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LENGTH: 182 words

HEADLINE: CONSUMER FILES FCC COMPLAINT AGAINST CHICAGO STATION

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

A public television watchdog group filed a complaint with regulators Thursday against Chicago's public television station, alleging that it violated federal rules by broadcasting home shopping programs.

The Coalition for Democracy in Public Television told the Federal Communications Commission that WPTW-TV devoted 45 hours of airtime during a two-week period in October 1993 to sell products for itself and local institutions like the symphony, zoo and art museums.

A spokeswoman for the station said it aired the "holiday gift exchange" as an experiment but had no plans to repeat the program because it proved to be an ineffective fund raiser.

"There are going to be a lot of public stations that are going to look at new ways of raising revenue," the spokeswoman said. "We really feel we were within FCC guidelines."

But the coalition, which said it is made up of more than 170 groups, asked the FCC to impose penalties on the station and to issue a declaratory ruling that the broadcast of home shopping material on educational television violates FCC rules and policies.

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SECTION: Financial Report. Domestic Money.

LENGTH: 103 words

HEADLINE: GROUP COMPLAINS TO FCC ABOUT CHICAGO PUBLIC TV

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, JULY 7

BODY:

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The Coalition for Democracy in Public Television told the Federal Communications Commission that WPTW-TV devoted 45 hours of airtime during a two-week period in October 1993 to sell products for itself and local institutions like the symphony, zoo and art museums. A spokeswoman for the station said it aired the "holiday gift exchange" as an experiment but has no plans to repeat it because it was ineffective.