

**Press Statement of Commissioner James H. Quello
September 20, 1995**

Westinghouse Broadcasting has just announced a "plan" to increase their level of children's programming within two years to three hours per week. Although Westinghouse claims publicly that this agreement is voluntary, it is highly suspect because it follows closely on the heels of an unprecedented, relentless public relations campaign by the Chairman of the FCC to impose specific, quantitative program requirements on broadcasters. Neither the Commission nor Congress has endorsed quantitative children's programming standards, and the courts are unlikely to ever approve such a regulatory scheme. **I do not think that any government agency, or public interest group acting directly or indirectly at the behest of a government official, should have the power to impose its programming will on the broadcast media, the most pervasive and influential news media in America.**

Let me be clear on this point: So long as the United States has attached to its Constitution a Bill of Rights, this Commissioner will consider long and hard before approving any transaction that includes an agreement that effectively functions to censor a broadcast licensee's programming. **Broadcasters beware: If you choose to sell out the First Amendment, you will have to do so without the support of this Commissioner.**