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## CLINTON NOMINATES COLIN POWELL'S SON TO FCC

JEANNINE AVERSA, Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton has nominated the son of retired Army Gen. Colin Powell to sit on the five-member Federal Communications Commission.

Michael Powell, chief of staff of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, would succeed FCC Commissioner Rachele Chong. Her term expired June 30, but she is expected to serve until Powell is confirmed. Both Chong and Powell are Republicans.

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., pushed for Powell to get the post, which is subject to Senate confirmation.

On Friday, the committee, which oversees FCC nominations, received the paperwork, which was dated July 31, the committee's spokeswoman said.

Last week, government sources said FCC General Counsel Bill Kennard, a Democrat, was the likely choice to replace Chairman Reed Hundt, who has said he intends to step down as soon as a successor is confirmed.

Asked whether there was a reason why Kennard's designation hasn't been made, White House spokesman Michael McCurry would only say: "It was not ready to go."

Kennard would be the first black to head the FCC. He has the support of industry and public-interest groups and some minority organizations. Still, his confirmation proceeding could be rocky.

Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., and the Congressional Black Caucus are pushing their own candidate, Ralph Everett, who also is black. And, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., could try to block Kennard's nomination because of an FCC action that forced an Asheville, N.C., broadcaster off the air.

Of the FCC's five seats, three now are designated to be held by Democrats. One of the two Republican seats is vacant. Except for FCC Commissioner Susan Ness, all the other commissioners will be new once all the nominees are confirmed.

The "new" FCC will continue the difficult job of trying to deregulate the telecommunications industries so that competition evolves, rates go down and consumer choices go up. The FCC's decisions will shape communications policy into the 21st century.

Both Everett and Kennard are generally well regarded on Capitol Hill and have reputations as consensus builders.

Everett was once counsel to the Senate Commerce Committee under Hollings and is now a partner in the Washington law firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker.

Before joining the FCC in 1993, Kennard was a partner at the law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Benhard, McPherson and Hand and was assistant general counsel for the National Association of Broadcasters.



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In May, Clinton nominated Harold Furchtgott-Roth, the House Commerce Committee's chief economist, to a Republican seat that has been vacant for more than a year. At the same time, he nominated Kennard to be a FCC commissioner.

Now, the White House is expected to nominate Gloria Tristani, a commissioner of the New Mexico State Corporation Commission, a regulatory body. She would fill one of the Democratic seats.

The Senate Commerce Committee expects to hold hearings in September on all four FCC contenders, vote on the nominations in October and send them to the Senate for action before targeted adjournment in early November.

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