

1 you've got two minutes.

2 MR. RAMOS: I would have liked to direct
3 my comments towards two people, both of whom I'm
4 missing right now. One of them is the Professor from
5 Stanford who doesn't seem to understand the difference
6 between monopoly, oligopoly and perfect competition
7 nor has he read the book *Competitive Strategy* by
8 Michael Porter, which is standard reading in most MBA
9 programs.

10 I was a teacher assistant to the LA City
11 College in economics and if he would read some of
12 these things and perhaps lose some of his arrogance,
13 he might qualify to be a tutor at LA City College.
14 But in his current condition he wouldn't.

15 The next question is really for Mr.
16 Martin, who is not here right now. Those of us in the
17 public or those of the taxpayers who own the airwaves
18 and do not want to give them away to a oligopoly but
19 who do not have the money to do the paid for play
20 lobbying that he seems to have gotten use to when he
21 was in the Bush campaign or perhaps when he was a
22 lobbyist for some organization beforehand. Those of
23 us who don't have that kind of money, I would like to
24 ask members of the FCC what are we supposed to do.

25 I can see that the gentleman who spoke

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1 quite eloquently on behalf of whatever it is that
2 appears on Fox News that you may not have seen,
3 otherwise there would be no discussion here about what
4 the quality of programming is. They are gone because
5 they have nothing to hear. The message they have been
6 paid to deliver has been delivered and they have gone
7 away.

8 Now my question for you in the FCC is
9 those of us who don't have the kind of money they
10 have, what are we supposed to do?

11 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

12 (Applause).

13 MODERATOR RIVERA: So at this mike over
14 here I would like to have Shelby Flint, Rosa Maria
15 Santana, David Meyer, Carleen Brown, Alisa Marshall,
16 John Blantice, Dan Hernandez, Eleanor Kirby, Sharon
17 Hall, Christina Garcia.

18 And at this mike we will start with John
19 Harlan.

20 MR. HARLAN: How do you do? Aren't you
21 sad you didn't schedule something in Washington for
22 this next A.M.? Well, let me get on with it.

23 My name is John Harlan. I'm a member of
24 the American Federation of Radio and Television
25 Artists. I joined that organization in 1943. That was

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1 my first job in a radio station. At that time it was
2 in Fresno, California. There were four radio
3 stations. I could apply to each one. I finally got a
4 job at KYNO. I worked there for several years. Now
5 I had to move on. I went to San Francisco. There
6 were eight stations up there all owned by different
7 people that I could apply to. Eventually I got a job
8 at KGO, which was an owned and operated station. I
9 worked there for several years. I knew I had to come
10 to Los Angeles because that's where things were
11 happening. I got a transfer down here. I worked at
12 KECA as a staff announcer. I did that for several
13 years. But there were places to go. I always knew
14 that I could get a job someplace else because there
15 were jobs available.

16 I stayed at -- CBS then bought what was
17 KTSL. I worked there for several years. Moved on to
18 the network. And then I started to free lance.

19 As I started to free lance, there were
20 always jobs that I could apply for. I got the "Judy
21 Garland Show." I did that as long as it was on. I went
22 on to the game shows. I did "Name that Tune." I did
23 "Password" when Allen Ludden was alive. When he used
24 to say "The password is?" I'd say the password is,
25 and that was one of my jobs.

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1 There was always a job available until the
2 last few years. And then things started to happen,
3 jobs were not available. There were not as many people
4 to work for. But luckily, I'm 81 years old now and I
5 don't have to work anymore, thanks to an AFTRA
6 pension, as a matter of fact.

7 And Mike was very brave to come here
8 tonight. Because he works for the company we've all
9 been talking about, Clear Channel. He was brave to
10 come here because there are people in different -- and
11 I'm not saying that Clear Channel is this way, but
12 they hold it against you if you speak out.

13 Thank you for being here. I appreciate it
14 very much.

15 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

16 (Applause).

17 William Norman? William Norman? Maybe
18 William went home.

19 Karla with a K? There she is. Karla,
20 it's nice to see you again.

21 KARLA: Well, thank you. Good to be here.

22 MODERATOR RIVERA: You have two minutes,
23 ma'am.

24 KARLA: Okay. Thank you.

25 When I was growing up in Virginia I didn't

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1 even know Latinos existed. Today living in LA I'm well
2 aware, not only that they exist, I'm well aware of
3 their issues and their history. You've got a great
4 job in turning my ignorance around through the media.

5 I also wonder, though, where is the black
6 American? I am a descendant of American slaves. Where
7 is my image? Where are my people's stories? Where is
8 our reality?

9 Right now across the globe the American is
10 hated. It's due mostly because of the image projected
11 through America media and media consolidation. We
12 need English subtitles on all foreign broadcasting.
13 English subtitles because we are not just an English
14 only country anymore. We as English -- I only speak
15 English. That's my only language. I would like to
16 learn Spanish. On Spanish language television I would
17 appreciate it if the FCC would enforce a mandate that
18 says they need English language subtitles. I think it
19 would help all of us come together and stop the
20 division and divisiveness that occurs because of the
21 different languages.

22 It's not just Spanish language, but Korean
23 language, Japanese, Armenian, Hebrew, whatever
24 language it is, if we --

25 PARTICIPANT: (Off microphone).

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1 KARLA: We need to understand each other.
2 And I would appreciate it as a communicator if the FCC
3 would consider seriously English language subtitles on
4 all foreign broadcasting. And as a gentleman
5 mentioned earlier, sales tax on the sales of all media
6 outlets.

7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

9 (Applause).

10 MODERATOR RIVERA: Dave Shay? Dave Shay?

11 All right. Tom Newman? Mr. Newman,
12 you've got two minutes, sir.

13 MR. NEWMAN: Thank you. The name is Tom
14 Newman. I've had the pleasure on occasion of working
15 for all four networks. I am at KTLA. Other times it's
16 been quite a shame. And I guess the issue is truly
17 diversification.

18 In the run up for war in Iraq we saw all
19 of the networks following suit having worms on the
20 bottom of the screen with the big bumpers. We were
21 chasing our tails in order to go into war. They were
22 hyping us. They were not going for the truth. I think
23 in a diversified media we have more of a shot at
24 getting the truth.

25 We've seen that again with what's happened

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1 last week with Foley chasing around young pages,
2 allegedly. What that seems to be is a smoke screen
3 for Condi Rice apparently being told that we're going
4 to be attacked.

5 If we had a media that was awake,
6 aggressive, alive and diverse perhaps we wouldn't be
7 in this position. Perhaps they'd be asking the tough
8 questions now instead of looking at Foley and his
9 problem.

10 Thank you.

11 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

12 (Applause).

13 MODERATOR RIVERA: Jack Kenton? Two
14 minutes, Mr. Kenton.

15 MR. KENTON: Thank you.

16 You know, you've heard everyone talking
17 about diversity in the media out there. And I'd just
18 like to mention this past month I had to actually
19 drive all the way to St. Louis and back going via
20 Albuquerque back through Denver and Nevada. You know,
21 you get out there and you turn the radio on and you
22 get Rush Limbaugh on an AM or an ESPN on a station,
23 and you keep going through it. And you get four Rush
24 Limbaugh's and three ESPN shows and some church music
25 and Hispanic. But, you know, instead of that four

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1 Rush Limbaugh shows or four ESPN kind of things, there
2 ought to be a little more variety out there. I mean,
3 what are these people that have to live in that part
4 of the country putting up with? You know, they're not
5 getting anything. There should be more out there.

6 In the print media, again, you need the
7 diversity. I kind of like the *Los Angeles Times* for
8 the international news, but I live right here. So if
9 I want to know something that's going on locally, I
10 get the *Daily Breeze* and the once a week town stuff if
11 I really want to know what's going on. But then at the
12 sometime we go out and take kids out for airplane
13 rides and yet we can't get the media to put a note in
14 unless we get it into them two weeks, three weeks in
15 advance, and then we're not sure.

16 You know, it's like if you really had some
17 little local stuff and all the media out there being
18 diverse, I think the public would benefit better.

19 Thank you.

20 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

21 (Applause).

22 MODERATOR RIVERA: Mary Anne McCarthy?

23 Mary Anne, you have two minutes.

24 MS. MCCARTHY: Thank you.

25 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

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1 MS. McCARTHY: And thank you for coming
2 and being patient with us.

3 My name is Mary Anne and I'm a newsaholic.
4 I read and watch television. I read newspapers. I read
5 things on the internet. I listen to a lot of radio.
6 And I think I'm pretty well informed. But it takes a
7 lot of time to do that now. You can't just listen to
8 our local broadcast media and be well informed. I can
9 give you an example of that.

10 And that would be a neighbor across the
11 street who doesn't have the internet, doesn't listen
12 to the radio, just watches the local news. She saw
13 "The Path to 9/11" and did not realize that there were
14 many factual errors in that.

15 To be well informed, to really know what's
16 going on and to be able to appreciate how much falsity
17 there is being out there and how much falsity there is
18 in the TV commercials for politicians you have to
19 spend an inordinate amount of time.

20 Now, we need to do something so that
21 people are well informed. We can't have a democracy
22 unless we have well informed citizens. And I maintain
23 that we're not being well informed now.

24 I just have to refer to this, I'm sorry.
25 You're charged with protecting the public

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1 interests. And any further weakening of the
2 regulations is not in the public interest. Relaxing
3 the existing ownership caps will serve only the
4 financial interest of a handful of giant media
5 corporations that already control a large proportion
6 of the broadcast and cable channels, radio stations
7 and internet services and newspapers.

8 So think about it. If you do relax the
9 rules, then that will benefit these people. It will
10 allow them to increase their profits without limit and
11 they'll be able to increase their influence over
12 public opinion and government officials. And we don't
13 need that. They already have much influence. We need
14 the truth. We need real information.

15 Thank you.

16 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

17 (Applause).

18 MS. MCCARTHY: Bring back the Fairness
19 Doctrine.

20 MODERATOR RIVERA: Barbara Levin? Two
21 minutes, Ms. Levin.

22 MS. LEVIN: Thank you.

23 It's been 30 years since Louis Powell
24 wrote his now famous memo exhorting big business to
25 buy the media for the specific reason of proselytizing

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1 the American people to their point of view. They have
2 followed his advice and they've bought up the media,
3 and it has been increasingly consolidated. And since
4 then three things have happened.

5 First, since corporations are motivated
6 only by profit and certainly not by civic virtue, the
7 first thing they did is the first thing they always do
8 when they takeover anything, they take out the
9 departments that don't make a profit. That means the
10 news. Foreign bureaus were closed and Americans no
11 longer know what's going on outside of America.
12 Congress is not covered because it's boring and
13 Americans no longer know what's going on inside
14 America. Staff was cut, resources cut and
15 investigative journalism was destroyed because
16 reporters no longer have either the time or resources
17 to investigate. And the Fourth Estate can no longer be
18 the watchdog of democracy.

19 The second thing that happened was
20 typified when Westinghouse bought CBS and immediately
21 tried to kill the "60 Minute" story about big tobacco,
22 the incident which became the subject of the movie
23 "The Insider." Public health, welfare and the right
24 to know was sacrificed to the interests of big
25 business who did not want to embarrass other big

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1 business or big government, or any of the big and
2 powerful. Although that story did eventually air so we
3 know about it, there are many others that are being
4 killed we don't know about. You will never see a story
5 about corporate pollution and parents will never know
6 why their kids might be getting sick or dying.
7 Government secrecy can no longer be penetrated as it
8 was in the days of Watergate, and you can see the
9 results every day.

10 The third thing, and to me the most jaw
11 dropping, was when Sinclair Broadcasting decided in
12 2004 to broadcast anti-Kerry propaganda right before
13 the election. This has never happened before and I
14 hope you make damn sure it never happens again.

15 Already this year, another election year,
16 ABC not only aired "The Path to 9/11" but had a deal
17 with Scholastic to --

18 MODERATOR RIVERA: You have to stop now.

19 MS. LEVIN: I'm sorry.

20 MODERATOR RIVERA: That's all right.

21 Thank you very much.

22 MS. LEVIN: Thank you very much.

23 MODERATOR RIVERA: All right. Allen Levy?

24 Allen Levy? Allen Levy?

25 Melissa McKie? Two minutes, Ms. McKie?

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1 I'm Melissa McKie, and I'm a proud AFTRA
2 and so glad to be an American citizen.

3 And tonight I'd like to read a letter from
4 a man who lives in Southern California, an AFTRA
5 colleague who would like his opinions to be heard by
6 you.

7 "It has taken," it meaning media
8 consolidation, "away our different radio markets that
9 were our performing musicians bread and butter. These
10 varied media outlets gave us the public relation and
11 exposure tools necessary to create and support our CD
12 sales, but also created a live touring market an
13 affiliated ancillary income streams in these different
14 marketplaces that were under the control of different
15 unaffiliated companies. Also, not only from the artist
16 banned point of sales airplay music publishing and
17 touring area, but the session musicians and studio
18 owners are taking a beating because there are less
19 artists now due to the shrunken marketplace. So
20 there's less to no work at all for a lot of us.

21 It used to be that you could only own
22 three stations, and that had to be in three different
23 formats. Now one company can own and control the
24 majority of radio and television stations, billboard
25 advertising and print media, performance arenas,

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1 concessions and everything else that goes with it,
2 including format choices. The public, and this has
3 been proven with internet tracking statistics, wants
4 a larger selection to choose from than what is being
5 forced fed them by the conglomerate environment and
6 are starting to complain loudly. I hear it from my
7 contemporaries almost everyday.

8 Media consolidation has created a
9 marketplace with limits and prevents the artist's
10 chances of even beginning a career and earning a
11 living."

12 Thank you for hearing me.

13 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you very much.

14 (Applause).

15 MODERATOR RIVERA: All right. Can I have
16 at this mike Lori Lynn, Kaye Shepherd, Paul Sawyer,
17 Erman Verdeckie, Julio it looks like Ceasar, John
18 Wanger, Bella DeSoto, Douglas Barnett, Marla
19 Bernstein, Roger Hall and Omari Bakari.

20 And back at this mike we'll start with
21 Shelby Flint. Ms. Flint, you have two minutes, ma'am.

22 MS. FLINT: Thank you.

23 I'm an AFTRA member. I've been a singer
24 for a long time. And you wanted to hear personal
25 experiences, so I've been sitting here thinking about

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1 how this has affected me personally. And during part
2 of my career I had a band and we were doing sort of
3 cutting edge jazz and we had a wonderful relationship
4 with a local radio station. There were a lot of other
5 groups at that time in Los Angeles. It was a really
6 healthy time for sort of a fusion jazz community.

7 Not only did we have radio
8 acknowledgement, but there was a healthy nightclub
9 environment as well. And there were music festivals.
10 And all of us were sort of a part of this. And it
11 just sort of changed.

12 And from a personal point of view I think
13 I speak not just for myself, but as the radio
14 station's DJs became kind of hostage to syndicated
15 lists, those of us who were in the community creating
16 became ghosts. And it's not a great thing for a
17 creative artist or a creative community to experience
18 becoming a ghost.

19 So when you think about consolidation,
20 think about the human element and how it affects the
21 artists in communities across the United States,
22 please.

23 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

24 (Applause).

25 MODERATOR RIVERA: So Rosa Maria Santana?

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1 Ms. Santana, two minutes, please.

2 MS. SANTANA: Okay. Thank you.

3 Yes, my name is Rosa Maria Santana and I'm
4 the west coast staff member for the National
5 Association of Hispanic Journalists.

6 The National Association of Hispanic
7 Journalists has issued several statements opposing
8 further deregulations of our nation's broadcast
9 ownership rules because we are concerned that the
10 number of minorities owning broadcast outlets has
11 declined as a result of consolidation.

12 For instance, the National Association of
13 Hispanic Journalists is troubled by the dismal state
14 of minority media ownership detailed in a recent study
15 released by Free Press, a national media policy
16 organization. The report titled "Out of the Picture:
17 Minority and Female TV Station Ownership in the United
18 States" found that even though people of color make up
19 33 percent of the U.S. population, they only make up
20 3.26 percent of commercial broadcast television
21 station owners.

22 Out of 1,349 full powered commercial TV
23 stations in this country, 15 or 1.1 percent are owned
24 by Hispanic. In addition, blacks or African-Americans
25 own 18 stations, or 1.3 percent. And Asian Americans

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1 own 6 stations or .44 percent.

2 The study also examined the state of
3 female media ownership and found that women only own
4 67 stations or 4.97 percent. Free Press' study
5 criticized the FCC for failing to take up the state of
6 minority media ownership in the United States and not
7 taking into account the affect ownership rules have
8 had on media owners of color.

9 Concerned with these numbers resulting in
10 part from increased media consolidation, my
11 association has recently called for diligently
12 analysis by the government on the state of minority
13 ownership. But those recent efforts were unsuccessful.

14 Now as the FCC begins another round of
15 discussions to determine regulations governing our
16 nation's broadcast ownership rules, the results of the
17 study become alarming. NAHJ urges the FCC to consider
18 the results of this study and its unsettling numbers
19 it contains when deciding who can own the media in
20 this dynamic changing country where a third of the
21 population are people of color.

22 Thank you.

23 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

24 (Applause).

25 MODERATOR RIVERA: David Meyer? David

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1 Meyer?

2 Carleen Brown? You have two minutes,
3 ma'am.

4 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

5 My name is Carleen Brown. I am a public
6 school teacher and an advocate for quality education
7 as a civil right.

8 I'm going to give just one example of how
9 media consolidation has effected us here in L.A. I've
10 been appalled at the *L.A. Times* right leaning spin
11 doctoring since their having been taken over by the
12 *Chicago Tribune* and the laying off of, I think, some
13 40 reporters.

14 Specifically in their portrayal of Mayor
15 Villaraigosa's takeover of LA schools when all he was
16 really trying to do is provide support for clusters of
17 inner city schools like Crenshaw High School, which TV
18 newscaster characterized as a school that should be
19 closed because of racial violence between Latinos and
20 Blacks.

21 I followed the Mayor's story in both the
22 *Los Angeles Times* and a smaller paper, the *Daily News*,
23 the latter of which portrayed the Mayor in a much
24 better light offering more diverse responses to the
25 Mayor's plan. The *Daily News* provided coverage of

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1 events where the Mayor received support for his plan,
2 rather than focusing entirely on the fight between the
3 Mayor the School Board.

4 Thank God the Mayor prevailed despite big
5 media's bias against him and the minority groups that
6 are so under served that he now champions.

7 I pray that Phil Angelides will prevail,
8 too, over big media's bias against him as well.

9 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

10 (Applause).

11 MODERATOR RIVERA: Alisa Marshall? Alisa
12 Marshall?

13 John Blantice? John Blantice? You have
14 two minutes, John?

15 MR. BLANTICE: Okay. Thank you.

16 I suspect at this point that the
17 Commission appreciates that the citizenry is fed up
18 with the creeping market monopolization and the
19 shortsighted greed infecting the broadcasting
20 industry. It's evident to this assembled audience,
21 just as it has been evident to our courts cited by Mr.
22 Cooper, that the action which should be under
23 consideration is how to diversify media ownership, not
24 how to consolidate it.

25 We in California have been the

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1 beneficiaries of federal regulatory commissions
2 revamped by the Bush Administration. We all remember
3 the so-called free market principles exploited by
4 ENRON extolled by President Bush to our faces in
5 California and allegedly regulated by FERC and which
6 alluded California of a multibillion dollar surplus
7 and left our state neck deep in the red.

8 I hope Stanford University is proud of
9 their faculty member who compares the broadcasting
10 industry to the baking industry. The poisons spewed
11 by Hitler across the airwaves of Germany and which the
12 led the world into its most devastating war was never
13 matched by a loaf of bread or a cookie or a cake.

14 Pursuing the public interests with regard
15 to broadcasting means setting policies which ensure
16 that our mainstream broadcast media deliver the wars
17 in Iraq and Afghanistan, Lebanon, Gaza and Congo into
18 our living rooms the way the Vietnam war was brought
19 into our living rooms rather than wall-to-wall
20 coverage of John David Karr's return from Thailand, or
21 extended coverage of car chases. The issues facing
22 this country are extremely dire.

23 You know, I thought it was a really good
24 point that the man made about taking a constitutional
25 oath. Our soldiers take a constitutional oath and how

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1 many thousands of them have died recently.

2 Thank you.

3 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you

4 (Applause).

5 MODERATOR RIVERA: Dan Hernandez? Dan
6 Hernandez? Two minutes, Mr. Hernandez.

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: How much do I have to pay
8 to get five minutes, like the corporate reps there?
9 Maybe the next time we can have them the last instead.

10 So, I guess, first I'd like to take a
11 moment since someone mentioned earlier that one of the
12 Commissioners was involved in the Bush recount in
13 2000, I'd like people to check on the U.S. Commission
14 on Civil Rights website. It's www.usccr.gov. You can
15 read there the report on the voting irregularities.
16 Chapter 5 talks about the realities of list
17 maintenance, the list of the felons who is maintained
18 by a company owned by Choice Point. And tens of
19 thousands of African-American voters were denied their
20 right to vote because their last names matched within
21 90 percent of people on the voting list.

22 Anyway, a number of American soldiers
23 killed in Iraq, there's about 3,000. And in 2004 John
24 Hopkins completed a study that estimated the number of
25 Iraqi dead was over 100,000. The Bush Administration

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1 has conceded at least 30,000. And that's the 100,000
2 estimated excluding the raiding of the city of
3 Fallujah, which is about the size of Cincinnati. Now
4 what does that have to do with media consolidation?
5 We were all wrong. We all suffered from "group think."
6 I'm sure all of you are familiar with that quote from
7 the CIA, the Pentagon, Congress, the Administration,
8 and yes, the media. So clearly it's a lot easier to
9 get consensus among a group of three, five major media
10 players than if you had dozens or, say, hundreds of
11 independent news agencies and reporters.

12 Furthermore, if we had more time, maybe
13 we'd hear more about the video news releases, the
14 propaganda -- I'm sure you guys are investigating
15 that, how he was paid \$240,000 by the Administration
16 to spew the Administration views on the No Child Left
17 Behind Act.

18 And we'd probably have more time for
19 context in our news, like how the Iraqi borders were
20 divided up by Gertrude Bell back after the first World
21 War I, how the CIA arranged for the overthrow of the
22 democratic government of Iran back in 1953 as part of
23 Operation Ajax. And I'm sure we'd be able to
24 understand what's going on in the world much better.
25 But it's up to you guys, it'll take longer than if

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1 they were to do it, but that's the way it's going to
2 have to be. We need to elect people that will
3 eventually appoint people that will take care of these
4 issues.

5 Thank you.

6 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you.

7 (Applause).

8 MODERATOR RIVERA: Eleanor Kirby? Eleanor
9 Kirby? Eleanor Kirby?

10 PARTICIPANT: (Off microphone).

11 MODERATOR RIVERA: I beg your pardon.

12 PARTICIPANT: Bella DeSoto?

13 MODERATOR RIVERA: Bella DeSoto. Not yet.
14 Soon.

15 Sharon Hall? Two minutes, Ms. Hall.

16 MS. HALL: Thank you very much for this
17 opportunity. My name is Sharon Hall and I'm from
18 Torrence, California. And I want to thank all of you
19 for being so eloquent and wonderful tonight.

20 I really have nothing new to add, but I
21 add my voice because I don't know how many voices it's
22 going to take before we're heard

23 (Applause).

24 MS. HALL: It has been said tonight that
25 the airwaves belong to the people. That sounds good.

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1 The reality is that the media is in the hands of the
2 corporations. NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox do not serve the
3 people. They serve themselves. They were cheerleaders
4 for an illegal and immoral war. Once voice that did
5 not follow the party line was Phil Donahue, and he was
6 fired.

7 Experts for war are heard on the nightly
8 news. Experts for peace are never heard. You are
9 charged by law to pursue the public interest, not
10 corporate interest. I urge you to obey the law.

11 Just as war is not in the public interest,
12 corporate owned media is not in the public interest.

13 Thank you.

14 MODERATOR RIVERA: Thank you, Ms. Hall.

15 (Applause).

16 MODERATOR RIVERA: Christina Garcia?
17 Christina Garcia?

18 All right. I guess we're going to go over
19 to this microphone now. And Lori Lynn?

20 MR. BROAD WATER: I'm speaking for Laurie
21 Lynn. My name is Broad Water.

22 Big business when it becomes sufficiently
23 big is indistinguishable from government. It is a
24 government which does not and is not bound by the
25 Constitution, apparently. We can see the effect of

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1 that just in the last few years. We can see that in
2 the way things were handled leading up to the war. We
3 did not have free and open discussion because too few
4 concerns who were too close to the powers that be
5 decided that is the way it should be. It was all pro
6 war. People who came out against had engagements
7 canceled, contracts canceled. This is not the symptom
8 of a democratic society.

9 Artistically we would never in today's
10 environment have heard from artists like Loretta Lynn,
11 like Bruce Springsteen and others who would go to a
12 radio station, play their demo, be heard by the station
13 manager at that time and be put on the air. Because
14 now you have to go up the steps of this big corporate
15 process in order to even get heard. The result is the
16 arts are effectively stifled. Artistic expression and
17 dissent both are stifled. The fact is that now we are
18 impoverished artistically because the same fare is
19 heard everywhere. It is very difficult to get new
20 material, new artists into the public ear. It is very
21 difficult for an aspiring artist such as myself to
22 find a way in.

23 So I urge greater regulation. Reduce the
24 amount that one concern can own and extend that into
25 cable, extend that into satellite, extend that into

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