

United States Government
Memorandum

Date: March 16, 1987
To: Michael T. N. Fitch, Chief, Private Radio Bureau
From: Commissioner James H. Quello
Subject: Lottery update and correspondence.

As you know, over the years I have expressed concern about our decision-making process pertaining to allocation matters. Recently, I have discovered projects conducted by the Field Operations Bureau that monitored the occupancy and use of 800 MHz bands in large metropolitan areas. The data from these projects indicate that significant numbers of 800 MHz channels remain unoccupied. Comments filed in PR Docket No. 86-404 by a leading SMR licensee reaffirms my concerns about how our allocation decisions are made.

I am currently in the process of collecting as much information as I possibly can to assess more accurately how the allocation process is working. To assist me with this effort I am requesting the following information from you:

1. A progress report on the lottery process in 900 MHz bands. In July 1987, the Commission allocated 10 MHz to the land mobile services (not counting the 6 MHz for public safety). Have we granted any licenses (construction permits) for these frequencies? If so, how many and for what cities?
2. I would also appreciate receiving copies of any and all correspondence with the Field Operations Bureau or the Office of Engineering and Technology pertaining to monitoring or other projects focusing on occupancy, use and/or need for private land mobile radio channels. I believe that there was an exchange of memoranda in 1985 and 1986. I would appreciate as well any data, studies and memoranda associated with the recent revelations of the 1985/1986 monitoring projects, the role of occupancy and use studies in the allocation process.

I continue to appreciate the assistance and cooperation you and your staff give my office.


James H. Quello

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