

October 18, 1979

Statement of FCC Commissioner James H. Quello

Re: WNET(TV), Channel 13, Newark, New Jersey license
renewal and waiver for main studio location.

I agree with the General Counsel's well-reasoned recommendations re: WNET(TV). In addition, I want to call to the Commission's attention compelling reasons for maintaining leased or shared studio with Essex County College which is located in the heart of downtown Newark. As Educational Commissioner, I planned over a year ago to visit the studios at Essex County College--other urgent business interfered at that time. Now I'm volunteering to visit Newark for an on-site inspection with any other Commissioner or staff members who may wish to accompany me. I also think discussions with the President and Communications Department Dean would be helpful.

From past information, I understand Essex County College has an excellent studio facility. It is a 30'x30' room with three color video cameras, video recorders, full film facilities, full lighting complement, a full crew and offices. There are three auditoriums, one prewired for video. The college enrollment is approximately 90% Black. The studio provides a unique opportunity for on-the-job training for minority students in the communications field. It is the only facility in the entire state in which students and the university have a direct involvement in national programming. This facility already produces telecourses and the weekly "Dateline: New Jersey" program.

The arrangement is not only valuable but essential to the College and its media arts program students. It provides income for the college as well as training and visibility. This is the type of educational and practical on-the-job training the Commission should be encouraging rather than discouraging.

I also believe public TV is already doing more comprehensive New Jersey programming than any other station. It provides full state coverage, regular news and public affairs programming and has future plans for continued and improved service.

I believe public interest will be eminently well served by continuing the waiver without further conditions.

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