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February 20, 2003

Dear Chairman Powell,

02-277

We are writing to you about two issues which we feel are of grave concern to all of us as U.S. citizens. These are issues which seem to be obscured by our nation's focus on the probable war against Iraq.

The first, is the consolidation of the media begun in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 wherein the media gained unprecedented power and the government relinquished its role as trustee for an informed electorate. Under the banner of de-regulation, the Republicans are about to grant even more power to the media giants.

On a personal level, we do not have cable TV and get most of our news from public radio, public TV. and BBC Worldnews as well as the NY Times and the Boston Globe on the Internet, so we avoid "the news as entertainment" which millions of Americans are fed daily. Corporate ownership of the media is endangering our democracy.

The second concern is the secrecy in this administration. The latest example is the Justice Dept's sweeping new proposed anti-terrorist legislation which includes the power to make secret arrests, increase surveillance, limit judicial review, restrict public access to information and even to authorize the expatriation of American citizens who provide material support to any group

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FYI - This is a copy of a letter we have sent to all of our representatives.

designated a terrorist organization. (Senator Joseph McCarthy is applauding from the grave) Until news of this proposed legislation was leaked, administration officials were denying that they were working on new anti-terrorist legislation.

We find all of this not just troubling, but scary. It is beginning to give one a feeling of the 30's in Germany when power was gladly given away to the leaders so that citizens might feel more secure. But soon it was too late to take it back.

From our vantage point, this administration is power hungry and across the board, bit by bit is granting itself (with the cooperation of our elected representatives) unprecedented power with few checks and balances and little or no accountability to the general public. We are told, "We are doing this for your own good."

We cannot urge you strongly enough to bring these issues out into the open, even though it might be difficult because of the way the White House keeps control of the news.

It is imperative that we have a thorough public debate. . . before it is too late.

Yours very truly,
Gene & Edith Lovette

Walk in peace.

Lovette
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Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

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Westbury, NY 11590-3002

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February 20, 2003

02-277

Dear Com. Abernathy,

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Yours very truly,
Gene & Edith Ronette

Walk in peace.

Lovette
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Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

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February 20, 2003

02-277

Dear Com. Copps,

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Yours very truly,

Gene + Edith Lonette

Walk in peace

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Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
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February 20, 2003

Dear Com. Martin,

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Yours very truly,
Gene & Edith Knotts

Walk in peace.

[redacted]

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Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
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February 20, 2003

Dear Com. Adelstein

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Walk in peace.

Gene + Edith Lonette

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Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
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