

July 17, 1996

STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO

Re: Release of Full Text of Draft Children's Television Report and Order

In response to Congressman John Dingell's written request earlier today that the Commission release the full text of the draft Children's Television Report and Order, Chairman Hundt and Commissioner Ness have chosen to release instead only three pages of draft rules, accompanied by two pages of press release.

I have supported, and I continue to support, release of the full text of the draft Report and Order as requested by, and for the reasons requested by, Congressman Dingell.

The unprecedented public debate this document has generated on this very important issue demands it. I recognize that the integrity of our internal deliberative processes normally mandates our refusal to release draft documents. However, the publication in the trade press this morning of verbatim sections of the text, quite aside from the unprecedented public dialogue we have had about it, completely invalidates any claim to privilege we might normally have on this score.

My position regarding the draft Report and Order is detailed in my statement released Tuesday evening. It remains the same.

I continue to support a three-hour processing guideline for educational children's programming, but with reasonable flexibility to avoid a First Amendment reversal in court.

I can't support a Report and Order that calls for unprecedented government micromanagement of the nation's leading news and information medium.

I for one am tired of press spin and half-truth. Let's have it all out, and let's let people make up their own minds.

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