Killian took on himself the responsibilities of a PUBLIC SERVANT:

PUBLIC SERVANT JAMES R. KILLIAN, JR. acts in a different capacity from President Killian. As president of the Institute, we suppose that Mr. Killian may in good conscience advise employers. If as a result of his advice, the workers hired by these employers lose their jobs, we couldn’t blame Mr. Killian, though our sympathy would go to the workers. BUT IN THIS CASE PRESIDENT KILLIAN IS NOT ACTING IN THE CAPACITY OF ADVISOR TO EMPLOYERS.

HE IS WORKING FOR UNCLE SAM. And as a public servant, President Killian was sworn to weigh the interests of the PUBLIC. The PUBLIC includes more than the commercial companies in the international communications industry. The public whose interest he serves includes (1), THE EMPLOYEES OF THAT INDUSTRY, AND (2), THE GENERAL PUBLIC. So Public Servant Killian must act in this case differently than he might act if he were advising the communications companies.

WEIGHING THE PUBLIC INTEREST MEANS GIVING "DUE PROCESS" TO PERSONS WHO WANT TO BE HEARD before a decision is reached on a controversial matter.

We, the American Communications Association, a union representing the employees of the international communications companies, WANT TO KEEP COMPETITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN THE RULE IN THIS INDUSTRY FOR ALMOST 100 YEARS.

OUR CASE WOULD PROVE THAT THIS TRADITION IS SOUND. It would prove that GOOD COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, NATIONAL DEFENSE AND JOB PROTECTION FOR THOUSANDS OF WORKERS REQUIRE ITS CONTINUATION.

WE WOULD SHOW THAT THE COMPANIES’ PROPOSALS WOULD THROW OUT COMPETITION AND REPLACE IT WITH A GIANT MONOPOLY. WE BELIEVE THE COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE.

But the National Communications Policy Board HAS REJECTED OUR REQUESTS THAT OPEN HEARINGS BE HELD ON COMPANY PROPOSALS FOR ALLOWING MERGER OF THESE COMPANIES.

IF WE ARE WRONG and the merger proposals will stand the light of day and cross-examination, THE COMPANIES HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM OPEN HEARINGS.

WE THINK WE ARE RIGHT and we are ready to submit to critical cross-examination to prove we are right.

Therefore, WE ARE MAKING THIS PUBLIC APPEAL IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE PRESIDENT KILLIAN IS KNOWN AND RESPECTED.

THIS IS AN APPEAL THAT PUBLIC SERVANT PRESIDENT KILLIAN, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY BOARD, FOLLOW DUE PROCESS AND ACT TO GRANT A PUBLIC HEARING ON INTERNATIONAL MERGER PROPOSALS BEFORE HIS BOARD MAKES ITS DECISION.

WE HOPE YOU AND HE WILL SEE IT THIS WAY. We invite your comment to President Killian and to us.

AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION
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