

Frankly I am thoroughly fed up with the way big media owners are ruling what we see on TV. We should never have allowed a comparatively small number of men to buy up so much of the media that they can feed the public any propaganda they choose. This ruins a democracy. When big media can brainwash the general public, we head towards totalitarianism. This MUST STOP NOW.

Some years ago, our government broke up a number of very large companies because there was concern that they had gained monopolies on services to the public, which was discriminatory and too limiting to the public and eliminating competition. Now our government has been throwing us in reverse, which can be much more dangerous than the monopolies of the past. WE, who are well informed about the facts are irate with all the lies that have been fed to the public for years. As you know, if something is repeated often enough, it begins to be looked upon as fact. This is dangerous and MUST STOP. That Disney 5 hour "documentary" should NOT be shown!

I am therefore writing to express my strong disapproval of any relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership. Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system, and we cannot afford to compromise them in any way.

Few could doubt the obvious truth that media ownership matters and determines the content we receive over the public airwaves. We need look no farther than the recent scandal over ABC's "docudrama" about the 9/11 attacks which willfully distorted history about a national tragedy for political reasons. We need local broadcast station owners who will serve the local public interest not those of faraway corporate owners. Stewardship of the public airwaves is a very serious responsibility that merits true public accountability.

Limits on media consolidation have been a bulwark against the concentration of economic power in the marketplace of ideas -- a critical part of balancing the public service mission of the media with their private profit motive. Our democracy requires the free flow of information from a broad range of diverse voices.

Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television. Permitting cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, or allowing further concentration in local television markets, will only worsen the problems we

already have.

When the FCC attempted to weaken and remove media ownership limits in 2003, millions of Americans rose up in protest. Congress and the courts ultimately intervened to turn back that misguided regulatory process.

Now that these same rules are being reconsidered, the FCC should stand firm with the public against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote against media consolidation is a vote for democracy.