

REMARKS BY
COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO
TO THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTERS
IN CHICAGO, OCTOBER 25, 1976

First, I would like to add my congratulations to Virginia Kassel and to Senator Pastore upon receiving the NAEB Distinguished Service Award. And my congratulations, as well, to the NAEB for selecting two so eminently deserving individuals for this coveted honor. Certainly, the nation shared your pride of accomplishment in the Adams Chronicles which again demonstrated that our system of public broadcasting is capable of producing quality programs of highest professional standards -- standards worthy of emulation by all broadcasters. And, speaking of quality, your decision to honor Senator Pastore, the Godfather of educational broadcasting, was particularly appropriate. And I use the term "Godfather" in its original positive context.

Although I am relatively new to the official Washington scene, Senator Pastore's integrity, accomplishments and leadership are unchallenged -- and besides, I like the way he spells his name ---and two years ago, when I was undergoing one of the longest confirmation hearings on record, I was relieved when he finally decided that he liked the way I spelled mine, too.

I bring you greetings from my colleagues of the FCC.

We congratulate the NAEB, CPB and PBS on your dynamic growth the past five years. We are even more impressed with your innovative, visionary plans for the future.

It is significant and impressive that the very first application for a satellite distribution system for programming came from CPB and Public Broadcasting Service for both public TV and radio. You are asserting a position of pioneer leadership in satellite transmission -- a revolutionary technological advancement that promises greatly increased service both in quantity and quality to the American public.

It is gratifying, too, to see public television assume leadership in providing captioned TV service to the several million with impaired hearing.

It is gratifying to us, and certainly a source of justifiable pride to you, to see and hear the ever growing number of excellently produced programs on public TV and Radio -- as exemplified by the deserving recipient today of your NAEB Distinguished Service Award.

Also, it is educational broadcasting today that is the leading catalyst for improving UHF transmission and reception -- an improved service vital to your future development and growth.

You have earned public acceptance and you have earned the respect of government and industry leaders; you have earned and deserve the long range government funding announced earlier this year; you have earned the respect and support of the FCC.

We owe it not so much to you, but to the public interest, to maintain and reserve UHF spectrum for the future expansion and growth of educational TV. We owe it not only to you, but to the public, to act as promptly as possible on your proposals and petitions for: satellite transmission, for UHF improvement, for captioning, cable carriage, and regulation clarification.

1976 has been a great year for NAEB, for CPB and PBS, for radio and individual stations. Moreover, it has been a great five years of growth in distinguished professional programming and in improved facilities and expanded outlets.

So, congratulations and very best wishes for a successful, productive convention--and I hope the FCC, through constructive action and support, can help public broadcasting in further achievement and growth in the challenging, promising years ahead.