

CONCURRING STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO

Re: Petition to Deny An Application  
for Renewal of License for Station WXYZ-TV  
Detroit, Michigan

I agree with the finding of the majority that the license of WXYZ-TV should be renewed. However, I am concerned about the agreement between WXYZ-TV and NOW (National Organization for Women) and want to register my concurrence with some of the complaints filed by CPI (Center for the Public Interest).

I believe that the views and philosophies of other responsible women groups and of CPI are also entitled to full consideration in ascertaining the overall needs of females in the service area and should be represented in the programming to meet those needs.

After all, no one feminist group, regardless of how laudable its objective, has been authorized to act as bargaining agent for women as a class or for the public at large.

In my opinion, a negotiated agreement reached between a licensee and any citizens group, which represents only a small portion of the total community, is not compatible with FCC requirements that a licensee follow the Commission's comprehensive ascertainment procedures to determine for himself the needs and interests of his total community.

If the licensee has ascertained those total needs and interests, I can't understand how public interest is served by a small segment of that public seeking special consideration by negotiating an agreement which is to be enforced by the Commission.

I concur in the final result in the case of WXYZ-TV in that allegations were not serious enough to warrant a hearing or drastic disciplinary action. However, there is considerable merit in some of the complaints filed by CPI. I believe the Commission should make certain that programming in the public interest is determined by comprehensive ascertainment of the total community and not diverted or subverted by special agreements with a small segment of the community promoting their own special philosophies.

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