F.C.C. COMMISSIONER SPEAKS AT CLUB:

"The Vast Wasteland—FCC Regulation of TV Programming" was the topic of a speech by F.C.C. Commissioner Kenneth A. Cox, at the Club last night. His topic was based on the famous "Vast Wasteland" speech given by former F.C.C. Chairman Newton Minow, before the National Association of Broadcasters in Spring, 1961. Cox pointed out that that speech was especially startling to the N.A.B. since they had become accustomed to hearing very passive and complimentary speeches.

In that speech, Minow pointed out that while the stations had popularity, this was not enough. Public interest is not necessarily what interests the public. In his evaluation of the speech, Cox said that while Minow's statements reflected his high standards, it was also calculated to shock the broadcasters out of their complacency. He criticized this oversimplification, pointing out that there were many commendable programs on TV at that time and many stations that were very conscientious about their programming. However, it did serve many good effects. Not only did it awake the public to the service provided by the broadcasters and the great trust placed in them; it also made the broadcasters think more about their schedules and plan better. As a result, the last two and one half years have seen some improvement in programming.

Cox said that the only really effective way to program improvement was constructive criticism by the viewing public. Although the F.C.C. has a very important function and is not without power they cannot act as a censor to all programs because of first amendment guarantees and the impossibility of shouldering such a burden. On the other hand, the F.C.C. can refuse to issue or renew a license if the station cannot show, by its prospective schedule, that it will provide a public service—will serve the needs of the community. However, its minimum standards are very vague. Even the N.A.B., in contesting the right of the F.C.C. to strictly regulate, says that competition and public opinion enforce high standards. However, Cox suggested, this is really only true in the more popular areas of light entertainment, sports and news. Furthermore, in the end, competition often results in the presentation of similar shows based on proven popularity gimmicks.

In evaluating TV today, the Commissioner classified viewers in three basic groups: One was typified by the man who objected to interference of the marathon presentation of John Glenn's flight with his son's favorite show, "Three Stooges." Two was the largest group, watched Glenn, enjoyed much of what is now the typical show, but would like to see more of the specials and shows of better quality. While probably not approving of the "Stooges" they recognize the need to satisfy all tastes. Three consists of the people who watched Glenn, but wanted more in depth coverage. They feel that much of the present programming is garbage, such as the "Stooges," and would have it dropped from the schedule, notwithstanding its popularity.

He pointed out that as a mass media, TV brings any given program to the largest number of people possible and that it offers much that they would not get in any other way. While the superior quality specials are not overly frequent, they do exist. On the other hand, much TV is of little value and some borders on the cheap and shoddy. This is partially result of a focusing of interest on light entertainment and the desire of stations to hold as large an audience as possible; and also the result of evidence that even when people claim to want more quality, they don't take advantage of what is currently presented them.

In some concluding remarks on advertising, Cox pointed out that again the F.C.C. cannot act as a censor. However, false advertising is inhibited by the F.T.C.'s power against both the advertiser and the station. Also the N.A.B. has its own code on the matter. The code suffers from its liberality (allowing as much as 30 per cent of the time to be devoted to commercials), from non-enforcement by the N.A.B. and from the fact that not all stations belong. The F.C.C. has considered making the code's provisions a part of its regulations; but this has met with much criticism. Cox said his own suggestion is to make the code a policy of the Commission. As such, it is not law; but would be relevant consideration in the re-issuing of licenses.
POSSIBILITY OF A "SENIOR LAW DAY" CONSIDERED: The Student-Faculty Committee is currently considering plans for a Senior Law Day to be held during the latter part of April, approximately two weeks before final exams. The purpose of such a day would be (1) to provide a meaningful ceremony for seniors and wives and parents of seniors which would punctuate the end of three years' legal study, and (2) to provide each and every senior with some degree of individual recognition at a gathering involving only the law school.

The content of such a program is as yet uncertain. Tentative plans include some well-known guest speaker, the introduction of each senior, and a Dean's reception either before or after the main part of the program. Of course, other announcements, etc., might be added; the Committee is open to suggestion.

The place for the more formal part of the afternoon hopefully would be the quadrangle. Due to the uncertainty of Michigan weather in April, however, use of the Union ballroom or some comparable place might become necessary.

Before making any further plans, the Committee must have a reliable indication of the turnout for such an event. In order to facilitate such a poll, Dean Smith is mailing questionnaires to each student scheduled to graduate in June, August or December of 1964. Each student receiving a questionnaire will be asked (1) whether he or she would attend such an affair, and (2) whether his or her parents would attend. These should be completed and returned as instructed. If there is to be a Senior Law Day for this year's class, it is absolutely essential that these questionnaires be faithfully completed and returned.

GRIDIRON PIX:

Northwestern over Michigan
Wisconsin over Michigan State
Alabama over Miss. State
Air Force over Army
Iowa State over Oklahoma State
Ohio State over Iowa
Oklahoma over Colorado
Georgia Tech over Duke
Notre Dame over Navy
Nebraska over Missouri
LSU over Mississippi
Minnesota over Indiana
N. Carolina over Georgia
Auburn over Florida
Illinois over Purdue
Columbia over Cornell
Dartmouth over Yale
Harvard over Penn
St. John's over St. Thomas
Hannemucca U. over Arboga Tech.
(intersectional)

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EDITORS' HASTERASET: The Board of Governors of the Lawyers Club met last Saturday. They considered the liquidated damage policy of the Club towards residents who withdraw from residence during the year. While somewhat of a penalty, it was argued that such conduct generally results in a non-resident moving into the room, often a friend of the one leaving. The effect of this is a contravention of club policy which is to give room priority to former residents who intend to hold the room for a full year. Instead, the more desirable room is often taken by one never intending a full year's residence and then passed on to one with no claim of priority over the long time resident in the less desirable room. The board also decided to purchase 20 refrigerators which will be licensed out to residents. This was done because many privately owned refrigerators now in the club are fire and safety hazards; and also because of a desire for "uniformity."

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LIBEL AND SLANDER: In spite of the criticisms that might be leveled against the cafeteria, nobody can attack the jelly beans we got last night. Undoubtedly this is one of the finest dishes to emerge from our kitchen in some time. Mrs. Morgan's recipe is truly something to be treasured....While on the subject of the cafeteria, I would like to make a prediction. Before the week is over, we will have roast beef. This is because so far this week we have had roast lamb twice and roast beef only once. After all, the cafeteria strives towards a balanced diet and everyone knows that two and two balance while two and one do not.
Why a brunch? Last year the students voted in favor of this type of meal at noon on Sunday. While we are given the opportunity of breakfast or dinner, the quality of this meal is considerably below that of other breakfasts or dinner served at the Club. Any taste the potatoes have is likely to be due to the excessive amounts of pepper used on them; the roast beef is, like most of the rolls, obviously a remembrance of meals long past; there is little basis for comparison of the eggs with those served for the a la carte breakfasts; often there is no choice of juices for those who come in shortly before closing; and while the pancakes are often good, they are usually gone by noon. If the kitchen is unable or unwilling to serve a meal of reasonable quality at this time, corrective action should be taken.

-H.V. Baxendale

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AT THE FLICKS:

Michigan: "Mary - Mary"
Campus: "Eve Wants to Sleep"
State: Fri.-"The Haunting"; Sat.- "Fantasia"
Campus: Fri.-"The Freaks"; Sat.- "Spellbound"

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QUADSVILLE QUOTES:

If there were no bad people there would be no good lawyers.
- Dickens

The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets and to steal bread.
- Anatole France