REMARKS: COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO
ON DR. BRIAN FONTES RECEIVING OUTSTANDING MSU ALUMNI AWARD

UNIVERSITY CLUB, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1998, 6 P.M.

IT IS A PLEASURE AND A PRIVILEGE TO DELIVER A CONGRATULATORY

MESSAGE TO DR. BRIAN FONTES ON HIS RECEIVING THE MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERISTY OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD.

WE HAD A CLOSE, VERY POSITIVE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

RELATIONSHIP FOR THE PAST SIXTEEN YEARS AND I HAVE MANY PLEASANT

RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS. ALSO,

HE IS A LONGTIME ESTEEMED PERSONAL FRIEND. I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN

HE RECEIVED HIS PH.D. FROM MY ALMA MATER AND AM HAPPY TO WELCOME

HIM AS A NEW DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS.

BRIAN SERVED AS MY SENIOR ADVISOR WHEN I WAS A COMMISSIONER. I

APPOINTED HIM CHIEF OF STAFF WHEN I BECAME FCC CHAIRMAN. HE

PERFORMED SUPERBLY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE NORMAL CALL OF DUTY WITH

8 A.M. TO 10 P.M. PERSONAL OFFICE HOURS – WHICH ENABLED ME TO GO HOME

AT 6:00 P.M. WITH A SECURE FEELING. INCIDENTALLY, OVERTIME PAY AT THE

FCC IS THE SAME AS IN THE ARMY.

MY FCC CHAIRMANSHIP WAS WIDELY ACCLAIMED, CORRECTLY OR

INCORRECTLY, AS THE MOST PRODUCTIVE AND COHESIVE IN FCC HISTORY –

REFLECTING BRIAN'S WISE INSIGHTS AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE

ABILITIES.

WE JOINTLY CONDUCTED THE IMPORTANT WEEKLY BUREAU CHIEF AND DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETINGS. BRIAN HANDLED ALL THE COMPLEX DETAILS. MY PRIMARY CONTRIBUTION WAS TO OPENLY ADMIT "ONE THING IS VERY OBVIOUS TO ME – I NEED ALL OF YOU A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN YOU NEED ME."

WHEN HE RETIRED AS CHIEF OF STAFF HE RECEIVED UNPRECEDENTED WIDESPREAD PLAUDITS FROM EVERYONE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE AGENCY WHO EVER HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FCC. PARDON THE INTRUSION INTO HIS PERSONAL BUSINESS, BUT HE RECEIVED NUMEROUS JOB OFFERS AT DOUBLE AND TRIPLE HIS FCC SALARY.

IF AN FCC HALL OF FAME EXISTED, HE WOULD BE MY PRIMARY NOMINEE AND HE WOULD RECEIVE THE OVERWHELMING APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

SO, CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN, AND CONGRATULATIONS, TOO, TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR SELECTING SUCH A WORTHY AWARDEE.