

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of FCC broadcast media ownership rules, spearheaded by Colin Powell's son, Michael, appointed to his position by Bush. In promoting its supposed goals of fair competition, diversity, and local voice in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question, despite Michael Powell's attempted pandering to media corporations. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of the huge, dominant companies and players in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC, under Colin Powell's son, Michael, accurately demonstrate, or even attempt to demonstrate, the negative effects that media deregulation and consolidation have had on the diversity of our media to date. While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented has been severely limited ever since the last spate of corporate-friendly rules were instituted during the last administration.

The right to conduct an informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the fundamental philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was renewed in the marketplace of diverse ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge and consolidate further, our ability to have open, informed discussions from a wide variety of viewpoints will be severely compromised.

I urge the FCC to preserve the public interest by keeping the media ownership rules in question intact and to remember that the airwaves belong first and always to the people, not to corporations, as Colin Powell's son, Michael, seems to believe.

Also, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February of 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and to solicit the widest possible participation from the public. The rarified, lawyerly atmosphere surrounding FCC rule-making is not an appropriate decision-making venue when questions as profound as the freedom of our media are at stake. I encourage the Commissioners to come out and meet some of the people who do not have a financial interest in this issue, like Colin Powell's son, Michael does, but to meet those who have social and democratic interests.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank Chisholm