



New Jersey Broadcasters

*Send New file on Section 315 and
First Amendment*

Monday October 5, 1981--Atlantic City, N.J. In a rousing speech at the New Jersey Broadcasters 35th Annual convention, FCC Commissioner James Quello challenged the broadcasters to organize consumers, broadcast and print media trade organizations and others into a "call to arms for freedom of the press" to repeal the Fairness Doctrine and the Equal Time Law. Citing that "the public would benefit from a freer, more robust, more venturesome broadcast journalism emancipated from unnecessary restrictive government oversight" Quello noted "it is past time to give broadcasting full First Amendment rights the same as newspapers".

Quello noted that when he was in broadcasting prior to becoming an FCC Commissioner and for a period thereafter, he did not disagree with the regulations of the Fairness Doctrine and Equal Time laws. However, noting the lack of scarcity of frequencies today combined with the multiplicity of other media outlets including cable, DBS, cassettes and teletext, he joined in the 4-2 FCC vote recommending to congress to eliminate these First Amendment restrictions on broadcasters.

In commenting on eliminating these controls, Quello noted "The constitutional freedoms were instituted for the benefit of the citizenry--the total public--rather than the media. It is the public that stands to gain from an all media freedom of the press".

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