

Statement of Commissioner James H. Quello

Before the

Federal Communications Commission

Networks of the Future En Banc Hearing

May 1, 1991

Most of us at one time or another have mentioned that a primary challenge and ultimate goal of the FCC will be assuring an orderly evolutionary transition into the advanced technology of tomorrow.

Over the last several years I have remarked that both the positive potential and the problems of advanced technology are mind boggling.

Any development of networks of the future will greatly depend on consumer acceptance and affordability. Successful introduction of new technology must rely on consumer willingness to pay and also on the ease of blending the new innovative services with existing cable, broadcast, phone, computer and telecomputer services.

I hope you will provide us some practical insight on implementing new technologies of fiber optics, digital service, HDTV, interactivity, data access and two way signals.

Advanced technology often outstrips society's ability to integrate it in our already complex, sometimes expensive communications systems. The rate and extent of technology development will be impacted by consumer acceptance and affordability, commercial practicalities, legislative and regulatory issues and the overall public interest.

I look forward to learning from this impressive list of distinguished panelists. Thank you for taking time to give us the benefit of your expertise. With your help, we can assure that Americans remain the best informed and best served citizens of the world.

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