

8960 Vista Grande
Los Angeles 46, California

November 27, 1946

Mr. Charles R. Denny, Jr., Acting Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The action of the Federal Communication Commission in deferring the grant of a renewal license to Station KFI, Los Angeles, is gratifying news to thousands of citizens of this community who protested the station's arbitrary dismissal of six commentators in February, 1945.

In the 21 months since these men were fired, KFI has adamantly pursued a policy that permits no newscaster or news analyst to broadcast over its facilities unless he is on the station's payroll, directly in the station's control. KFI has continued to ignore hundreds of letters of protest against this policy and refused to meet with responsible leaders of the community.

The Emergency Committee on KFI and its successor organization, the California Committee for Radio Freedom, has charged that Earle C. Anthony, owner and principal stockholder of KFI, fired the commentators in order to get rid of Alvin Wilder, Peter de Lima and Sam Balter. That this charge was not without foundation was proved in testimony given by Mr. Anthony himself during an FCC hearing in this city on May 21, 1946.

During cross-examination at that hearing, Mr. Anthony had no better reason for dropping Sam Balter than to say that that commentator's opinions could be "bought"---a phony and irresponsible accusation that clearly reveals Mr. Anthony's bias against Balter.

There is nothing that Balter, Wilder or de Lima said on KFI which offended public morals or decency. There is nothing they said that can be proved to be other than factual commentary.

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Yet Mr. Anthony stated on the stand that he discharged these men "because we can't control what they are going to say and the station can get in a ditch."

Mr. Anthony's anti-labor bias is well known. The report of the La Follette Committee on Education and Labor reveals that Mr. Anthony was one of the heaviest contributors to the Southern Californians, Inc., an organization created by employer groups to secure enactment of anti-labor legislation. Now, Balter, de Lima and Wilder were not anti-labor. Nor were they anti-New Deal, as was Mr. Anthony, who refused to carry one of President Roosevelt's fireside chats. Balter, de Lima and Wilder supported the people's program advocated by President Roosevelt. They were interested in what the great majority of people in the country were interested in, namely, a better life for the rank and file of our citizens. It is clear that Mr. Anthony disagreed with that program and the men on his station who advocated it.

Mr. Anthony has proved by his words and actions that in the operation of his station, he is motivated by personal and political prejudices. He has further proved, by his arrogance and defiance of the public interest, that he is not worthy of assuming the responsibility of operating one of the most powerful radio stations in the United States. For these reasons, this committee believes that a renewal license should be denied Station KFI.

Very truly yours,

Earl Corwin, Secretary

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