

Remarks by Commissioner James H. Quello

Before PCIA's

Personal Communications Showcase (PCS '96)

San Francisco, CA - September 18, 1996

Thank you, Bill, for that generous introduction and thank you everyone for that warm welcome.

It is a pleasure to attend this impressive gathering of an industry and its professional association with which I have enjoyed a long and productive relationship. During my twenty-two year tenure at the FCC, I have watched and,

I trust, played a role in the transformation of dispatch communications into paging and now into "Personal Communications." You honored me in the past by recognizing that it was while I was Chairman of the FCC that the baseline rules for PCS were outlined and auction proceedings initiated by a dedicated FCC staff working with industry guidance.

I value our friendly relations and appreciate the helpful contributions and the expert counsel of PCIA's leadership. You should be very proud of the effectiveness and credibility of Jay Kitchen, a distinguished FCC alumnus, and his accomplished officers and staff. You are very well represented in Washington, DC.

Now, to the matter at hand. It is my honor to introduce the 1996 Pioneer Award recipient.

The work of this year's Pioneer Award winner dates back to the 1940s when he did some extraordinary work with two-way radio that did not even become public until 1976. The radios he developed during that time were extremely small for that period and were utilized by the OSS agents, the predecessor to the CIA.

Right after WW II, our winner was instrumental in convincing the FCC to allocate radio spectrum for use by the public. Some of the concepts he was talking about in 1945 are the same as those discussed today for PCS. A part of the spectrum that was eventually allocated is still in use today, designated for General Mobile Radio Service.

Anyone remember Chester Gould, creator of the Dick Tracy comic strip? Gould was so fascinated with the miniaturization work our award winner was doing, that a 1948 visit to his laboratory inspired the famous two-way wrist radio worn by Dick Tracy.

The paging device invented by this year's Pioneer Award winner was intended for a medical salesman who wanted a device that could silently alert doctors and other hospital personnel that messages were waiting. The first commercial paging application was at the Long Island Jewish Hospital in 1952 and the rights to the pager were sold to Motorola shortly thereafter. Twenty years would pass before paging reached a million subscribers. Today there are 36 million paging subscribers!

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the recipient of PCIA's 1996 Pioneer Award for landmark contributions to the wireless industry: Senior Principal Engineer for Orbital Sciences Corporation, Al Gross.

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