

COMMISSIONER QUELLO'S INTRODUCTION
OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN D. DINGELL
KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEAKER
GOLDEN JUBILEE CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 13, 1985

I was delighted when Max Paglin asked me to introduce the keynote speaker for this auspicious 1st conference of the Golden Jubilee Commission.

First, I strongly endorse the comprehensive communications approach of the Golden Jubilee Commission -- it certainly merits industry support.

Second and more important -- I come from Detroit and probably have known John Dingell longer than anyone in the room. I even called on his Dad, then a veteran Congressional leader, back in 1948. In fact, there has been a Dingell in Congress since 1932 when John's Dad was first elected. I think Detroit, Michigan and the nation have been exceptionally well served by the remarkable record of 53 years of Dingell service and leadership in Congress!

My relationship with Big John started shortly after his election to his father's seat in 1955. My experience with him could be a speech all by itself. Suffice it to say I cherish my longtime friendship with now Chairman Dingell even though I don't see him as often as I'd like to. There have been occasional differences in communications approaches, but always an open, up-front relationship that I regard with respect and affection.

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People say: How are you two such good, longtime friends when there are differences in opinions? -- I can't even get into a political or social discussion in my own family without an argument. The Chairman and I have a major overall agreement that dwarfs all other considerations. (Fortunately) and we fill in all other details around that dominant agreement. Besides, (anecdote story here).

Seriously, it's a challenging job to introduce someone as accomplished as John Dingell who this year is observing his 16th term in Congress. He has dedicated his entire life to public service and his influence goes way beyond communications where we know him as a powerful force.

As Chairman of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, he plays a major role in shaping national policy in not only communications, but also energy, health, consumer and environmental protection, railroads and the regulation of securities and financial markets. This should demonstrate, that contrary to the popular belief of some, particularly in this audience, communications is not Chairman Dingell's only responsibility.

His record in the House proudly demonstrates that he is responsive to the people's concerns on important matters facing the nation today and in the future. In the energy field, Congressman Dingell was selected to head the first Congressional subcommittee to deal with national energy policy and to promote

domestic production. He was a driving force in winning the enactment of the National Energy Act, the nation's first comprehensive energy legislation.

In the environmental field, he is nationally acclaimed as one of the fathers of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the National Wildlife Refuge System and was a leader in winning enactment of the Clean Air Act of 1970.

On the more pertinent issue of communications, we are all aware of his efforts in the areas of the Communications Act rewrite, universal telephone service, and the major part he played in the passage of what is known as the Cable Act of 1984. My friends in public broadcasting know of his strong support for critical additional funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. He won the public broadcasting distinguished service award -- for which I congratulate public broadcasting for selecting so worthy an honoree.

On a personal note, I know that he is a real friend to his constituents and a formidable fighter for their rights and interests.

It is an honor and it is my privilege to present to you a distinguished Congressional leader - Chairman John D. Dingell.