

7 advisory board.

8 DR. BERRY: Frank Millspaugh?

9 MR. MILLSPAUGH: I hereby resign from the

10 WBAI local advisory board.

11 DR. BERRY: Andrea Cisco?

12 MS. CISCO: I resign from the WBAI local

13 advisory board.

14 DR. BERRY: All right. Hearing from the

15 persons whose status was as local advisory board

16 members, that they have duly resigned from that, I

17 hereby announce that they remain as members of the

18 governing board of Pacifica Foundation to serve the

19 terms that are now their stated terms as of this date.

20 And now I ask the counsel, our counsel,

21 whether he believes that we have complied with the

22 guidance from CPB by these actions that we have taken

23 this day.

24 MR. CRIGLER: Yes, I do

25 DR. BERRY: Thank you very much, Counsel.

1 Now we will proceed to vote on the policies.

2 The board has before it a motion to approve

3 the policies which I read to you, which are the

4 policies which will be used to implement the by-law

5 change which we have just agreed to.

6 I move that we approve these policies as a

7 motion --

8 a report coming from the Board Governance and

9 Structure Committee.

10 Could I get a second?

11 MR. MILLSPAUGH: Second the motion.

12 DR. BERRY: Is there any further discussion?

13 Hearing none, all those in favor of the

14 these policies, indicate by saying "aye."

15 VOICES: Aye.

16 DR. BERRY: Opposed?

17 (No opposition.)

18 DR. BERRY: So ordered.

19 Everyone has voted unanimously,

20 and these are the policies that we'll

21 follow.

22 Everyone who has been involved in this

23 debate is very much interested

24 and concerned about Pacifica.

25 There's no one, whatever position they took,

1 or take, on the by-law proposal who did it in bad

2 faith, in my opinion.

3 I believe everyone, no matter what

4 organization or if they were acting individually,

5 and no matter how they expressed their opinions,

6 did it because they were interested

7 in Pacifica.

8 I received, as many of you did
9 all of you did,
10 many communications.
11 -- I got a letter, which purported
12 to be from Howard Zinn,
13 who I very much
14 respect and am very fond of,
15 Noam Chomsky.
16 -- Ed Herman concerning this
17 change in which they said
18 that as the 50th anniversary
19 of Pacifica, we should
20 continue to operate in a
21 democratic --
22 small d -- fashion.
23 Let me just say I would be responding
24 directly to them, but what we have done here is no less
25 democratic, as I said before, than we were before.

1 The issues of how the board of Pacifica
2 should be selected or how the LAB should be selected --
3 whether they should be elected or how they should be --
4 these issues are not the same as whether one should
5 disconnect the LAB roles from the national governing
6 board roles. Those are entirely different issues,
7 although they're issues that deeply concern people.

8 I think we should all commit
9 ourselves to moving forward in the
10 best interest of all of the stations and of the
11 network.
12 My only complaint,
13 and I feel constrained to say this, is that
14 the vitriol and the bile that was expressed by some
15 people in this debate is worse than anything I have
16 ever received from the Right Wing.
17 I have been attacked. I have been fired by
18 Ronald Reagan. I've been put in jail. I've had all
19 sorts of bad things happen to me in my life in the
20 cause of social justice. And the Right Wing has never,
21 In my view, treated me and members of this board as
22 badly as some of the people in this debate.
23 I have had my life threatened on the
24 telephone, on voice mail, at my office, by people who
25 have said I would be killed if I indeed pursued this

1 course. The Right Wing has never told me they would
2 kill me if I did something.
3 I have had people accuse me of stealing.
4 I've had people say all sorts of things. I just think
5 that there's a way to disagree and there's a way to
6 dislike somebody or something they're doing without

7 being disagreeable.

8 So I would hope that what we would do is
9 commit ourselves to having a reasonable, honest debate
10 with each other. And maybe that's the way at Pacifica
11 and I just didn't know it.

12 But let us hope that we can agree on most
13 things. And when we disagree, we can do it without
14 threatening each other, at least threatening each other
15 physically. And I would very much appreciate it if we
16 went forward.

17 Sherry Gendelman has now arrived.

18 And if there is --
19 was some confusion about when you would speak, I'm
20 sorry --

21 MS. GENDELMAN: I apologize.

22 DR. BERRY: -- I apologize. Because you
23 certainly aren't part of the public comment period. So
24 I'm just glad you got here. And we would very much
25 like to hear from you.

1 COUNCIL OF CHAIRS REPORT

2

3 MS. GENDELMAN: Thank you.

4 I've been asked to communicate to you the
5 concerns of many of the listeners and supporters of the

6 Pacifica network which have been forwarded to me by the
7 Council of Chairs.

8 In addition, many long-time KPFA supporters
9 have also asked me to represent them here. Finally, I
10 have letter given to me by Victor Honig, which I will
11 either read or give at the end of my remarks.

12 DR. BERRY: We have the letter.

13 MS. GENDELMAN: Oh, you have the letter.

14 The underlying strength and reason for the
15 continued existence of Pacifica, KPFA, and the other
16 stations in our network, in large part, is based upon
17 the connection it maintains with its listening
18 community, as well as to communities who attribute to
19 the progressive politics, culture, and spirituality
20 that have been broadcast for so many years.

21 It is often a joke that if there's a
22 Pacifica or KPFA gathering in town with 100 people in
23 attendance, there will no doubt be 300 different
24 opinions minimum. We air controversy, and we invite
25 it.

1 I recommend to all of you Matthew Lasar's
2 recently published book, Pacifica Radio, the Rise of
3 the Alternative Network, which chronicles our colorful
4 history with humor and accuracy.

5 I care deeply about these airwaves. They

6 are my connection to the ideas, thoughtful discussion,
7 information, about what's happening, who needs help,
8 who to lobby, who to picket, to wonderful music, plays,
9 scientific information, all of it. This is my
10 lifeline. I love the medium of radio more than any
11 other.

12 We, Pacifica, is once again facing difficult
13 decisions about how to protect and grow the network and
14 Pacifica's mission while retaining a connection to the
15 communities we serve and who support us. I speak on
16 behalf of many people in urging you to remember you are
17 here to serve the mission of Pacifica.

18 I understand economic reality quite well. I
19 am fully aware of the contribution CPB makes to our
20 overall budget. But we are not here to serve CPB first
21 and Pacifica as an afterthought.

22 In a conversation I had with Rick Madden, it
23 was troubling to learn that no one advocated on behalf
24 of Pacifica in response to the CPB ruling that our
25 structure could not be reconciled with current CPB

1 guidelines. Rather than viewing it a challenge to
2 create structure that supported who we are, it created
3 a response of panic, with the national office offering,
4 in the eyes of the Pacifica community, to give up the

5 essence of Pacifica to save it.

6 I know that talent abounds on the national
7 board. I do not believe that collectively our board
8 and the vast array of talent and genius that contribute
9 commentary to our airwaves can't come up with a
10 solution that meets our needs and CPB's. You're all
11 too smart for that.

12 I look to the national board for many
13 things: To guide this organization through whatever
14 political waters we encounter. Rarely smooth. That's
15 because the market we have carved for ourselves is the
16 market of intelligent, informed dissent, be it in
17 culture or politics. Because of that, our audience is
18 indeed vocal and territorial, and it will be
19 relentless. Of course I'm not telling you anything
20 new.

21 When you develop the by-laws that will
22 define our governance and structure, you must maintain
23 the connection to your communities.
24 How will you govern if you are perceived as
25 a completely self-appointed entity?

1 How will you enjoy the legitimacy you need
2 to make difficult decisions of concern to most people
3 within the Pacifica community if you have no mandate at
4 all for governance or if you sever your only mandate?
5 How will you guide the network through the

6 very difficult decisions that national boards
7 historically had to manage, such as testifying before
8 the hostile government committees, engaging in
9 difficult union negotiations, handling public reaction
10 to very controversial programs, or station staff
11 personnel meltdowns that have taken place from time to
12 time within Pacifica?
13 How will you handle these if no one can
14 figure out why you are in charge?
15 I want to address specific concerns:
16 The most egregious action taken by Pacifica
17 was the treatment of Larry Bensky. Larry is an asset
18 to the network. For many across the country as well as
19 here in the Bay Area, Larry is their voice on Pacifica.
20 His supporters contribute money to the network, and,
21 more importantly, they are informed by his commentary
22 and subsequently contribute to their own communities.
23 His intelligent reporting creates political
24 ripple effects to benefit all of us. He has worked for
25 the network for 30 years. His personality is not the

1 issue; the quality of his work is.
2 His firing resulted in my having a second
3 full-time job. The reaction was so extreme. You are
4 aware of this. We air stories all the time about
5 abuses of labor here and abroad. Larry was treated in

6 a manner that any reporter of ours would hold
7 abhorrent.
8 Listeners were somewhat reassured when he
9 returned with Sunday Salon. But once again, my phone
10 rang off the hook with the deafening silence of his
11 absence during the impeachment coverage. We have no
12 other talent within Pacifica who can make his political
13 understanding, acumen, and encyclopedic knowledge of US
14 politics. Yet, the comment repeated was that Larry
15 would never work as Pacifica national affairs
16 correspondent again. Consequently, Pacifica's coverage
17 was abysmal.
18 One day Amy Goodman aired an interview with
19 a conspiracy theorist linking Clinton to the murder of
20 Vince Foster, of leaving a skull on the lawn of
21 Kathleen Wiley, smuggling drugs into an Arkansas
22 airport, et cetera.
23 My phone rang off the hook throughout the
24 impeachment coverage. There is little doubt that Amy
25 Goodman is extremely talented in many areas. Political

1 anchoring of a senate impeachment trial is outside the
2 bounty of her talent. Who suffered because of this?
3 Pacifica and its listening audience.
4 The growth of the national bureaucracy is
5 not something that I am opposed to. I have been
6 involved with many organizations. I was the executive

7 director of the Gray Panthers, which I've headed up
8 many campaigns and organized many demonstrations. I am
9 aware of issues of distribution of power. I am not
10 opposed to centralization. However, how that occurs
11 and why, is an important decision-making process.
12 I urge you to grow our national office to
13 create innovative national programming, develop and
14 respond to the explosion of technology and its impact
15 on our medium, lend technical support to the stations
16 within our network, and at the same time, grow Pacifica
17 in non-signal areas, lobby and advocate on behalf of
18 our network in Washington, DC, or Sacramento, or
19 wherever you are needed. That is what this national
20 office is about. And support the growth of all the
21 stations within the network, and support their
22 continued strength within their communities.
23 I urge you further to support the managers,
24 staff, and each of the stations. We seem to have
25 fallen into a we-versus-them mode of operation. We

1 cannot survive operating from this perspective. Our
2 organization will not be able to maintain competent
3 people if this toxic environment continues.
4 We are all in this together. And we
5 desperately need a well-informed, professional,
6 national structure to guide, protect, and grow a

7 well-informed, competent staff within the stations.
8 The stations and their staff are our strength, our
9 greatest asset. It is only good sense and good
10 politics to respect and nurture their talent.
11 Our station has faced enormous upheaval and
12 controversy. I supported the debalkanization of
13 programming that occurred in 1995. The repercussions,
14 as you are well aware, were dramatic. It has taken a
15 long time for KPFA to regain the respect and loyalty of
16 our community.
17 I currently credit our long-time staff and
18 their tenacity. I give a large degree of kudos to our
19 station manager who assumed her job under difficult
20 circumstances. Nicole has treated staff with firmness
21 but respect, has made strong connections to a variety
22 of communities, and has exciting and innovative
23 programming ideas. She knows radio.
24 I urge you to allow her, and all the
25 managers, to use their creative talents to grow their

1 stations. Don't suffocate them, support them. It
2 inures to the benefit of Pacifica.
3 Finally, I want to thank you for all the
4 work you have done and do for this radio network. I
5 know your contributions of time and energy are

6 enormous. I know that you care deeply about keeping
7 first amendment radio alive and healthy and growing.
8 And I support you and am available to contribute to the
9 network and to all of you.

10 DR. BERRY: Sherry, thank you for your
11 report. But your report, in many ways, was an example
12 of what's wrong with Pacifica. You came representing
13 the Council of Chairs. You are speaking because we're
14 in your signal area. You said nothing about any of the
15 other stations or their concerns or anything that we've
16 discussed in the Council of Chairs, or any issues.

17 You, also, did not even acknowledge that
18 there are at least two stations -- unless I've got it
19 wrong -- that don't even carry Larry Bensky. Have I
20 got that right? Or didn't want to carry Larry's show?
21 New York didn't want to carry it.

22 MR. MILLSPAUGH: They didn't want to start
23 it during the fundraising.

24 DR. BERRY: No, no. I'm saying when I first
25 came on this board, I was told that WBAI didn't want to

1 carry Larry Bensky because it interfered with their
2 programing. And that WPFW didn't want to carry it
3 either.

4 I have nothing against Larry Bensky. I love his show
5 personally. But I'm old, you see. And I've been