

*Sloan Commission*

Tuesday 11/24/70

4:10 Had a call from Gloria Scott of the Sloan Commission. (212) 684-1800  
She asked for a copy of the Report on Long-Range Forecasting -  
Technical Trends in Telecommunications (which was put out  
from the Executive Office of the President.)

Checked with Timmie White, William Plummer, Will Dean,  
Dr. Lyons, and they have not heard of such a report.

Art Cooke puts out a memorandum every 6 months but this  
is not the subject of that memo.

Ernest C. Wood prepared a paper entitled  
Technological Trends in Telecommunications while working  
in the Office of Telecommunications Management in the Executive  
Office of the President -- dated January 22, 1968.  
The report was never released -- there are several copies in  
the office. When I asked Miss Scott where she got her info,  
she was told by someone that there was such a report -- on  
further checking said the person was in the Harvard Law School  
Library when they saw it. Mr. Plummer has suggested  
that perhaps Mr. Wood might have been preparing a bunch of  
material and gathering info from various libraries, and showed  
the person a copy of what he was preparing.

Also checked to see if this could have been the title for Jack Cole's  
thesis -- but it was not.

Advised Miss Scott's office that we are unable to locate the  
paper but if they get any further information, we would be glad  
to try to locate it.

Tuesday 11/10/70

*Sloan Commission*  
*on cable*  
*Comm*

MEETING  
6:30  
11/19/70

5:25 You have reservations on American Airlines Shuttle Flight No. 474 leaving National Airport on Thursday (11/19) at 3:30; arriving in New York at 4:25.

Returning, your reservations are on Eastern Flt. No. 633 leaving New York at 11:40 and arriving at National Airport at 12:40.

We will pick up the tickets on Tuesday (11/17) before 6:00 at the Statler at 16th and K.

*Would like list of members of Commission  
+ whatever PR we have on this charter.  
Requested by telecon w/ Laskin 1730/11/12/70  
BWD.*



Thursday 11/5/70

MEETING

11/11/70  
6:30

6:00 Mr. Laskin said if we will tell them when Mr. Whitehead will be arriving in New York they will meet him. If we need hotel reservations, they will be glad to make them.

Tuesday 11/3/70

4:50 Steve called Paul Laskin to discuss the invitation from Arthur Singer.

(212) 684-1800

Steve indicates the Sloan Foundation is a private endowment that financed the creation of the Sloan Commission to study cable communications. The Commission has 16 members. They meet normally the 3rd Thursday of each month. Begin with cocktails at 6:30 -- dinner at 7:30 p.m., with an informal talk following dinner. Break up about 9:30 or 10:00.

Ten to twelve Commission members usually show -- two or three Foundation members. Arthur Singer, Fred White, Mr. Donner (former Chairman of General Motors and currently Comsat board member -- follows this Commission closely because of his interest in communications).

It would be a small private dinner -- maximum 15 people -- informal dress. They'd like you to talk a little about OTP and cable communications and they will be glad to provide a car to take you to the airport when the meeting breaks up.

Paul Laskin will be in Washington this Thursday and would be glad to talk with you about your participation -- if you desire.

Steve needs to get back to Laskin as soon as possible.

Thurs. Nov. 19

Steve -- a later date  
Dec. maybe?  
If not, O.K.

I called -

Explained hearing schedule, time pressure, etc.

Expressed positive interest in meeting with the Commission and said CTW could if absolutely necessary do it now, but asked them to consider postponement for 2 months. They will call back.



Cocktails 6:30

Dinner 7:30

9:30 to 10:00 break up.

Monday 11/2/70

MEETING

11/19/70

(212) 582-045

3:30 Arthur Singer called. He wants to invite Mr. Whitehead to attend a dinner meeting on Thursday, 11/19 with the commissioners of the Sloan Commission on Cable Communications. The dinner will be in New York at the St. Regis Hotel.

Mr. Singer will not be in the office until Wednesday; but Mr. Paul Laskin can help us in the meantime.

(212) 684-1800

Small private dinner  
Next 3 or 4 Thurs.

16 members

10-12 - usually show.

2 or 3 Sloan Foundation - Funding.

Arthur Singer

Fred White

Mr. Donner

Fred.

(former  
Chairman)

Steve

call Laskin

How many who, etc?

Will be testifying in the  
trial in the morning

11/19/70  
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11/19/70  
(212) 582-045

3:30

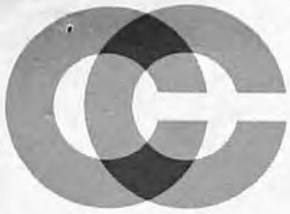
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(212) 684-1800

*Steve is to call  
Laskin + get  
more details*





**SLOAN COMMISSION ON CABLE COMMUNICATIONS**  
105 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016, TELEPHONE: (212) 684-1800

November 16, 1970

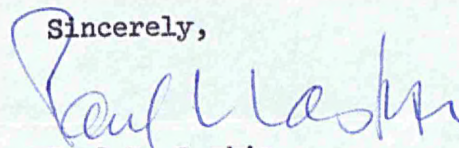
Mr. Clay T. Whitehead  
Director  
Office of Telecommunications Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom:

I asked the people at the Sloan Foundation to send you some material on the Foundation and a recent publication on the Sloan Commission. It occurred to me later that the original press release on the establishment of the Commission might also be useful, and I am enclosing a copy.

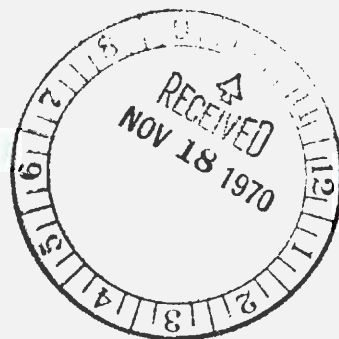
We all look forward to hearing you Thursday night.

Sincerely,

  
Paul L. Laskin

PLL/CS  
enclosure





# *Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*

630 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10020

(212) JU2-0450

# NEWS

For Further Information: Arthur L. Singer Jr.  
Stephen White  
Robert L. Hermann

FOR RELEASE: A.M.'s of WEDNESDAY, June 10, 1970

New York, N.Y., June 10--Formation of a Commission on Cable Communications, to explore in depth the potential of cable television, was announced today by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The Commission will study and report on the full range of services that might be provided by cable television in bringing new communications systems to bear on some of the massive problems that now face American cities, large and small. Examples of such uses might be in the provision of health, welfare and employment services, in community development, and in improving the quality of life generally.

The creation of the Commission was welcomed by President Nixon in a letter to Nils Y. Wessell, president of the Sloan Foundation, in which President Nixon expressed the hope that the Commission would be able to "come successfully to grips with the problems we can expect to encounter as wide-band communications are made available on a large scale."

Professor Edward S. Mason, former dean of the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard University, has agreed to serve as chairman of the Commission. Others who have accepted

- more -



add 1 Sloan

appointment to the Commission include:

Ivan Allen, Jr., former Mayor of Atlanta.  
John F. Collins, former Mayor of Boston.  
Dr. Lloyd C. Elam, president, Meharry Medical  
College.  
Kermit Gordon, president, the Brookings Institution.  
William Gorham, president, the Urban Institute.  
Morton Janklow, New York attorney.  
Dr. Carl Kaysen, director, Institute for Advanced Study.  
James R. Killian, Jr., former President's Science  
Advisor and Chairman of the Corporation,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology.  
Edward Levi, president, University of Chicago.  
Dr. Emanuel Piore, vice president, International  
Business Machines Corporation.  
Henry S. Rowen, president, Rand Corporation.  
Dr. Frederick Seitz, former president, National  
Academy of Sciences, and president, Rockefeller  
University.  
Franklin A. Thomas, president, Bedford-Stuyvesant  
Restoration Corporation.  
James Q. Wilson, professor of government, Harvard  
University.

In his letter to Mr. Wessell, President Nixon wrote:

"I should like to express to you my appreciation of the initiative of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation in undertaking to create and support the Commission on Cable Communications. It is certainly my hope that your Commission, under the able direction of Professor Edward Mason, will be able to come successfully to grips with the problems we can expect to encounter as wide-band communications are made available on a large scale. I hope particularly that it will be able to illuminate the tremendous potentialities of such wired systems.

add 2 Sloan

"The power of new technologies to impose change is beyond dispute. But we have learned in recent years that there is nowhere any assurance that the change will necessarily be beneficial. Perhaps for the first time in history, we are aware that the time to think about the consequences of a technology is before it has become so firmly fixed in place that it is very nearly beyond reconsideration. A new technology can take a society down many roads, not all of which lead to agreeable destinations. Your commission, in attempting to explore some of those roads and set forth an account of the alternatives, will be performing an important public service.

"I look forward with considerable interest to your report. The distinguished group you have gathered to consider these matters provides every reason for confidence in the outcome."

In announcing the Commission, Mr. Wessell said, "Although we have been planning this activity for several months, the recent action of the Federal Communications Commission, pointing toward a far more rapid development of cable television in the large cities, makes the task even more urgent than it appeared to us when we first thought to undertake it.

"It is inevitable that within a few years, many



add 3 Sloan

or most city dwellers in the United States will be linked by cable television systems that will constitute the most powerful communications system ever conceived. Much of that system will be devoted, as indeed it should be, to entertainment and to news. But there will remain a channel capacity beyond that ever previously put in place, capable of providing a host of urban services for which there has been heretofore no conception.

"It is now possible to imagine a revolution in the manner in which such urban necessities as health services are provided; health systems such as those which already exist in major cities might be made more effective and more efficient in manners of which we now have little or no conception. Systems of vocational education linked to employment services might contribute massively to the economic well-being of the city. Cable television, uniquely capable of serving small cities and areas within the large city, might make a major contribution to community development."

In accepting appointment as chairman of the Commission, Dr. Mason expressed the hope that the work of the Commission would bring into focus all the variety of needs and of entrepreneurial activities that will ultimately shape the cable television system that is now about to come into being.

- more -

add 4 and last Sloan

"There is a clear need," Dr. Mason said, "for an assessment of the promises and the threats of cable communications, out of which there might come informed judgment of the manner in which the new system should be encouraged to grow and the steps that must be taken so that it will grow in just that fashion. An assessment of that kind is an essential guide by means of which the franchising power of the cities and the regulatory power of the states and of the Federal Communications Commission may impose limits and develop goals for the system of the future."

The Commission, which will be supported by a \$500,000 appropriation from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, will operate with its own professional staff, and will support studies on various aspects of its problem as they come to the fore. The Commission itself will meet monthly, over a period of fifteen months, and will report its findings late in 1971.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, established in 1934, has interests in science and technology, education, management, and related problems of society. Assets at the close of 1969 were \$302,864,260 at market value.