

Testimony of Sydney Levy

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If you applaud, you're taking off of my time so please wait.

My clock is ticking.

I will tell you one thing which is important. These hearings don't happen because there is an announcement on a website of the FCC. People come here because they're committed. But people come here because we in the community organize and explain, and bring people so that they can come and give one day off from work in the middle of the day to come, let alone move from one place to another in rush hour traffic.

And we do that out of our resources, you know, word of mouth. We don't do that with the help of corporate media. I will give you one example from the *LA Times* where we wanted to put -- free press, actually wanted to put one ad announcing this hearing. The original price for the ad was \$25,000. When the *LA Times* found out about the content of the ad, the price went to \$40,000 and then \$117,000. It went down to \$40,000 only with the stipulation that the words "big media" be taken out.

Now I ask you, is this the kind of company, the

Tribune, that we want to reward with gross ownership? I don't think so.

Now if the FCC is really interested in listening to the public, what I would ask you to do, I beg you to do, is release the times and dates and locations of all the remaining FCC hearings so that people can know ahead of time and people can come. This is regarding the process.

Regarding specifically because I see my time ticking -- regarding media consolidation, I just want to present two examples of radio stations that are using the public airwaves irresponsibly but because they belong to such big companies, there is no way the communities can really make them be more responsible. There is no accountability.

One example, hopefully, you will hear here tonight if you haven't heard it already is here in LA. It's Academia Semillas del Pueblo. Now there has been a campaign of harassment by KABC, which is owned by Disney. Hopefully you will hear more. They have been called every name in the book: racist, cannibalist they have been called and there is no way to stop this kind of name calling, which is extremely anti-Mexican, extremely anti-immigrant.

I am coming from the Bay area and we have the same situation with a Clear Channel station, KNEW. I don't

have time to give you the whole report that we produced when we monitored the station. I will just give you one example. Referring to under committed immigrants the word "vermin" was used 43 times in 40 minutes.

Now, there is no way that we can go to KNEW and explain our situation. The Youth Media Council has tried for two years to have a meeting with KNEW. Two years. That's Clear Channel, by the way, and we haven't had any chance of having a meeting.

I really urge you to come to Oakland in California October 27th, all of you Commissioners and also listen from the people in Oakland what is happening there with our stations. We also have a lot of anti-immigrant bashing there from the radio, from Clear Channel the same way that you are going to hear today.

And as you come -- and I think I'm going to finish ahead of time which is good for you because you should have more time to speak. As you come please not only come ready to listen to the public, but please come ready also to tell us why are we now engaged in a media ownership proceeding when we really haven't addressed diversity or localism. The Localism Task Force, we haven't seen the results. We saw a transcript, but we haven't seen anything

more except our report has been shelved. We really want to see those items handled first.

But please come to Oakland, hear from the public and give us an answer.

Thank you.