

Cable Ownership Topic Of Cong'l Hearing

WASHINGTON — Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.), chairman of the House Small Business Committee, announced last Wednesday the third in a series of Subcommittee hearings on small and minority business access to the cable television industry.

The hearing was to be held on Wednesday, November 4, in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Through organized efforts a very few local

independent small and minority businesses have successfully obtained local cable TV franchises," said Congressman Mitchell. "We are pleased to hear from some of these companies at Wednesday's hearing so that this Subcommittee can better understand how they have been able to obtain these highly desirable cable TV franchises."

During the Subcommittee's previous hearings, it was noted that no

existing company has ever constructed cable TV systems of the type and size which are being considered by such cities as Washington, D.C., Detroit, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Houston or Baltimore. Therefore, the Subcommittee was told, there is no guarantee that a large company can provide better local cable TV service than could be provided by a local independent small or minority business.

"We have been told that local independent small and minority businesses must overcome a public perception problem in competing to obtain local cable TV franchises. Apparently, local municipalities believe that bigger means better," Chairman Mitchell said, adding, "the evidence in this area does not appear to support the belief that bigger means better local cable

TV service." Many of the more than thirteen million local independent small and minority businesses in this country must be included in the ownership, construction and servicing of local cable TV systems."

Witnesses scheduled to appear include: Herbert H. Hamlet, president; Pan-American Telecommunications Inc., Atlanta, Ga.; Donald T. Templeman, deputy administrator, SBA.



SHOWING NEW FAITH AND ENTHUSIASM—this year's Homecoming attendees applauded the biggest homecoming rout since the 1950's defeat of Shaw 55-0. Photo by Kelvin A. Bell

Caucus Charges Reagan's Haitian Refugee Policy Bias

The Congressional Black Caucus recently called the Reagan Administration program to interdict Haitian boat people on the high seas a "flagrant example of both an ideologically and racially biased refugee and human rights policy."

Speaking on behalf of the eighteen-member Caucus, Chairman Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.) said that the "new Haitian policy coupled with the alarming U.S. tilt toward the racist government in South Africa and our country's decision to eliminate the 'extended voluntary departure' program for Ethiopian nationals are all in-

dicative of this administration's total disregard for the human rights of black refugees."

Fauntroy said the U.S. has developed a dual refugee policy which has different standards for refugees fleeing black nations compared with refugees from the Soviet Union and East European Communist countries.

"Interdiction is enforcing Haitian laws which make it a crime to leave Haiti without a visa from the government. The Haitian law is identical to the exit requirements in the Soviet Union. But the U.S. has applied a different standard in dealing with the Haitian refugees," Fauntroy said. "Haiti can no longer claim a proud

heritage as the world's first black republic because of its corrupt and repressive leadership."

Fauntroy said he would urge the Caucus to take the following steps in response "to the continuing bias in our country's refugee policy."

- 1) Commission an independent legal analysis of the legal remedies to halt interdiction both domestically and internationally.
- 2) Urge Congress to hold hearings on the human rights impact of the interdiction policy.
- 3) Withdraw support of human rights initiatives by Congressional colleagues who do not support Caucus human rights programs.

CHISHOLM

Sees Wrong Response To Immigrant Woes

WASHINGTON — Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D-New York) this week characterized President Reagan's call for emergency powers against today's unwanted immigrants as an "anachronistic" response to our immigration problems.

The congresswoman was particularly critical of proposals to incarcerate and deny due process rights to even those aliens seeking asylum in this country. "I thought that world history had taught all of us to beware of 'emergencies' manufactured to abrogate individual constitutional rights," she warned. "The Administration wants to punish the victims of discriminatory policies for successfully using our legal system to thwart those policies. This is not 'streamlining the process for our efficiency', but rather a blatant drive to cut aliens' access to our courts."

Congresswoman Chisholm expressed her hope that the Congress would reject attempts to restrict the appellate process for asylum denials, and she sees some positive signs in statements by the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Senator Alan K. Simpson, regarding fairness and equitability of treatment of aliens.

The New York Representative also objected to proposed Presidential authority to violate U.S. and international law. "Is the Congress expected," she asked, "to provide the President with a license to violate the law to address what may be a questionable emergency?"

"The bottom line on this request for emergency powers," Congresswoman Chisholm concluded, "is an apparent return to the restriction of the early 1900's. The discriminatory immigration policies of the United States during that era did not serve our country well then, and they will not serve us well now."



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Hwy. Est. EPA Est. mpg

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Ninety-Eight Regency Brougham Sedan

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G

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