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Press Statement of Chairman James H. Quello

In re the Bell Atlantic purchase of TCI

October 13, 1993

The Bell Atlantic purchase of TCI represents the most momentous deal of the decade in this decade of huge mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures.

It has the constructive potential to expedite the initiation of competitive super electronic highways with multi-channel, multi-faceted service to the public. The key word here is a competitive service.

Despite this positive potential, it would be inappropriate to pre-judge the merits of this transaction before a detailed review of the facts. The FCC will have to examine compliance with telco-cable cross ownership and video dialtone rules.

In addition, other aspects of this transaction will be subject to review by other regulatory bodies.

In the end this issue may well be decided by legal changes brought about by courts and Congress. We can expect other court challenges similar to Bell Atlantic case which held cable-telco restrictions to be unconstitutional.

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