

Remarks for Farewell Dinner
Alexandria Knolls, Alexandria
September 17, 1977

This is the last of the Commission family dinners scheduled for our two guests of honor---Dick Wiley and Ben Hooks.

Everything has been said; tributes paid, responses heard, during recent dinners. So I thought a "no speech" dinner might be appropriate and perhaps appreciated by all concerned---It has been emphatically established that these two dynamic personalities of the FCC are leaving with the respect and admiration of everyone who know them. And both, in their own different ways, are destined to become even greater national leaders in the years ahead.

Some of the communications execs have told me "Wiley and Hooks upped their prestige in their new positions---Quello---up yours!"

Of course I was fascinated as I listened to all the stirring tributes the past several weeks because it contrasted so much with the tribute paid me when I left Detroit to come to Washington.... I'll recall a few of the more memorable ones so that you can kinda compare the sentiments expressed.

At this party in my honor the toastmaster was in rare form. He started "they threw away the mold when they made Jim Quello--but even with only one, the supply way exceeds the demand."

Other gems quoted that evening: "They took a rating on Jim's editorials on the air. He received a startling, unprecedented, minus four. That meant the survey showed that not only were people not tuning-in, but that four people who hadn't yet bought sets, said they would tune him out when they did get their sets."

"Jim has recently been selected as national spokesman for Preparation H."

"I'm here as one of Jim's friends---it's a real minority group."

"Jim is a true friend--you know in any emergency he will be right there when he needs you."

"Jim is a good egg---you all know where good eggs come from."

"Among his favorite books and plays is 'The Naked and the Dead' -- many claim he can now play both roles simultaneously. And speaking of plays--when we asked Jim if he knew what a Thespian was--Jim answered 'of course, I do,

I was turned down by one last night. ' Can you imagine a newspaper headline: FCC Commissioner Denies Turn Down by Thespian. "

There were many other expressions, but this gives you some idea of comparison. It is readily apparent that sentiments expressed at farewell tributes for Commissioners are much preferable to farewell expressions for old broadcast execs.

So I'm looking forward to leaving the Commission in three years. And I'll be real happy when I leave the Commission if not only the expressions, but more important the real feelings expressed, can approach half of the expressions and genuine feelings for Dick and Ben.

So to our two distinguished colleagues and friends--Best wishes for health, happiness and continued achievement in the promising years ahead.

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