

SEPARATE STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN RICHARD E. WILEY  
JOINED IN BY COMMISSIONERS LEE, REID, QUELLO AND ROBINSON

In the event that it is not completely clear, let me state one final time that it is my profound conviction -- and I believe that of the entire Commission -- that fraudulent billing is an extremely invidious and totally unacceptable practice. My strong advice to every broadcaster is simply this: if you are contemplating the initiation of such a practice, DON'T; and if you are now engaging in such conduct, STOP!

In this connection, let me add one additional point: if fraudulent billing is improper for broadcast licensees, it should be equally so for their competitors (most pertinently, newspapers). In this connection, I am pleased to note that our sister agency, the Federal Trade Commission, is conducting an investigation into possible newspaper practices in this area. Whatever the results of this proceeding, however, the fact that someone else may be doing it cannot serve as a defense for licensees who engage in fraudulent billing. This practice can and must be eliminated from public trustee broadcasting and I am personally committed to taking every action I can to facilitate this objective.