REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN JAMES H. QUELLO BEFORE THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA MAY 18, 1993

Greetings and best wishes for a successful CWA convention from the FCC -- your Friendly Communications Commission. I'm glad to be among some good friends here today.

It is generally known that Barbara Easterling, Loretta Bowen and I are residents of the same condominium -- When they are in the mood they commandeer me as their chauffeur for social and occasional black tie events . . . I don't get paid anything for chauffeuring, but they, in turn, give me <u>free</u> advice on regulating communications -- so it all evens out.

Also John Morgan is a respected CWA representative at the FCC. People at the FCC say he is like a smart, practical college professor with a great sense of humor. I especially appreciate John's courtesy chuckles at my attempts at humor.

So, Morty, thanks for giving us such knowledgeable, personable CWA department heads. I know that many government officials are grateful and so should your membership.

Thanks for the generous introduction -- they are often the most impressive part of my speaking appearances.

At this late stage in my life it is good to see that age still commands some respect in this calloused world. As I see it, the three great stages of life are -- etc.

I even feel great considering -- 75% of my marbles, etc., I'm glad my body hasn't rejected me, but I don't make a practice of buying too many green bananas.

Speaking of senior citizenship, I'm not a good model for early or forced retirement. I hope the Gray Panthers and the AARP will remember that President Clinton appointed me to an important active job while I'm in my golden -- make it platinum years.

With the support of the communications leadership in Congress, I will do my best to assure that the FCC's actions represent the best interests of the public. And I believe that means looking out for the interests of workers, like yourselves, who form the backbone of the progressive, expanding communications systems in America. I'm glad to see that the CWA is strong and expanding. I think it wise for the Printers Union to join forces with you and I applaud the merger with NABET.

This is a challenging time to be at the FCC with the oncoming multi-channel multi-faceted telecommunications of the future. It has the exciting potential, no make it probability, of more manufacturing, more jobs for workers and increased improved service to consumers -- Your union is positioned to make a valuable contribution to the technological advancements of HDTV, Video Dialtone, PCS (Personal Communications Service) telco entry into cable and finally the administration's goal of telecommunications super-highway.

The superhighway development will require super, experienced, trained telecommunications workers. Looking for a union label in telecommunications may be as, or even more, significant than in clothes.

We must all remember that a strong vibrant workforce is essential if America is to maintain our communications leadership. It is essential that government and industry cooperate with the workforce in a constructive spirit of mutual cooperation. Working together in a constructive spirit of cooperation, we can ensure that Americans remain the best informed, the best served and the most gainfully employed people in the world.

So best wishes for continued achievement -- and may your tribe increase!