

SPEECH BY
COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS
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Fellow Virginians ----yes, I am now a new resident of your state ---

I like it here and, if Father Time doesn't hit me in the back with his scythe,
I hope to remain a tax-paying Virginian for the next six years!

I used to be able to say "Fellow Broadcasters", but I can't say that any
longer. I'm now cast in the traditional adversary (or, more appropriate, semi-
judicial) role of FCC Commissioner ---I don't want to cast myself in an
antagonistic adversary role, but in a constructive one based on 30 years of coping
with the practicalities of broadcasting - an insider's understanding, if you will,
of the foibles, faults and virtues of broadcasting.

As responsible broadcasters, I and ~~my associates~~ tried to do a creditable
job of serving the public interest ---- as a Commissioner I must do even better!

Along with some understanding of broadcasting, I also bring considerable
humility to the job---with much to be humble about.

You see, you have as your speaker today someone who has the dubious dis-
tinction of surviving the longest confirmation hearing on record ---longer than
Vice President Ford or Secretary of State Kissinger. But, of course, they were
trying for relatively placid, non-controversial jobs.

I have found broadcasters initially more interested, or at least more
entertained, by some of the sidelines of how a broadcaster (particularly, a so-
called controversial broadcaster) became a Commissioner than in a more official
treatise on mutual problems confronting broadcasters and the FCC.

As you all know, I was confronted with a massive "Petition to Deny" my
confirmation. In some respects, the lengthy hearing provided me with a full

opportunity to present my case before an objective jury of Senators on the Communications Subcommittee. The full hearing was beneficial, too, in that I became aware of the concern and aspirations of those opposing me---some with viewpoints and reasoning that should be considered in FCC deliberations and some with distorted facts and charges that fortunately were discounted by members of the Senate committee---I was particularly fortunate in the fair, statesmanlike conduct of the hearing by Chairman John Pastore who initially expressed serious concern with my nomination.

Anyway, my ordeal all started with a Michigan Association of Broadcasters resolution ---as you know, state associations are predominantly radio-oriented. The MAB passed a strong resolution and sent it to the Michigan delegation, the Governor and the Detroit Mayor. I was touched---I told my MAB friends -- "If nothing else happens --I'll treasure it and show it to my grandchildren". Carl Lee saw me choking up with emotion and said, "Quello, let's keep it in perspective. You are a real SOB, but we can identify with you".

The response was gratifying --both Senators and 18 Congressmen, the Governor and Mayor all wrote encouraging responses of support--bi-partisan support. The fact that I had served on previous State and City Commissions helped. I had been appointed by four different governors and four different mayors to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and to the Detroit Housing Commission, respectively.

I went to Washington and consulted with Senators Hart, Griffin and then Congressman Jerry Ford; Congressmen John Dingell, Lucien Nedzi, Martha Griffiths, El Cedarberg and others. Dingell humorously asked "Why do you want the damned job --the Congressmen and Senators will beat you up and the courts will overrule you!"

Anyway, the stage was set. The game plan seemed easy enough. The Republicans nominate you and the Democrats confirm you--- I never did understand what all the shooting was about "in-between". I was nominated in September, the hearings were held in January and February and lasted eight days.

Well, they say in politics, if you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen --of course, I had no idea they would burn the whole damn kitchen down!

When the publicity broke--and the volume was unbelievable, someone said, "Hey, you're getting famous!" I said, "Hell, no, I'm getting notorious-- there is quite a difference! or "How are you doing?" --I would answer "Better than the publicity". They would say "God, we hope so!"

After the opposition really started (some from coalitions I never knew of before), someone said, "You are an Italian who needs two Godfathers--thank goodness I had them in Senators Phil Hart and Bob Griffin --Also, I received crucial support from then Congressman Jerry Ford who was the key figure in my nomination, plus four Democratic Congressmen,^a/Democratic federal judge who testified for me, and a number of Black leaders and students from Detroit. I needed the crucial bi-partisan support.

My broadcast political policy was an open door to all major parties and candidates with the goal of objectivity and fairness in news treatment, editorial commentary and commercial and program clearance --the same as yours and other responsible broadcasters.

My personal politics was support for candidates that I believed were honest, diligent, and most capable of serving the people's interest. Neither party can claim a monopoly on these qualities. Although we don't register by parties in Michigan, I voted Democratic the past 16 years in my own district. I have great respect for my own liberal Congressman, Lu Nedzi, and before him I supported his Democratic predecessor. I am a Democrat, albeit an independent one. Over the