

COMMISSIONER QUELLO'S
INTRODUCTION
OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN D.DINGELL
ADCRAFT CLUB
OCTOBER 15, 1993

I am delighted and privileged to introduce Chairman John Dingell, a distinguished communications leader and Michigan's most influential legislator, to my own advertising club.

Introducing the Chairman is a special pleasure for me because I have probably known him longer than anyone else in the room. I even called his Dad, then a veteran Congressional leader, back in 1948. I remember his Dad's slogan in opposing a controversial

tax "Beer is the working man's champagne." The tax was defeated.

In fact, there has been a Dingell in Congress since 1932 when John's Dad was first elected. I think Detroit, Michigan and the entire nation have been exceptionally well served by the remarkable record of 61 years of Dingell service and leadership in Congress! In fact the distinguished dynasty is destined to continue with son Chris Dingell, a highly acclaimed state legislator next in line of succession.

My relationship with Big John started shortly after his election to his father's seat in 1955. My experience with him could be a speech all by itself and it will be a very fascinating chapter in my book. Suffice it to say I cherish our longtime friendship. We have had

occasional differences in communications approaches, but always an open, up-front relationship that I regard with respect and affection.

People say: How are you two such good, longtime friends when there are occasional differences in communications' issues? -- Well, I can't even get into a political or social discussion in my own family without an argument. But the Chairman and I have an overall agreement that dwarfs all other considerations. (Fortunately -- elected, reappointed, etc.) All other matters are relatively secondary details that must fit into this all encompassing dominant agreement. Lately I've been a grateful beneficiary of that agreement. (Explain interim appointment).

Seriously, it's a challenging job to introduce someone as accomplished as John Dingell who this year is observing his 38th year in Congress. He has dedicated his entire life to public service and his influence goes way beyond communications where we know him as a powerful force.

As Chairman of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, he plays a major role in shaping national policy in not only communications, but also energy, health, consumer and environmental protection, railroads and the regulation of securities and financial markets. This should demonstrate, that contrary to the popular belief of some, particularly in this audience, that communications though important is not Chairman Dingell's only responsibility.

His record in the House proudly demonstrates that he is most responsive to the people's concerns on important matters facing the nation today and in the future.

On the more pertinent issue of communications, we are all aware of his efforts in the area of the Communications Act rewrite, universal telephone service, and the major part he played in the passage of the Cable Acts of 1984 and 1992. Our friends in public broadcasting know of his strong support for critical additional funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. He won the public broadcasting distinguished service award -- for which I congratulate public broadcasting for selecting so worthy an honoree. In the interest of time, I'll skip over his many accomplishments and distinguished service awards.

On a personal note, I know that he is a real friend to his constituents and a formidable fighter for his hometown industries and the workers' rights and interests.

It is an honor and it is my privelege to present to you a distinguished leader and my Washington Godfather - Chairman John D. Dingell.