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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

ORIGINAL

MB Docket 02-277, 01-235, 01-317, 00-244

3/7/03 SEATTLE, WA.

Commissioner Copps & Adelstein;

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Thank you for holding this hearing.

I am a resident of the City of Seattle and I took off of work this morning because of the importance of this issue. This is not easy to do. Please consider how many more citizens would be present if this were held in the evening or on a weekend.

The proposed regulatory changes are headed in exactly the wrong direction. It bears repeating, over and over again, that democracy requires an informed

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~~pub~~ public. This is not possible without a diversity of information sources. ~~If~~ a diversity of sources is not the same as a diversity of cable channels controlled by a single corporate entity. Information sources must represent a diversity of financial interests.

The public has a right and a duty to ensure this. and don't confuse unregulated markets with the expression of public's will. Let's take a lesson from ~~t~~ energy market

deregulation and the Enron debacle.

Finally, I would like to comment on one recent experience with the broadcast media. We recently had one of the largest marches ever held in this city to protest our government's plan for war in Iraq. There were multiple helicopters flying over the march, many of which were no doubt television station helicopters. Yet, I could find no image of the march from the air that evening, an image that would no doubt be

compelling and informative of the size of the march. Yet, almost any auto accident will be broadcast from the air immediately. Also, there were no estimates of the size of the march (at least 30,000 people) given on television other than "thousands."

Were there a wider diversity of local stations available this might not be the case. So at least, let's not make this worse.

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PS: Please copy this to the FCC.