

Remarks by Commissioner James H. Quello

Presentation of the Eugene C. Bowler Award to Ralph Haller

The National Building Museum - Washington, DC - May 15, 1996

I am especially pleased to present the prestigious the Eugene C. Bowler Award to Ralph Haller because it gives me the opportunity to finally recognize his relatively unheralded major contributions to the FCC and particularly for his vital role in initiating PCS at the FCC. In fact, Ralph Haller, then head of the Private Radio Bureau and Brian Fontes, now Ambassador B.F., then FCC Chief of Staff, were practically the fathers of PCS at the Commission.

While I was Chairman, Ralph, with Brian, (1) received auction authority from Congress then headed a task force to develop FCC auction procedures; (2) crafted rules for personal communications services; (3) issued initial spectrum allocations. There is no doubt the FCC staff under Private Bureau Chief Haller and FCC Chief of Staff Fontes did the initial heavy lifting in implementing PCS at the FCC.

I've had the pleasure of working with Ralph for many years. He came to Washington in 1976 to work for Dick Smith in the Field Operations Bureau. He had trouble keeping a job since coming to Washington -- he kept getting promoted. He has been Chief of the Monitoring Stations, Chief of Research at the FCC Laboratory, Chief Engineer and Deputy Chief of the Policy Division for Jim McKinney in the Mass Media Bureau, Deputy and Chief of the Private Radio Bureau, and is currently Deputy Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

Ralph's work was always of the highest quality and I could always count on him for wise policy advice.

So, it is a pleasure to present a respected effective senior FCC staff executive a well-deserved award. Congratulations!