

**Remarks by Commissioner James H. Quello**

**At the**

**FCC's 60th Birthday Celebration**

**October 6, 1994**

**This anniversary has special significance for me -- I'm the only Commissioner who has served the FCC for the last one third of those 60 years. I'm also the only one who was alive and actually broadcasting in 1934 -- as a college newscaster on radio WKAR AM, a 5000 watt station licensed to Michigan State College. We in college hardly heard of a Communications Act in 1934 or 1935 to regulate radio in those days. Radio in those days was resented by newspapers as an upstart competitor, aggressively selling advertising with inferior plagiarized news.**

**This is no time to indulge in lengthy biographical data. Suffice it to briefly say, I was a journalistic major, an editor of the college paper, and a student who fortunately took ROTC -- only because of the uniform allowance, not because of any interest in military training -- I say fortunately because I later entered the Army in WW II**

as a 2nd Lieutenant rather than a private and was discharged as a Lt. Colonel rather than a staff sergeant. When I mention that I was in the Army 5 years, overseas 33 months, I'm always asked "Were you in public information?" I reply hell no -- they had some big mean SOBs in public information, I was in the Infantry.

Anyway, my first job after leaving the Army in fall 1945 was in radio in publicity for WXYZ, the Long Ranger and the Green Hornet. This was radio before TV creating fascinating mental images that could not be captured by mere film. Too bad radio wasn't invented after TV -- Imagine all those different fascinating sounds without all those corny, over dramatized TV pictures to disrupt and corrupt your mental pictures. Anyway, my broadcast career was predominantly radio with an excursion into TV by helping to successfully apply for WJRT, Flint. In all, I spent 27 years in broadcasting.

**But enough for biographical communications matters. At this historic moment, it is an appropriate time to express appreciation to the President who appointed me and the Senate who confirmed me for providing me an important enriching second career. It was enriching in experiencing the most significant and rewarding work of my lifetime.**

**It is an appropriate time too, to express my heartfelt thanks to the FCC staff that worked so effectively the past 20 years with an overload of contentious issues -- particularly the past two years in issuing multiple report and orders implementing the 1992 Cable Act, also with report and orders initiating the exciting new, revenue producing PCS service, initiating LEO services and too many others to mention here.**

**Overall it was an is a challenging time to be at the FCC for the oncoming exciting communications advances for the 21st century. This is a period of revolutionary growth, contentious developments and technological advancements in all fields of communications.**

**The FCC's challenge will be the orderly practical implementation of converging advanced technology services of telecomputers, fiber optics, data processing, DBS, DAB and HDTV. In fact, I am energized by the fascinating contentious upcoming communications developments with mind-boggling potential for the public.**

**It is doubtful I'll be around as an earth person for the momentous FCC 75th Anniversary. I hope in some form, I'll be looking down from cool, blue skies rather than up from a super heated environment (maybe Catholic purgatory?) and see five or more multi-faceted communications superhighways -- electronic, wireless, direct satellite providing Americans the most comprehensive, diversified communication in the world.**

**I hope to tell the mysterious great regulator in the sky -- that with all that turmoil, the contentious trials and errors, disappointments and achievements that the FCC overall did one hell of a job -- and that all the staff and Commissioners I worked with, each in their own way, made substantial contributions!**

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