

July 30, 1976

DISSENTING STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO

Re: Offshore Radio Telecommunications Service

I am concerned that the majority may be acting precipitously to satisfy an immediate need that might well be better satisfied by other means. I am not convinced that alternative means of meeting the communications needs of offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico have been fully explored. I remain unconvinced that the use of frequencies at 900 MHz are not--or cannot become--feasible.

Beyond my misgivings relative to alternatives to the shared use of television channel 17, I am unwilling to continue the sharing of television channels on an ad hoc basis. I applaud the majority's efforts to develop a plan encompassing the probable future needs of UHF television. However, until those needs have been determined, I question whether further sharing of UHF channels is in the public interest.

Therefore, I dissent.