

The cable companies are already bloated. To permit further consolidation of media in the American Market is dangerous. Therefore, the clear violation of horizontal ownership must be addressed to serve the public interest. There are many reasons for this.

I and many other Americans are distrustful of the concentration of power and control over the media. This outrage was seen in the outpouring of American citizen response months back when the Committee (chaired by Powell) ruled to permit a smaller number of Media Giants to own and therefore control the information available in mass media in America. We don't want everything under the operation of a handful of giant corporations. Their powerful financial footprints stifle the less powerful but worthy points of view of working class America from being remembered or given adequate consideration in government. The owners feel free to just step on the viewpoint, censoring (smashing it) or drowning it out with media glitzes competing through use of space and time.... This is UNAMERICAN.

If I have the information correct, should Comcast and Time Warner merge with Adelphia, nearly 50 percent of the national market will be absorbed. There will be no stopping the rate escalation, and no recourse for service issues.

With passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which "deregulated" cable, rates have increased at an uncanny rate. (Statistics show about 59 percent) more than doubling, thereby taking the ability to have cable out of the reach of too many families who are assumed to have equal access to the world of communication in this country. Even local franchise agreements reflect disrespect for the "community needs" and the important voices of smaller local governments are muffled.

As an example, cable companies package so that our families get channels and programming schedules that are actually offensive. In illustration, channels such as HBO which do have some good programming, will follow a show that anyone in the family can watch at 7:30 with an 8:30 pm special showing prostitutes giving oral sex) or using a dildo. (Butt naked, everything hanging out) Our 6 year olds kids stumble on it, while we are making popcorn in the kitchen. This actually happened to me. I was shocked, and angered by this scheduling. But the big giants promote it. They must get a good laugh out of it in their rating frenzy, but their interests are not including

the efforts of normal American families still trying to survive economically, in a bad economy..and raise children with some innocence and tenderness. These shows are scheduled and bundled in ways that obstruct the considerate values most of those of us who do not spend our free time in the streets and in the underworld, think are important for the development of humane behaviors and character.

I will grant you that the single 30-50 year old market of sexually adventurous males find it exciting, but they do not reflect the needs of families in America. Their needs are in fact very self serving. But their control of the cable companies ensures their interests prevail. We need more diversification in companies so packaging is more in tune to the changing nature of life in this country, not less.

Finally, customer service is clearly indifferent because their cable network is the only game in town.....no competition. No real choice. Local programming is without the resources to compete at the sophisticated programming or accessibility level.

Finally the high-speed networks are more in demand for kids with school requirements, college class requirements, and business requirements. The ability for local governments to provide services is undermined or even threatened.

This is a lose lose situtaion for the normal American familh. What is happening to us..during this administration? I dont' believe that we really want to see monopolization of anything, but certainly not media...and control of information in a free country...

Further consolidation is not the answer...it is the problem.