

April 23, 1981

Statement of FCC Commissioner James H. Quello

In which Commissioner Joseph R. Fogarty joins

In re: Second Report and Order establishing Commission policy concerning the non-commercial nature of Public Broadcasting stations.

It is my hope and belief that the Commission's relaxation of certain funding restrictions on Public Broadcasting stations will go a long way toward preserving and enhancing our non-commercial broadcasting system. It seems clear that the trend toward less federal funding will continue and that alternative means of financing must be explored. Certainly, it is in the public interest to acknowledge the contributions made by Public Broadcasting in the past and to encourage ~~even~~ greater efforts in the future through these alternative funding methods.

While I recognize the necessity to allow more latitude to Public Broadcasting stations to encourage funding, I also am aware that some will be tempted to stray into the preserves of commercial broadcasting. I would caution those who are so tempted to renew their awareness of the charter that brought non-commercial broadcasting into being in the first instance. I would also commend to them a careful reading of Paragraph 49 of the Second Report and Order.

I have long been supportive of Public Broadcasting and I fully intend to continue that support. As an important part of that concern it will be necessary to ensure that Public Broadcasting maintains its special character as delineated by both the Congress and this Commission.