

# CONGRESS LISTENS

## Dean: Public Media

Sidney W. Dean, Jr., chairman of ADA's national board communications committee, has proposed that the House Subcommittee on Communications and Power establish a congressional commission on the communications media to examine the relevance of media institutions in light of new needs, objectives and techniques.

In testimony on broadcast station license renewals before the committee May 8, Dean pointed out that responsibility for the public media is now subdivided among so many congressional committees that public goals for open access and free competition have suffered. ADA therefore urged Congress to allocate jurisdictional responsibility for all of the public media to a single, standing, select or joint committee.

Dean said, "ADA is convinced that the public interest requires that

the electronic media carrier systems be phased into regulation by common carrier principles. Common carrier regulation is the only certain guarantee that all persons and organizations can distribute and market their ideas, news, entertainment and services and that the public will have free choices."

Dean said that if broadcast carrier systems were regulated as common carriers and separated from control over content, ADA would favor extending licenses to six years.

"But so long as broadcasters have the privilege of monopolizing our predominant and all-powerful carrier media and controlling content in their private interest, ADA submits that the regular three-year evaluation of performance, by the adversary process if required, is essential to the public interest," he said.