

March 19, 1976

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39875

Statement of Chairman Richard E. Wiley  
In which Commissioners Lee, Reid, Quello and Washburn Join  
In re  
Television Service for the State of New Jersey  
(Docket 20350)

I want to emphasize several points made in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making issued by the FCC today. First of all, the Commission has determined that additional locally oriented television service to the State of New Jersey is required. It has determined that New Jersey's "needs and its overall circumstance constitute a special case warranting unique and responsive action by the Commission." And it has determined that such responsive action should be completed within the confines of an expedited proceeding.

The issues in this case are complex. Knowing that a problem exists and that it requires resolution is one thing. Knowing what specific remedy to adopt is quite another -- especially when the comments received to date have focused primarily on one solution (reallocation of Channel 7, New York City, to New Jersey) which the Commission deems neither advisable nor feasible.

In our Notice, we have suggested some very specific proposals: proposals by which augmented local service to the citizens of New Jersey can be obtained. I am hopeful that interested parties will provide the FCC with the benefit of intelligent, pragmatic and responsive comments.

My final point should be evident: we intend to remedy this long-standing problem, and we intend to do so before the end of July 1976.

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