

A 'Free Society' Needs Free Ways of Communicating

Since Alexander Graham Bell gave us the telephone, technology that connects us has proliferated. With only one exception, every new communications tool or system has also come with commercial interests who not only have control of the consumers' costs of these increasingly necessary-to-life-and-business technologies, but also have fought to control the laws and industry models to exclusively their own financial advantage. Consideration of what might be best for their customers was important only so far as there were competitors to consider and laws that kept the consumers' interests somewhat protected.

Mega-mergers among media has removed nearly all meaningful competition in every kind of communication field. Removal of laws protecting consumers has given the control of almost all ways we share ideas and information among us, principally telecommunications, radio, TV, and newspapers, to the very corporate interests that are absolutely focussed on and dedicated to maximizing the bottom line; a great business model, but fatal to democracies that depend on the free exchange of ideas among all it's citizens, and a fair and equal access to this exchange for all it's people.

The sole exception to this take-over of our national idea exchange is the internet, where there are no all-powerful, self-interested gatekeepers, no bottom-line interests that decide who can and can't access it, or who will get preferential access. The internet is NOT anti-business; it has created hundreds of very wealthy people. Thousands of businesses have thrived in the free and open structure of the internet as it has always been. Anyone can take a business idea and try it out with minimum cost and virtually no bureacracy to deal with. This a a model of democracy at every level, and has been wildly successful because of it.

The interests pushing for control of this marvel of an everyman's tool of opportunity and empowerment have no interest in the public welware, nor in the good of the country or world. A dam across the already-established success of this organically-created river of revenue to divert as much as possible into their individual corporate oceans of profit is the one-and-only purpose. No alleged benefits proposed by these powerful communications-controlling entities are worth the destruction of what is already working so well, and the last and best tool for the average citizen to be widely heard, to become successful, to keep informed.

The internet does not need new masters: The masters lust only for the internet's wealth. Any move towards submitting the internet to the greed-driven intervention of these Oligarchs is a vote against the American people, and the rest of the world's people as well. I urge you to stand up for your country and the world, for democracy today and tomorrow, for opportunity for the common man, for your children and mine: please stop the evisceration of our internet. Prevent corporate control of internet access.