

Confidential

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER  
JAMES H. QUELLO

January 25, 1990

Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes,

Despite my strong personal endorsement of your policies and key appointments, I am constrained to officially oppose further delegation of authority to the FCC Chairman as outlined in your recent letter. I do believe the Chairman, as prime administrative head, has the authority to define management objectives and personnel policy, but each commissioner should have a voice and a vote in implementing policy.

Unfortunately, my experience during 15-1/2 years at the FCC with three former chairmen convinced me there was a policy need for more recognition and involvement for all commissioners in personnel matters rather than less. I believe an individual commissioner's position receives a much needed enhancement when key appointments and merit awards are subject to his approval.

Then too, I believe the Commission was established by Congress as a collegial body with shared responsibility for key appointments and efficient administration. As you know, each Commissioner is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate with only a bare majority from the party in power. I believe Congress would disagree with OPM's recommendation as granting disproportionate power to the Executive Branch contrary to Congressional intent.

Also, a delegation once conferred is hardly ever regained.

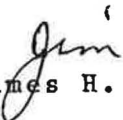
I haven't seen the OPM audit or the context of the information on which OPM recommendations were based. If OPM found undue delays, it was probably caused, for whatever reason, by the previous chairman or, at times, by a previous discordant three person commission. I believe alleged delays could be easily avoided by a cooperative body of commissioners.

Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman  
January 25, 1990  
Page Two

Certainly the collegiality that exists today would not cause any undue delay. The current chairman will have little difficulty in getting three prompt votes for personnel or award proposals. In fact, you have practically had my proxy for your appointments and administrative proposals. (I'd be glad to act as the "whip" for any needed third vote.)

However, I must reluctantly, and in confidence, register my official position opposing delegation.

Respectfully,

  
James H. Quello

Copy: Charles Schott  
Andrew Fishel