

Station Committee Upholds Dismissal Of TV News Editor

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WASHINGTON, April 22—

The executive committee of station WETA-TV approved Wednesday the dismissal of William Woestendiek, the news editor who was ousted last week after his wife took a job as press secretary to the wife of Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

A committee majority of 11 to 2 upheld the decision of the station manager, William J. McCarter, and declared it to be the "special responsibility" of noncommercial television "to maintain a high standard of independence and impartiality, free of outside political or commercial pressure."

In the minority, Garfield Mass, a Washington real estate man, and Mrs. Patricia Roberts Harris, a lawyer and former dean of the Howard University law school, expressed their "profound disagreement," and stated:

"Whatever may be the spiritual union of man and wife, their professional independence must be protected. We believe that Mrs. Woestendiek had the right to accept any lawful employment and that her husband had the right to retain his employment."

Representative Torbert Macdonald, Democrat of Massachusetts who is chairman of the House Communications subcommittee, said yesterday he would hold hearings next week on the Woestendiek affair, specifically to examine the role of the Ford Foundation, which has funded WETA's "Newsroom" show, in Mr. Woestendiek's departure.

The Ford Foundation has said that it had no part in the case. The station's executive committee said Wednesday that Mr. McCarter had dismissed Mr. Woestendiek on his show after he had "properly consulted" five of the station's directors.