

Save

March 25, 1997

FCC Accomplishments (RB)

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1. Commissioner Quello's first love and first career was as a broadcaster. He brought a wealth of **practical** experience and **common sense** to his tenure at the FCC.

- Quello remains committed to the **enhancement of free over-the-air broadcasting** because it is the most pervasive and influential entertainment and news medium in the world.

- Quello's dissent in **FinSyn** was eventually adopted upon review by the courts.

- Quello chaired the **TCAF** committee that allowed public broadcasting to seek a more stable financial footing.

- initiated enhanced underwriting & advertising for public stations*
- Quello actively encouraged review of the **ownership** rules.

- Quello supported the efforts of the broadcasters to modernize their transmission system to bring it into the digital age with minimal government intrusion (**HDTV**).

2. Commission was granted **auction authority** when Quello served as Chairman.

- Congress had been discussing auctions for over a decade and finally granted such authority because they trusted Chairman Quello to implement it reasonably.

- The twelve auctions so far have raised over 24 billion dollars for the U.S. Treasury.

- Quello first articulated the foundational principle that: "Auctions are a licensing method they are not a spectrum management process."

3. Quello was responsible for the overall **roll-out of PCS** (Personal Communications Services).

- Despite other pressing constraints on personnel (Cable Act implementation), Quello made the orderly development of the regulatory scheme for PCS a priority.

- It was the Quello commission that established the band plan and service rules that were tweaked by the Hundt Commission.

In fact Chairman Faily Hadler characterized Com. Quello as the father of PCS before the annual dinner of the PCIA in Washington.

4. The Quello Commission implemented the Cable Act -- a resource intensive undertaking -- at a time when the staff was its lowest level (1700 employees). (Compare: FCC staff is now almost 2500).
5. In general, Commission decision making has become more **business like** because of Quello's sustained influence.
 - As a former broadcaster, Quello had to run a business subject to FCC jurisdiction and rules.
 - Quello's common sense approach is to ask how will the licensees be affected by any particular decision.
 - Will it force decisions that a reasonable business person acting responsibly would not otherwise make.
 - Presume the good faith of the licensees: The vast majority will try to comply if the rules are clear and fair.
6. The virtual explosion in **technological advances** -- particularly wireless communications services occurred while Quello served as Commissioner.
 - Quello was instrumental in establishing the regulatory framework for "**private land mobile**".
 - as distinct from common carrier services.
 - (e.g., dispatch: taxis; delivery; and public safety: police, fire rescue).
 - Quello helped to establish the regulatory framework for **cellular telephone**. (This developed a whole new industry and changed the way people communicate by freeing them from location dependence.)
 - Quello pushed the staff to develop the regulatory framework for **Low Earth Orbiting Satellites** (LEOS) to use U.S. technology to bring ubiquitous mobile communications worldwide.
7. The Quello Commission made **monitoring and enforcement** of the interference rules a priority by redirecting scarce funds to the FCC's Lab and to [then] FOB [now: CIB].
 - Quello opposed closing the Field Offices because the local office were the "eyes and ears" of the Commission.
 - The Field Offices often would identify and correct problems without resorting to headquarters.

8. The **divestiture of AT&T** and the **rise of competition** in the long distance markets occurred while Quello served on the Commission.

- The **historical perspective** allows Quello to bring regulatory experience, not just theory, to the introduction of competition into the local loop, pursuant to the Telecom Reform Act of 1996.

- MCI, Sprint, and other competitors established and prospered while Quello helped to set the **"ground rules"**.

9. Quello encouraged the fledgling **International** Office in its efforts to open markets abroad.

- Quello's Chief of Staff, Dr. Brian Fontes, was selected as Ambassador for the U.S. delegation to the 1995 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-95).

- Quello was named Honorary Chairman for Life to Intelevent. *an international communications organization*

10. Quello is committed to finding additional spectrum for the critical communications needs of the **public safety** and health agencies (police, fire, ambulance).

- Quello has made the tough decisions to allow these public safety providers to use even broadcast frequencies. E.g., Following the World Trade Center bombing in New York City, the channel adjacent to TV Channel 13 was made available to coordinate communications between the NYC police and fire departments.

11. Commissioner Quello is a staunch defender of the **First Amendment** but also believes that broadcasters must abide by the Congressionally directed and carefully crafted indecency rules.

12. Quello believes that the FCC, as a Congressionally created statutory independent agency, should **confine its decisions to matters within the FCC's jurisdiction**. E.g., The FCC should not reach out to decide issues such as advertising of hard liquor on TV because that is beyond the FCC's competence and is a subject given to another agency (the FTC) and, ultimately, for the elected representatives of the people to decide (the Congress).

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Favorite quotes used separately in speeches or meetings: 

FDR:

"A common sense resort to usual and practical sources of information takes the place of archaic and technical application of rules of evidence, and an informed and expert tribunal renders its decisions with an eye that looks forward to results rather than backward to precedent and to the leading case. Substantial justice remains a higher aim for our civilization than technical legalism."

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged; sympathetic to the striving and tolerant of the weak and wrong -- sometime in life you will have been all of those." -- I have.

"The Lord be with you but not too soon."

"Pre-posthumous awards due to venerability -- with age, you become venerable and get credit for virtues you never had -- and I'm grateful."

Goethe:

"One only has to be older to become tolerant and even permissive -- I see no faults in others I haven't sometime committed myself."