

February 8, 1978

From: James H. Quello, FCC Commissioner

To: Associated Press

It bothers me that licenses have been revoked or seriously threatened by offenses that would not warrant even a civil or criminal indictment, let alone conviction.

Broadcasting is the only industry threatened with utter extinction through license revocation for violating government public interest standards.

There is a need for reform so that the punishment more equitably fits the crime.

I think the FCC needs higher forfeiture authority, perhaps to \$100,000 or more. Also, I believe it essential that higher, more reasonable standards for legal standing be established to eliminate unsupported, frivolous or vindictive petitions to deny licenses.

The present system possesses too great a potential for extortion and obstruction by activist groups seeking special, undue consideration for dissemination of their own social and political philosophies. Some public interest groups actually do not represent "the public", but only their own private version of public interest.

124