

The Federal Communications Commission, acting under the 1996 rewrite of the 1934 communications act (as amended, Lord knows), took its cue from Congress too seriously. The granting of hundreds of AM and FM licenses to group broadcasters has decimated and homogenized a medium that, in its own way, held the country together. There are two streams to this thought.

1) While in the middle of the last century we had the great melting pot concept of a single American society, we have learned that we are a nation of different cultures and a nation of different communities. We NEED diversity and we are losing it.

2) As to our localities, many of them no longer have LOCAL radio service providing local information, addressing local needs and issues and owner-ships that are active parts of the community.

As to television, while the multiplicity of voices and pictures available via cable is commendable, the (coming) consolidation of cable companies will do to television service what radio conglomerates are doing to the FM and AM dials. Additionally, these cable operators will go with the economics of serving areas only where profits are great, thus denying service, even if it were affordable, to inner city and rural areas.

Let's return to real competition, with thousands of owners of over-the-air broadcasting.