



## Do You Know?

Do you know how the Federal Communications Commission came to be?

The President sent a note to the Congress on **February 26, 1934** and a day later, Senator Dill and Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas introduced bills to carry out this recommendation. The Senate Bill (S.3285) passed the House on **June 1, 1934**, and the conference report was adopted by both houses **eight days later**. The Communications Act was signed by President Roosevelt on **June 19, 1934**. Parts of it became effective **July 1, 1934**; other parts on **July 11, 1934**. And thus, the FCC was born.

To the Congress:

I have long felt that for the sake of clarity and effectiveness the relationship of the Federal Government to certain services known as utilities should be divided into three fields: Transportation, power, and communications. The problems of transportation are vested in the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the problems of power, its development, transmission, and distribution, in the Federal Power Commission.

In the field of communications, however, there is today no single Government agency charged with broad authority.

The Congress has vested certain authority over certain forms of communications in the Interstate Commerce Commission, and there is in addition the agency known as the Federal Radio Commission.

I recommend that the Congress create a new agency to be known as the **Federal Communications Commission**, such agency to be vested with the authority now lying in the Federal Radio Commission and with such authority over communications as now lies with the Interstate Commerce Commission – the services affected to be all of those which rely on wires, cables or radio as a medium of transmission.

It is my thought that a new commission such as I suggest might well be organized this year by transferring the present authority for the control of communications of the Radio Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission. The new body should, in addition, be given full power to investigate and study the business of existing companies and make recommendations to the Congress for additional legislation at the next session.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The White House  
February 26, 1934

The first section of the Act reads:

*"For the purpose of regulating interstate and foreign commerce in communication by wire and radio so as to make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States a rapid, efficient, nationwide, and worldwide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges, for the purpose of the national defense, and for the purpose of securing a more effective execution of this policy by centralizing authority theretofore granted by law to several agencies and by granting additional authority with respect to interstate and foreign commerce in wire and radio communication, there is hereby created a commission to be known as the '**Federal Communications Commission**', which shall be constituted as hereinafter provided, and which shall execute and enforce the provisions of this Act."*

**Now you know.**