

AT THE RECENT FCBA DINNER HONORING THE FCC CHAIRMAN, I INTRODUCED THE CHAIRMAN AS STONEWALL AL SIKES WHO DID A GREAT JOB IN GOVERNMENT AS SINATRA DID IN ENTERTAINMENT, DOING IT HIS WAY. THIS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE CLASSIC SINATRA HIT "MY WAY" OVER THE P.A. SYSTEM. IT WAS ALL IN FUN AND GOOD FOR A LAUGH. TODAY I THINK A MORE APPROPRIATE CLASSIC SONG SHOULD BE "I'LL BE SEEING YOU" -- AL -- SOCIALLY, A DEFINITE YES, BUT OFFICIALLY NOT FOR ONE YEAR!

I ALSO HUMOROUSLY MENTIONED IN THAT FCBA SPEECH THAT HELL HATH NO FURY COMPARED TO CHAIRMAN AL BEING OUTVOTED ON AN ISSUE -- AND THAT HIS SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE, BUT EVEN MORE, HIS STEADFAST INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION IS MATCHED ONLY BY THOSE WHO SIGNED THE ORIGINAL DECLARATION.

BUT AL, WITH YOUR SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE AND DEDICATION AND THE TRADITIONAL CHURN THAT ACCOMPANIES FCC CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, YOU HAVE EARNED A DISTINGUISHED PLACE IN FCC HISTORY WITH YOUR MANY LANDMARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I'LL JUST LIST A FEW OF YOUR PRIME LEGACIES.

FIRST, YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCE EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES OF CELLULAR, PCS, FIBER OPTICS AND SATELLITE TRANSMISSION. YOU WERE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE GENERAL EXPANSION OF ADVANCE TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES AT THE FCC.

SECOND, YOUR STEADFAST LEADERSHIP IN ESTABLISHING VIDEO DIALTONE -- OFFERING THE PUBLIC MORE COMPETITIVE OPTIONS IN VIDEO. THE NAME OF CHAIRMAN SIKES AND VIDEO DIALTONE WILL GO HAND IN HAND IN FCC HISTORY.

THIRD, YOUR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL THAT INITIATED HDTV WITH YOUR UPFRONT LEADERSHIP IN APPOINTING A BOARD OF NATIONAL EXPERTS HEADED BY A NOTABLE COMPETITIVE TENNIS PLAYER, DICK WILEY; AND, IN ADDITION YOU PROPOSED TIMETABLE TO EXPEDITE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION OF HDTV.

FOURTH, YOUR PROPOSALS TO BOLSTER THE SAGGING NATIONAL RADIO INDUSTRY (58% OF RADIO STATIONS ARE LOSING MONEY TODAY!) WITH RELAXATION OF OWNERSHIP LIMITS AND CROSS-OWNERSHIP RULES. WE SHOULD ADD ALSO YOUR MUCH APPRECIATED "MORE ISN'T BETTER" STATEMENT AT THE NAB CONVENTION.

FIFTH, YOUR STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF FCC RULES-- PARTICULARLY TECHNICAL RULES, INDECENCY STANDARDS AND EEO RULES.

I'M ADDING A SELF-SERVING SIXTH MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT -- YOUR STEADFAST STAND IN THE LONGSTANDING CONTENTIOUS FINSYN ISSUE WHERE OUR DISSENT SEEMED TO CARRY THE DAY WITH A 3-0 VOTE OF THE 7TH CIRCUIT COURT. THIS ISSUE IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF A SECOND NPRM ISSUED LAST WEEK.

AND AL, YOU ARE WISELY LEAVING TO OTHERS THE COMPLEX IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CABLE ACT WITH AN UNDERSTAFFED FCC.

IT WAS AND IS AN EXCITING, CHALLENGING TIME TO BE AT THE FCC -- YOU PRESIDED OVER A PERIOD OF REVOLUTIONARY GROWTH, UNPRECEDENTED TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND CONTENTIOUS PROCEEDINGS.

SO AL, CONGRATULATIONS ON OVER 4 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED ACCOMPLISHMENTS. GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE FROM OUR ENTIRE STAFF.

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