

DISSENTING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO

IN RE: TRAVELERS INFORMATION STATION FACILITIES

I cannot agree with the Commission majority that there is any demonstrable need to establish a new class of radio service to transmit travelers aid information. I find a substantial difference between "demonstrable need" and demonstrable desire or interest.

The majority is of the opinion that an "established need" for this service has been demonstrated through experience with existing experimental stations. I simply do not view this proposed service as performing any needed function that cannot be better performed by (1) existing broadcasting stations or (2) by alternative means. Conversely, the proposed services tend to discriminate in favor of those vehicles equipped with functioning AM receivers capable of receiving a signal at the extreme edges of the broadcast band. Thus, such discrimination would seem to mitigate against the sole use of the proposed services in instances in which safety might be considered a factor.

I am fully aware of the practical aspects of providing informational reports to the public by radio stations, particularly during heavy drive time periods. Radio stations in the larger and more urban areas particularly scramble to provide the most comprehensive weather reports, traffic condition reports, emergency traffic situations, etc. Such reports cover a substantial area geographically and the listener is able to receive the information in sufficient advance time to make use thereof. In contrast, travelers information stations would be of very limited range. In fact, the range would appear to be so limited as to be of little value in aiding the motorist in anticipating hazardous situations. As for non-safety-related services, I am not convinced as to their public interest value over more traditional alternatives.

In closing, I again emphasize the lack of showing that there exists an actual "need" for the travelers information stations service and that such broadcast service would so uniquely respond to these needs as to be in the public interest. Absent such showing, I must dissent.