

## Federal Communications Commission Record

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### Statement of Commissioner James H. Quello

#### Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Amendment of Part 73 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Broadcast Hoaxes

I welcome this proceeding given the number of high-profile broadcast hoaxes during the past year. Generally, I do not see how the public interest is served by a broadcast that does nothing more than scare or alarm the audience for the mere thrill of it. We should be able to draft a rule to deal with such situations.

At the same time, I recognize that direct regulation of broadcast content is inherently sensitive. It may be difficult to craft a rule that can encompass real abuses without stifling creative programming. We therefore must take care that any rule on hoaxes not prevent the broadcast of programs such as Orson Wells' "War of the Worlds," which is widely recognized as a classic of American radio.

I think the Bureau has done a responsible and praiseworthy job in proposing a model rule, and I look forward to receiving comments so that the Commission may carefully evaluate its ramifications.