

Statement of Commissioner James H. Quello

Re: Amendment of Part 74 of the Commission's Rules Concerning FM Translator Stations.

It is difficult to object to a procedure whereby an administrative agency is merely soliciting information concerning regulatory policy. I can support this Notice of Inquiry because it now displays a sensitivity to the negative effects resulting from an expansion of our commercial FM translator rules.¹

My preferred position would be to draft a Notice of Proposed Rule Making that looks towards tightening our existing translator rules. We have already received numerous comments in this proceeding documenting the need for strengthening our existing regulatory scheme. I believe we have a sufficient record to move forward now with a proceeding to tighten the rules. Nevertheless, a more general discussion of the potential adverse impact of an expanded FM translator service may be useful. As long as we proceed to strictly enforce our existing translator rules, then the time spent in discussing this issue may assist the Commission in establishing a more rational set of regulations. Therefore, I can support issuing the Notice of Inquiry on this rather limited basis.

^{1/} At the meeting on March 25, 1988, adopting this Notice of Inquiry, I withheld my vote until a complete draft of was available.