

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
JAMES H. QUELLO

March 10, 1988

Chairman John D. Dingell
2221 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman John,

As a longtime friend of public station WTVS, channel 56, Detroit, you or your staff may be interested in reviewing the enclosed annual report tape outlining the station's remarkable community services.

I recently spent an informative, productive day in Detroit with Dr. Bob Larson and the WTVS Board. I want to report that we can all be proud of the outstanding local community service performed by our Detroit station. They are using television to advance community problem-solving, promote understanding and serve as a catalyst for constructive social development.

Example: Less than 50% of the Detroit school students graduate from high school.....

WTVS and the Detroit Board of Education organized task forces in each of the city's twenty-two schools, linked them electronically, and broadcast the city-wide meeting of 1200 students, teachers, and parents. Specific recommendations were developed and a consensus reached on priorities that were advocated publicly and before the School Board. These and other approaches to youth problems were so promising, and the issues so complex, that a long-term commitment to youth issues and human relations has been made which includes the creation of a metropolitan-wide WTVS Youth Network to produce new, relevant programs with and for young people.

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Also, strong community coalitions are being formed to advise the station on community objectives and needed programs, to organize audiences and groups for the use of televised material, and to create entirely new information systems such as the proposed Youth Data Clearinghouse which will be capable of providing accurate, immediate information on youth events, services, and issues through a computer-linked system that unites major information centers in a region.

In 1988, new technologies and distribution systems will be woven together in new, powerful combinations. In Detroit, WTVS has joined with the Detroit Public Schools, Wayne State University, the Archdiocese of Detroit, and the Intermediate School Districts of the three-county area to create an 18 channel Instruction Television Fixed Service system called the "Community Telecommunications Network." This service will be capable of reaching every home, church, union hall, office building and educational room in southeast Michigan.

As you may know, I'm the former TCAF chairman and considered the public broadcasting specialist on the FCC. Detroit's community service projects are a model for others to emulate and I wanted to share my observations with influential Michigan Congressional friends.

Cordially,


James H. Quello

Enclosure

Same Letter to:
Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
Senator Carl M. Levin

bcc: Dr. Robert Larson
Jane Moeller
Bruce Christensen