

## EIR petitions FCC to review Univision sale

*EIR* filed a motion with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on April 29 to reopen for review the transfer of control of Univision network to Perenchio Television, Inc. (PTI). Univision was sold nearly two years ago by Hallmark to PTI, a consortium made up of American television producer Jerrold Perenchio, Mexican television magnate Emilio Azacarraga, and the Venezuelan brothers Gustavo and Ricardo Cisneros.

The motion is based on new evidence showing that:

- “Banco Latino money, possibly including laundered drug money, provided the Cisneroses the financial means to purchase their part ownership in PCI [Perenchio Communications, Inc.] and PTI, the latter set up for the purpose of buying the largest Spanish-language media network in the United States, i.e., Univision;

- “Ricardo Cisneros, who is now a fugitive from Venezuelan justice and a member of the boards of both PCI and PTI, clearly is of questionable character, yet maintains his interest in the largest Spanish-language media network in the United States; and

- “Censorship of political opponents, by any means necessary, is a pattern and practice of the Cisneros family empire, Diego Cisneros Organization, which is in violation of the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee to freedom of press and speech.” The latest information shows that Cisneros has been using illegal wiretaps.

*EIR* requested that the FCC “reopen and enlarge the issues concerning the applications in this case. The Commission must revoke its approval of the PTI application, or at a minimum hold hearings to investigate these extremely grave, documented charges. In particular, Ricardo Cisneros and Gustavo Gómez López, both reportedly in the United States as fugitives from Venezuelan justice, should be subpoenaed for testimony on these issues. Not to do so, is tantamount to this Commission condoning the equivalent of an Ivan Boesky of the media.” The Univision sale, the largest ever in the history of U.S. broadcasting, was approved by the FCC in September 1992, during the Bush administration, without a hearing. In fact, the FCC never even met to discuss the sale, despite the fact that it was opposed by *EIR* and virtually every major U.S. Hispanic organization.

In the motion for reconsideration filed by editor Nora Hamerman, new evidence is presented that shows beyond a reasonable doubt that *EIR*’s original allegations were on the mark, and that Gustavo Cisneros, without candor, knowingly

and intentionally misinformed the commission.

*EIR*’s motion states that “the new information reveals that the Cisneroses are using illegal wiretaps, illegal police surveillance reports, fabricating evidence, suborning testimony, and manipulating the court system to prevent exposure of their questionable business practices.

“On April 21, 1994, Venezuela’s *Diario de Caracas* reported that the names of 42 journalists, editors and executives from the dailies *El Nacional*, *Ultimas Noticias*, *El Mundo*, *Diario de Caracas*, the television network Radio Caracas Television (RCTV), and the radio network Radio Caracas Radio (RCR) were listed in the court records in the case of the secretary general of the Venezuelan Labor Party (PLV), Alejandro Peña Esclusa. Mr. Peña Esclusa is a long-time political activist and friend and associate of U.S. economist and former presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. The Peña Esclusa case has been described as the ‘most serious attack on freedom of speech there has been in Venezuela,’ by Marcel Granier the publisher of *Diario de Caracas*.”

The file on the judicial case against Peña Esclusa instigated by the Cisneros Organization, was recently leaked to the media in Venezuela and was found to contain “the transcripts of over forty (40) telephone conversations that were illegally intercepted by the political police, DISIP. Some of the conversations were of a highly personal nature, between Peña Esclusa and his wife, and Peña Esclusa and his mother. Yet, these transcripts from illegal wiretaps, as well as other police documents clearly marked ‘confidential,’ got into the hands of Cisneros’s employees and agents.” These revelations about “wiretaps and the other confidential documents, show that there is a clear and present danger to the right of free speech and the right to privacy of American citizens if PTI, along with the Cisneros brothers, remain in control of Univision.”

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark has written the Venezuelan government condemning the indictment and attempted arrest of Peña. Other prominent international figures have also denounced these oppressive tactics including: the former President of Argentina, Arturo Frondizi; the former Vice President of the French National Assembly, Roger Garaudy; Congressman Rufino Saucedo, a member of the Human Rights Committee of Mexico’s Congress; Congressman Miguel Pajares Ruiz of Peru; and Canadian Archbishop Bertrand Blanchet, of Quebec, as well as several elected officials in the United States, the motion states.

The motion also notes: “The Venezuelan Federation of Environmental Organizations denounced Cisneros-owned Venevisión for having produced a documentary in which some Venezuelan fishermen are shown killing a dolphin. It had been discovered that the administrator of a Cisneros-run entity, Bioma, paid to have the dolphins butchered in order to make a film for the Venevisión documentary. The program had been aired in November 1993 by Univision in the United States.”