

November 17, 1988

OPEN NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

Statement of Commissioner James H. Quello

Today, the Commission is approving, in substantial part, the ONA plans of the Bell Operating Companies. This represents a significant milestone in the move toward opening the network to true information age uses provided by a variety of vendors.

Today's action represents the culmination of a very significant effort on the part of the BOCs, the enhanced service providers and the FCC to find consensus on how to implement this important concept. It marks only the beginning, however, of implementation of ONA. As we have stated many times, ONA implementation is an evolutionary process and we expect that it will advance far from this rather modest beginning as new technology comes on line.

I am particularly concerned that we resolve the access charge issue with respect to the use of ONA by enhanced service providers. We have long recognized the need to keep costs to enhanced service providers as low as possible because they are on the leading edge of the information age in telecommunications. We want to continue to encourage new technologies at a price that will attract a wide variety of end users. A part of today's effort will establish a notice of

544

proposed rulemaking to consider providing subsidy-free access to enhanced service providers. My initial view is that to do so would merely represent a continuation of our policy to treat ESPs as end users of network services instead of carriers. I will, of course, be interested in the comments in response to the upcoming rulemaking proposal.

I want to congratulate all of the interested parties to this proceeding for beginning a process which promises to provide this nation with a structure for advancing the future of telecommunications.