

April 27, 1983

Separate Statement of
FCC Commissioner James H. Quello

In re: Application of Central Alabama Broadcasters, Inc.
(BC Docket No. 78-238).

This separate statement is intended to emphasize my continued commitment to maximizing the availability of local broadcast service -- a goal which can be obtained only by continued Commission commitment to encouraging full development of the UHF television spectrum. It is indisputable that UHF stations suffer very serious handicaps in competing with VHF operations. In my view, the Commission has an obligation under the public interest standard of the Communications Act both to examine what adverse impacts to local UHF service might result from expanded VHF service and to limit such expansion when necessary to protect UHF development.

In this case, severe adverse impact to UHF service in Montgomery clearly will result from granting the Central Alabama Broadcasters' application. Nevertheless, the major threat to local service here is that Selma's only television service may fail unless its application is granted. Balancing these adverse effects is a difficult task, but the opinion recognizes that protecting local service is the crucial factor. On the basis of that reasoning, I support the decision.