

1 accountability, in the Black community in particular.

2 Regardless of what we saw before the so-called free  
3 press, I recognize that the media is an arm of the  
4 government. I'm clear that the media has to take  
5 direction in one way or another from those who  
6 represent the government.

7 However, I would like for the record to  
8 reflect the blatant violations that continues to occur  
9 in my respective community. In Chicago in particular,  
10 leading law enforcement officials have arrogantly  
11 stated that the press is to make no mention of the  
12 police terrorism that we incur.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. HAMPTON: In early 2006, in response to  
15 the Chicago police murder of Michael Smith, a Chicago  
16 police commander ordered a WGN reporter not to cover  
17 anything that I or any other witness stated. Some  
18 representative of the local media have even stated  
19 that they have been provided a list by the Mayor Daley  
20 administration a list of "loaded terms" or "catch  
21 phrases" to use in references to any community  
22 organization, or even the Black community in general,  
23 terms such as gang member and/or ex-felons.

24 On August 6 of this year, after the Chicago  
25 police shot 18 year old Aaron Harris in the back,

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1 police spokespersons sent out a mandate to media  
2 moguls directing them to no longer refer to it as a  
3 youth being shot in the back, but to henceforth say  
4 that he was shot in the left shoulder. Which, since  
5 then, that's how it's been referenced to, if  
6 referenced at all.

7 The atmosphere of fear that permits only  
8 "safe subjects" or Oprah Winfrey type of subjects was  
9 even witnessed after the August 7, 2007, beating of a  
10 Black *Chicago Tribune* reporter by the Chicago police,  
11 in which its own newspaper has been fearful to write  
12 about it.

13 In closing, we recognize the we -- that  
14 what *compañero* Ché Guevara said, that the role of a  
15 propagandist can be as important to the guerrilla --

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

17 MR. HAMPTON: -- still holds true, just as  
18 Hitler's propagandist, Joseph Goebbels, played a key  
19 role in setting the stage for the atrocities in Nazi  
20 Germany. Today the --

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

22 MR. HAMPTON: -- J. Edgar Hoovers of  
23 journalism have been and are responsible for setting  
24 the scene for implementing the racist laws and the  
25 mass murder of those in the --

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 MR. HAMPTON: -- Black community in  
3 particular. Power to the people.

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 (Applause and cheering.)

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Nancy Snider.

7 MS. SNIDER: I'm Nancy Snider.  
8 Commissioners, keep the present limits on media  
9 ownership. I've lived in Chicago most of my life.  
10 Given my color, living on the north side was almost  
11 mandatory. But my first job was on the south side.  
12 It showed me that skin color made so much difference,  
13 where I lived, where my friends were, neighborhoods I  
14 visited.

15 I traveled a lot for work and found it easy  
16 to talk to people about local news, radio programs.  
17 We established common ground, built bridges. I worked  
18 with Don, who wrote a little magazine about local jazz  
19 groups and radio stations. Daddy O'Daley had a must-  
20 have program with music and news from all over  
21 Chicago.

22 Over the years segregation has remained in  
23 Chicago. In fact, I think it's increased. There's no  
24 little jazz magazine anymore. Now it's big, glitzy, a  
25 page of advertising cost \$1,000 and it's available

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1 only to affluent people.

2 Today's local news is one story fits all.  
3 If it bleeds on the south side, it bleeds. Our  
4 bridges are blasted by the efficiency of one company  
5 owns most, one editor controls all. This efficiency  
6 of consolidated media ownership keeps us segregated in  
7 Chicago where White is right, the good life is on the  
8 north side.

9 We need bridges without bias, a variety of  
10 locally owned newspapers, radio, and TV stations, real  
11 live people who live here writing and broadcasting a  
12 wide range of news, talk, entertainment. Many  
13 editors.

14 Would it be possible for us to build  
15 bridges? Make it possible for us.

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

17 MS. SNIDER: Keep the present limits.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Before we go to our  
21 next speaker, I'd like to note that it is 7:30. We  
22 had shown on our program that 7:30 was a break time.  
23 We have been running far behind schedule, and it is  
24 our intention to just to move forward in lieu of a  
25 break. We have a lot of public commenters who have

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1 signed up. We want to get to everybody.

2 Before our next speaker, if the following  
3 people could come forward: Christopher Murphy,  
4 Rodrigo Alvarez, Jesus Sanchez, Kevin Brinson, Robbie  
5 Smith, Sam Ryan, Blanca Cambry.

6 Yunuen Rodriguez.

7 MS. RODRIGUEZ: That's me.

8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Can somebody help --

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: It's very unaccessible.

10 The Chairman needs to be seated down  
11 because he's supposed to be here to listen to the  
12 public, and you, Robert and Jonathan, need to be  
13 paying attention to what we're saying, because you  
14 have not be so all night.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Take a look at who's behind  
17 you right now. Dr. King. If Dr. King were here  
18 tonight he would tell you, I am very ashamed of you,  
19 FCC. Why? Because you're not only ignoring, not only  
20 stepping on, but you're spitting on our multi-racial,  
21 multi-ethnic democracy. Why?

22 Thanks to your inconsiderate rules, young,  
23 low class women of color like myself live in fear of  
24 getting raped, and abused in each and every way.  
25 Seventy-five percent of the U.S. population that

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1 consumes your media, your media portray us as only  
2 caring about fashion, and us as only being body parts,  
3 as opposed to us being intellectual and competent  
4 human beings. And not only that, but we also need to  
5 act shy, we need to look anorexic, and defenseless.

6 And whenever we get raped, and abused in  
7 each and every way, that crime lays on you because you  
8 make the rules. And for all you know, your wife might  
9 be getting raped right now, and it's up to you to stop  
10 that, along with many more rapes. Thank you.

11 (Applause and cheering.)

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

13 Christopher Murphy.

14 (No response.)

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Christopher Murphy?

16 (No response.)

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Rodrigo Alvarez.

18 (No response.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Rodrigo Alvarez?

20 (No response.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Jesus Sanchez?

22 MR. SANCHEZ: Hi. My name is Jesus  
23 Sanchez. I've been a labor organizer for 15 years.  
24 For the past 41 years I've been a Latino. And today I  
25 speak to you about the outrage I have in my heart

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1 about what NBC is doing to Telemundo.

2 Since NBC purchased Telemundo in 2001, I  
3 believed in the five promises they made to -- that NBC  
4 made to the FCC, that they would help Telemundo grow.

5 And what has NBC done? Approximately 300 people  
6 have lost their jobs. And in the Southwest NBC has  
7 closed six Telemundo stations and is sending out  
8 regional news to the Latino public. What happened to  
9 localism? It's been said that this is  
10 great journalism, and I would like to quote the  
11 National Association of Hispanic Journalists, "If  
12 regionalized newscasts are good for journalism, and  
13 not just a way to save money while giving the  
14 appearance of meeting the network's public interest  
15 obligations, why are regional newscasts only being  
16 planned for Spanish speaking audiences? Doesn't the  
17 English speaking audience deserve the level of  
18 service?"

19 I ask the FCC to conduct hearings and  
20 investigate into what's going on. Thank you.

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Kevin Brinson.

24 MR. BRINSON: Yes. My name is Kevin  
25 Brinson. I'm the CEO of CWAL, Inc., an independent

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1 record label here in Chicago.

2 And I'm coming forward because we have a  
3 serious problem in Chicago, in this entire market, I  
4 think. And what's going on is, your media  
5 consolidation that you all approve and everything is  
6 contributing to payola. We're sitting up here where,  
7 okay, no local artists get played on the radio  
8 stations --

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. BRINSON: -- you know what I'm saying.  
11 We got local on-air personalities asking us to give  
12 them five and 25,000 just to play a record. Local  
13 DJs -- you know what I'm saying, DJ Farris wanting  
14 5,000 to play your stuff in a mixed show. Boogy Boy  
15 wanting 25,000 to play your song in a mixed show. And  
16 don't no independent record labels have that type of  
17 money.

18 This market was not designed that way. And  
19 this Telecommunications Act of 1996 has literally  
20 destroyed the independent record labels, and it's  
21 literally destroyed the localized programming in this  
22 market. It doesn't even exist anymore.

23 So we want you all to launch a federal  
24 investigation because we've got people that's been  
25 victimized by this system. And if you all don't take

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1 it serious, we're going to start marching on every  
2 radio station here in the city, and we're going to  
3 shutting them down, and we're going to shut them down  
4 until you all come and you all start doing something  
5 about it, you know.

6 And it's not just the radio stations, the  
7 television stations are doing the same things,  
8 refusing to cover the travesties that's going on in  
9 our neighborhoods, the policing killing these young  
10 kids and you all are not coming into our neighborhood  
11 and getting the accurate information.

12 We're tired of it, and we want something  
13 done about it. We want something done about it and we  
14 want it done now. Launch an investigation. We're  
15 tired of sitting up here looking at you all, and you  
16 all are not even -- you all are not even paying  
17 attention to some of us. We're wondering if this a  
18 dog and pony show or something.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 (Applause and cheering.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Robbie Smith.

23 MS. SMITH: I can't follow Kevin with a  
24 testimony like that, but, my name is Robbie Smith. I  
25 am a producer and former board member for Chicago

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1 Access Network Television, better known as CAN-TV,  
2 everyone knows.

3 I've been involved with CAN-TV for 15  
4 years, and I say with pride that this network produces  
5 more local programming each week in this city --

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. SMITH: -- than all of the broadcast  
8 channel combined. All of them combined.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. SMITH: So in looking at radio and TV  
11 in Chicago, I say that CAN-TV and WVON radio are the  
12 major sources of African-American information news and  
13 discussion on a regular basis.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. SMITH: Now even though we have a  
16 radio -- we own a Black radio station, we own a Black  
17 cable station, but we have never owned a Black  
18 broadcast television station. So with the transition  
19 from analog to digital, we want you to make the  
20 playing field level so that there can be an African-  
21 American owning a broadcast television station in  
22 Chicago.

23 (Applause and cheering.)

24 MS. SMITH: Now you have said yourself in  
25 your opening comments that you are charged with

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1 fostering localism and diversity. And we expect you  
2 to do just that. And we also hope that from this  
3 testimony today, that you will establish an  
4 independent panel on minority and female ownership so  
5 we can make a difference in this city.

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

7 Sam Ryan?

8 MR. RYAN: Good evening. I'm Samuel Ryan,  
9 a student at DePaul University. I would like for all  
10 of you to look back to when you were about my age, 18,  
11 19 or 20. Do you remember how difficult it was to  
12 have your voice heard? How there was a limited amount  
13 of outlets for you to just have your thoughts and  
14 opinions voiced?

15 I'm very sorry to say but this has not  
16 changed. The youth of Chicago and America still do  
17 not have a voice that is broadcasted over the  
18 airwaves.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. RYAN: It is the time for this to  
21 change.

22 I would like to point out that these  
23 testimony hearings are virtually impossible for high  
24 school or college students to give their testimony.  
25 It is located in a location that is not readily

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1 accessible, and the registration process requires  
2 students to skip school in order to make it here, or  
3 to just sign up to testify.

4 I would suggest that next time the concerns  
5 of youth are taken into consideration when planning,  
6 so you can receive a broader base of testimonies.

7 In a nation that prides itself on  
8 diversity, people's voices being heard, and equal  
9 opportunity, it's a shame that six corporations  
10 control the majority of what we see, hear and  
11 comprehend. I, like other citizens, feel that  
12 diversity in what is broadcasted, who is broadcasting  
13 it, and how the information is portrayed is vital to  
14 growth of our youth.

15 You have the power to make these changes,  
16 either for the better or for the worse. Thank you  
17 very much.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 Before our next speaker, would Todd  
20 Dietterle, Martin Macias, Scott Sanders, Janette  
21 Wilson, Hermene Hartman, Barbara Popovic, Orion  
22 Samuelson come down?

23 Blanca Cambry.

24 MS. CAMBRY: Good evening. My name is  
25 Blanca. I am a young journalism student. I would

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1 like to express my discontent with the mainstream  
2 media.

3 Here in Chicago, two major corporations own  
4 the limited Spanish medium. This makes us the Latin  
5 community under-represented and misrepresented. We  
6 should not allow major corporations to keep buying our  
7 public airwaves. If they keep consolidating, we are  
8 more and more deprived of our freedom to the  
9 communication waves.

10 Our children in some cultures get no  
11 exposure because of the limited media. We want an  
12 independent panel to review the female and minority  
13 ownership. The FCC needs to realize that we need to  
14 stop this mainstream bonanza.

15 We would also like to see a diversity in  
16 the FCC itself. You fine gentlemen are sitting there,  
17 the Chairman is missing, and we have no diversity in  
18 the FCC.

19 We need to have diversity, and we would  
20 also like the FCC to realize that the Latin community  
21 is a majority and not a minority. And we deserve  
22 proper and decent exposure and representation. Thank  
23 you.

24 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

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1                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: We are now on the 20th  
2 person who has signed up on our list, Todd Dietterle.  
3 I'm sorry if I mispronounced.

4                   MR. DIETTERLE: Todd Dietterle. Good  
5 evening, and thank you for coming, Chairman, and  
6 Commissioners.

7                   I serve as the Board Chair of Common Cause  
8 here in Illinois. Common Cause is a non-partisan  
9 advocacy organization working for honest, open, and  
10 accountable government, and to promote the public  
11 interest. We care deeply about the issue of media  
12 consolidation because the failure to provide our  
13 citizens with diverse view points and unbiased  
14 information will undermine the strength of our  
15 democracy that depends on a robust market place of  
16 ideas.

17                   Too often large media companies appear to  
18 put profit motives ahead of regular local programming  
19 that better informs citizens on the workings of our  
20 government, the actions of those we elect, who  
21 finances their campaigns, and what contributors ask  
22 for and get in exchange for contributions.

23                   (Applause.)

24                   MR. DIETTERLE: Localism and diversity in  
25 media ownership are the cornerstones of a democratic

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1 system, and we cannot afford to compromise this  
2 principle. Owners exercise, we all know, enormous  
3 power over content. Less diverse absentee ownership  
4 yields just that, a lack of diversity of view points,  
5 less information, and probably most importantly, a  
6 lack or feel for what really matters locally and what  
7 the aspirations are of the local community.

8 Media consolidation allowed by previous  
9 deregulation has already resulted in a decline of  
10 local and minority ownership, as well as the  
11 homogenization of broadcast content. At Common Cause  
12 Illinois, we particularly fear a decline of good old  
13 deep digging local investigative journalism that  
14 exposes scandal and holds government accountable.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. DIETTERLE: The Federal Communications  
17 Commission's policy should promote localism,  
18 independence, and diversity, and require and monitor  
19 for compliance broad discussion in the programming of  
20 our political life. The fourth estate functions best  
21 when it has a local address. Thank you for this  
22 opportunity.

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Martin Macias.

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1 Sir, did I miss you? What's your name?

2 MR. ALVAREZ: Aurelio Alvarez.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Rodrigo Alvarez?

4 MR. ALVAREZ: Aurelio. Oh, yes, that's me.

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay. Okay. Go ahead,  
6 please.

7 MR. ALVAREZ: Hello. Good evening. My  
8 name is Aurelio Alvarez, and I'm a student for the  
9 program of *Radio Arte*, WRTE 90.5. And Tanya Unzueta  
10 will be my interpreter, because I wrote my testimony  
11 in Spanish. I hope you don't mind.

12 [Delivers testimony in Spanish]

13 INTERPRETER: And if you'll just allow me a  
14 couple of seconds to do the translation -- not the  
15 complete translation, just the points, really quickly.

16 One of the things that he said is that  
17 large media corporations, in particular he mentioned  
18 Univision, have a lot of very vulgar shows that have  
19 content that degrades women and degrades the gay  
20 community, and that's the reason why he would like the  
21 FCC to support independent and small community radio  
22 stations.

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Martin Macias? Martin

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1 Macias.

2 (No response.)

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Scott Sanders.

4 MR. SANDERS: Hi. My name is Scott  
5 Sanders. I'm a volunteer with Chicago Media Action.  
6 Malcolm X once said, "The media are the most powerful  
7 entity on earth because they make the innocent guilty,  
8 and the guilty innocent."

9 The FCC has usually served, unfortunately,  
10 as a revolving employment door for the telecom  
11 industry while it has allowed huge media corporations  
12 to become yet bigger. The handful of monoliths that  
13 control most of the U.S. media are guilty of spreading  
14 propaganda during the lead up to the illegal U.S.-led  
15 attack on the innocent people of Iraq. Sound surveys  
16 now are noting perhaps 1.2 million civilian deaths  
17 that are due to violence since March 2003.

18 These mega-corporations are guilty today as  
19 they help perpetuate that conflict and try to repeat  
20 the pattern. Pick any issue and you will find them  
21 guilty of stealing our democracy, Iran, better  
22 healthcare, gang violence. Guilty, guilty, guilty.

23 In the real world we must work as one to  
24 halt and reverse media consolidation, and strengthen  
25 public media, including low power FM and community

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1 TV. Essential to the recovery, maintenance, and  
2 enhancement of American democracy in our Orwellian era  
3 is public engagement on the issue of who controls the  
4 media, how much media one owner should be allowed to  
5 control, and centrally, how much the media controls  
6 us.

7 This system of control includes PBS too.  
8 There are a few exceptions, but all things considered,  
9 the bloodstained PBS brand cannot be trusted either.

10 We must break up the cartels, guarantee  
11 just levels of minority ownership, modify --

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

13 MR. SANDERS: -- a neutral internet,  
14 reinvent public media.

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

16 MR. SANDERS: Stop big media before they  
17 kill again.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Janette Wilson.  
21 Janette Wilson?

22 (No response.)

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Hermene Hartman.

24 (No response.)

25 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Barbara Popovic?

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1 MS. POPOVIC: Hello, Commissioners. I'm  
2 Barbara Popovic, Executive Director of Chicago's  
3 public access television network, CAN-TV.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. POPOVIC: Our crews here are covering  
6 this hearing which is a part of the 140 hours each  
7 week we do of local original programming on non-  
8 commercial channels devoted entirely to the public.

9 Thirty years ago I was hired by a  
10 commercial broadcaster in Chicago for an ethnic  
11 series, and kind of rode in on this tide of new  
12 programs that were created just on the eve of the FCC  
13 licensing consideration at that time. But once the  
14 license was approved, the tide went out and the shows  
15 went with it.

16 It was kind of like of movie set, good  
17 looking served the temporary purpose, but there was no  
18 structure, no foundation, and no lasting commitment.  
19 In the intervening 30 years, local content has vastly  
20 diminished on commercial television, and only  
21 meaningful regulation can change that.

22 At the same time, through legislative acts,  
23 Congress made sure the public could participate in  
24 cable TV through PEG access centers like CAN-TV. But  
25 as we speak, PEG access is under attack from the FCC's

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1 video franchising order, passed on a three to two vote  
2 in December.

3 That ruling undermines community resources  
4 and violates the intent and letter of federal law.  
5 Now the Commission is considering extending that order  
6 to cable, teeing up a big win for the industry and a  
7 loss for the public. Why would you cancel public  
8 benefits already agreed to by the cable companies?

9 We urge you to reverse that order and not  
10 to extend it to cable. Comcast is already cancelling  
11 PEG centers and shutting them down in Indiana where  
12 bad law exists, and where officials got duped into  
13 buying the argument that public benefits like PEG are  
14 somehow a barrier to market entry.

15 Some people say, Let's get democracy out of  
16 the way and let the market take care of it. We're  
17 here to tell you, Commissioners, the market doesn't  
18 take care of it. The entire PEG community  
19 functions --

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 MS. POPOVIC: -- on less than 1 percent of  
22 cable revenue. As our --

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. MS.

24 POPOVIC: -- representatives, we rely on you to weigh  
25 in on the side of the public. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 (Applause and cheering.)

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Before we move to our  
4 next speaker, would Kathy O'Malley, Carl West, Mike  
5 Janecek -- or Janachek, Tracey McLellan, Ralph  
6 Campanya -- or Campagna, Jayne Hayden, Juan Carlos  
7 Fanjul, and Ken Reener come forward?

8 Orion Samuelson.

9 MR. SAMUELSON: Distinguished  
10 Commissioners, thank you very much for your time. My  
11 name is Orion Samuelson, and when I was growing up on  
12 a dairy farm in Wisconsin, radio was not only our  
13 daily companion, it was our only source of  
14 information. We depended on it for all of the  
15 information.

16 I decided at an early age I preferred  
17 talking about hard work, rather than doing it, and so  
18 I became a broadcaster. And I focus on agricultural  
19 information in the agri-business community.

20 I work at WGN Radio. I've been there for  
21 47 years, and when I arrived, we were one of 225 clear  
22 channel radio stations -- technology not company. And  
23 we had a channel that served all of rural America, and  
24 that's why we served that community.

25 Well, enlarging on Tom Langmyer's statement

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1 earlier this evening, we continue to serve that  
2 community, but today we serve it from the farm gate to  
3 the dinner plate. And that means we communicate with  
4 the producers -- small minority, by the way, 2 percent  
5 of the people produced the food that's on your table  
6 there tonight -- we serve that community, but we serve  
7 the agri-business community, the Board of Trade of the  
8 Mercantile Exchange that sets the world price for  
9 grains and livestock right here in Chicago.

10 And we are encouraged as individuals to  
11 work with various organizations. I work in  
12 fundraising for 4-H, for FFA, for the Chicago High  
13 School for Agricultural Sciences, and for many church  
14 organizations as well. That's something that our  
15 company encourages. He talked about it earlier, but  
16 I'd like to put a personal touch on it.

17 We work with seniors and nutrition  
18 programs, we work with inner city 4-H Clubs, we work  
19 with FFA for the future of agricultural. And I thank  
20 you very much.

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Kathy O'Malley. Kathy  
24 O'Malley?

25 MS. O'MALLEY: First of all, I'd like to

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1 complain about the lighting.

2 I'm Kathy O'Malley, and for almost 20  
3 years, Judy Markey and I have co-hosted a WGN Radio  
4 talk show. I hear people today saying that the  
5 airwaves should belong to the people, and I'd like to  
6 point out that at WGN Radio they do.

7 We don't play music. We talk to people.  
8 We talk every year to thousands of listeners from all  
9 parts of the city, from the suburbs, from the country,  
10 and we don't ask their ethnicity before they get on  
11 the air.

12 We talk about politics, and potty training,  
13 teachers, preachers, we talk about make-up and making  
14 up, and if I've learned anything over these 20 years,  
15 it is that we are all more alike than we are  
16 different.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. O'MALLEY: Every day on our show we  
19 hear Democrats and Republicans who care about our  
20 country. Men and women, straight and gay, who only  
21 want to love somebody and be loved. Old people and  
22 young people who are concerned about getting decent  
23 healthcare and fairness in housing.

24 Whites, and Latinos, and African,  
25 Americans, and Asians all want their kids to have a

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1 bright future and a good education. And women of all  
2 ages just want to find a good moisturizer and  
3 excellent accessories. We all want to wipe out breast  
4 cancer. We have a great Y-ME team to do that.

5 We were concerned about Katrina. Two of  
6 our listeners started loading up semis, and WGN  
7 listeners loaded five semis to send to Louisiana. The  
8 Neediest Kids fund was in dire need of money this  
9 summer. In one day, WGN listeners came up with  
10 \$90,000.

11 I don't know what color they were, or where  
12 they came from, or who they voted for. I only know  
13 what they had in common, they heard that people needed  
14 help and WGN, which is owned by the Tribune Company,  
15 gave them a way to do a really good thing for a really  
16 good organization.

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 MS. O'MALLEY: It happens all the time at  
19 WGN, and I'm --

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 MS. O'MALLEY: -- proud of that.

22 (Applause.)

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Carl West.

24 (Pause to test microphone.)

25 MR. WEST: Good evening, Commissioners.

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1 I'm Carl West, publisher/editor of *The Truth* magazine,  
2 a hip-hop culture publication, and also the founder  
3 and producer of *The Truth* Hip-hop and R&B Awards  
4 saluting Chicago's best and brightest.

5 I here representing the local urban  
6 entertainment scene, or better yet, hip-hop culture.  
7 First, I want to say hip-hop lives. My good friend  
8 and Chicago hip-hop artist Kanye West just defeated 50  
9 Cent in a friendly and competitive battle of rap  
10 supremacy.

11 One point five million albums were  
12 purchased in the first week's release. So I salute  
13 and stand by the hip-hop community for not letting  
14 mainstream media vilify our culture as the evils of  
15 America.

16 I know thousands and thousands of local  
17 artists who feel defeated, and these artists are just  
18 as talented and most artists -- these artists are just  
19 as talented as most artists on local and national  
20 airwaves. I think the listeners are extremely hungry  
21 for new faces, new ideas, and new sounds --

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. WEST: -- sounds that could uplift,  
24 inspire, educate, and still remain profitable.

25 I plea with the Commission to give the dedicated

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