

22 set up a low-power station out there.

23 And they are facing the possibility of  
24 encroachment, that there's a commercial  
25 station that wants the space that they can

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1 exist in -- hurt their signal -- I don't know  
2 what the technical term is -- and that that  
3 commercial station would have priority over  
4 this low-power station that just got off the  
5 ground maybe a little less than a year ago.

6 Because I know that that station is  
7 breathing fresh air into that community as  
8 well. And it's important to have bases for  
9 people who don't have a voice in any other  
10 way, to be able to speak, to be able to be  
11 heard by their community and to be able to  
12 talk about the issues that are important to  
13 them.

14 And, so, I thank you for -- for your  
15 work, really, setting out low-power stations.  
16 But I encourage you to protect low-power and  
17 full-power stations for communities. Thank  
18 you.

19 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

20 would the following people go to the  
21 nearest microphone. Winnie Foster, Lauren  
22 Hallahan, Doreen Donovan, Doug Bevins, Eric  
23 Smith, Karen Landers, Joyce Smith, Eliot  
24 Steele, Richard Crandall, Jay Alexander, Scott  
25 Shoemaker.

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1 The next person I'm going to speak, in  
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2 one moment, will be Francisca Cortes. But I  
3 just want everybody to know we're -- you may  
4 be curious. I just read out through -- the  
5 last name I read was number 110. It's 20 till  
6 11:00, and we're getting fairly close to a  
7 situation. We're not there yet. We have --

8 A VOICE: I haven't spoken yet.

9 MR. SIGALOS: Yes. You are amongst a  
10 group of people that haven't spoken, which is  
11 the situation I'm getting ready to refer to.  
12 And what we're going to do, we're trying our  
13 very best to hear everybody who wants to speak  
14 here tonight. That is the reason why we are  
15 here in Tampa, Florida.

16 We also have to respect that we  
17 contracted with Tampa Bay Performing Arts  
18 Center for a certain amount of time, and we  
19 have budget restrictions.

20 So what we're going to be doing is do as  
21 many as we can till 11 o'clock. At that point  
22 in time, we're going to step back, what we can  
23 do, to 90-seconds per person and work through  
24 to 11:30.

25 And we believe that we will be able to

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1 catch everybody's comments by doing it that  
2 way. So let's keep going.

3 Francisca Cortes.

4 MS. PERKINS: Francisca will need  
5 translation. So I don't know if the  
6 translator is prepared for that.

7 MR. SIGALOS: Are we prepared for that?

8 MS. PERKINS: Or I can do it.

9 MR. SIGALOS: You can do it?

10 MS. PERKINS: I can do it.

11 MS. CORTES: I am Francisca Cortes, and  
12 I'm a member of the Coalition of Immokalee  
13 Workers.

14 I'm a DJ on Radio Consciencia, and I just  
15 want to share with you the importance that it  
16 has to our community. And it's not the same  
17 as a commercial radio station, as many of you  
18 here know.

19 Commercial radio stations don't talk  
20 about issues that are important to women, like  
21 domestic violence. And many of the women in  
22 our community don't even speak Spanish, so we  
23 use the radio to speak to them in their  
24 indigenous languages.

25 And so I hope you take that into

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1 consideration and understand the importance of  
2 community radio stations to communities like  
3 ours. Thank you.

4 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 Winnie Foster.

6 MS. FOSTER: Hello. The poet likes the  
7 news has written a beautiful poem (sic.) I  
8 carry a line of it on my business card from  
9 the Sojourna Truth Center in St. Petersburg,  
10 Florida.

11 And it says, "Let America be America  
12 again, the land that never was but yet could

13 be."

14 And, so, I think we all realize how far  
15 we are from the vision that many of us want,  
16 that we are in perilous times; our country is  
17 in perilous times.

18 And at almost 80, I'm looking to young  
19 people, I'm looking to the people who are  
20 passionate to organize, organize, organize.

21 we, the people, must speak, we must  
22 demand. And I don't know what you all are  
23 going to do. We always have to wait and find  
24 out. But I will assure you that the people  
25 here who are passionate about these issues and

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1 the unsolved problems in our country are not  
2 going to give up. (Applause.) Thank you.

3 MR. SIGALOS: Lauren Callahan.

4 (No audible response.)

5 MR. SIGALOS: Lauren Callahan.

6 (No audible response.)

7 MR. SIGALOS: Doreen Donovan.

8 MS. DONOVAN: Good evening. I'm here  
9 representing myself in support of increasing  
10 the diversity in Tampa-based radio, in  
11 television stations, satellite and cable  
12 communications and various media outlets.

13 I'm here to encourage the FCC to require  
14 that these outlets more closely reflect the  
15 communities that they operate within. The  
16 only way to ensure that diversity and localism  
17 occurs is to limit the ownership of these

18 outlets by the mega-media giants.

19 In this age when many people have access  
20 to information from so many various sources,  
21 it's imperative that these sources remain  
22 independent.

23 When the supply of information is allowed  
24 to be controlled by a few large conglomerates  
25 that are allowed to own numerous radio

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1 stations, newspapers and TV stations, the  
2 result can only be a watered-down,  
3 generalized, sanitized rendition of the news.  
4 Information becomes hobbled by the  
5 restrictions and limitations of those few  
6 corporations.

7 Large national chains that continue to  
8 gobble up small local media outlets, while  
9 effectively streamlining costs and increasing  
10 profits, generally fail to address the needs,  
11 views and interests of the communities they  
12 operate in.

13 The formulas and formats are repeated  
14 again and again, so that the radio and TV  
15 stations in Toledo, Ohio, sound and look just  
16 like the ones in Tampa, Florida.

17 While entertainment seems to be the  
18 driving force of many of the media outlets,  
19 news that is accurate, unbiased and relative  
20 to the region needs to be provided to the  
21 people.

22 And it's the role of the FCC to ensure  
23 that the public airwaves continue to serve the

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24 public; therefore, I'm here this evening to  
25 ask you to stand firm to the commitment of the

1 FCC to ensuring that the American people have  
2 access to communication services that are  
3 without discrimination.

4 And to fulfill that commitment, the FCC  
5 needs to keep a larger portion of those  
6 communication vehicles in the hands of the  
7 independent and locally owned and operated  
8 providers. Thank you.

9 MR. SIGALOS: Doug Bevins.

10 MR. BEVINS: Thank you for listening.  
11 All I have to say has been said, I guess,  
12 throughout the night, here, by different  
13 people, different ways.

14 James Madison once described the American  
15 Democracy is just, like, on one end of the  
16 cycle you have the elected leader who educate  
17 the public by their acts. The public  
18 instructs when they vote.

19 Lincoln said it in a different way. He  
20 said it's a government of the people. The  
21 idea is that the sensibilities and the values  
22 of the people bubbles up to provide guidance  
23 to the elected leaders.

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24 John Stuart Mills gave us the metaphor of  
25 the marketplace of ideas, a place where

1 different policies and ideas could compete, be  
2 sampled by the public, and then the public can

3 decide which to accept, and they can be  
4 enacted. That's the way it's supposed to  
5 work.

6 what we have now is less diversity in the  
7 media going on and a marketplace that is  
8 narrowing. It's simple human nature that if  
9 you are the owner of a market outlet, you will  
10 determine its content. Be you Salzberger or  
11 Murdock, you will close the door to certain  
12 ideas, to certain policies.

13 The less ownership there is, the less  
14 diversity you will have in the marketplace.  
15 This weakens the links between the public and  
16 their elected leaders. This waters down the  
17 marketplace of ideas.

18 Nobody's satisfied with the function of  
19 our media now. I don't think that anybody in  
20 this room is satisfied with their functions.  
21 I think it's time for us to step back and  
22 do -- I hope you will too -- what Madison  
23 proposed.

24 Consult your experience, consult the  
25 experience of all Americans and consult their

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1 values, their respect for the marketplace of  
2 ideas, the way it should function, the link  
3 between the public and the elected people and  
4 make our democracy more healthy by ensuring  
5 more diversity in the media. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 Eric smith.

9 (No audible response.)

10 MR. SIGALOS: Karen Landos.

11 MS. LANDERS: It's Landers like Ann.

12 MR. SIGALOS: Oh, okay.

13 MS. LANDERS: Thank you for coming to  
14 Florida to see us. And I'm from Polk County,  
15 which is the next county over. It's  
16 agricultural. And because we're between Tampa  
17 and Orlando, we get the glory of your  
18 consolidated media, twofold.

19 I can listen to a drug-addled hatemonger  
20 talk on the radio six different stations at a  
21 time during the day. (Laughter & Applause.)  
22 So I'm driving around the country in Polk  
23 County sometime. Try it.

24 Does this little dude (sic) really belong  
25 in this county?

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1 Is this what we want for America, our  
2 comments, our radio stations?

3 My high school graduation class, in 1969,  
4 donated an entirely equipped TV station to the  
5 high school so that the students coming after  
6 us could learn how to broadcast, could learn  
7 how to produce. We were proud of American  
8 media.

9 with the destruction of the Fairness  
10 Doctrine, our media automatically became  
11 somehow uncivilized. Now we are at each  
12 other's throats. And it's killing us. We  
13 have serious things we have to take care of in

14 this county.

15 Our comments (sic), our broadcasting has  
16 to be open to all of us. It cannot be  
17 consolidated just for money. Because you've  
18 pushed us too far, gentlemen. We're going to  
19 take it back. (Applause.) Thank you.

20 MR. SIGALOS: Joyce Smith.

21 MS. SMITH: Thank you so much for staying  
22 so late. My name is Joyce Smith.

23 2004, it was a very good year for  
24 Hurricanes Charlie, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne. It  
25 was the terrifying. I was one of the lucky

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1 ones. My home only lost power for a few days  
2 in one storm and a week in another. I was  
3 completely dependent on the radio.

4 I do not have a battery TV, and I was  
5 trying to conserve what batteries I did have.  
6 So I turned on my radio. I listened  
7 diligently for news, especially school  
8 closings.

9 I teach at Hillsborough Community College  
10 and at times found it difficult to hear all  
11 the closings. Did they say "HCC" or "HCS." I  
12 listened for the news about what streets, what  
13 streets are flooded or have downed power  
14 lines.

15 I needed to know which way to go to work,  
16 so I tuned in to the radio. Some man is  
17 talking on the radio, and he's point- -- he  
18 says he's pointing to a map.

19 What map? This is the radio. This radio  
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20 news had a simulcast from the TV station. I  
21 keep listening to my radio. I hear "Schmidt"  
22 (sic), not a place for comfort during a crisis  
23 period.

24 The entertainer pundit fills our precious  
25 airwaves with messages of intolerance, disdain

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1 and disrespect. Now, he's talking about the  
2 storm. How much time is Clear Channel giving  
3 this guy? Heaven forbid, he's on more than  
4 one station. He's yakking with some guy in  
5 Palm Beach.

6 I want to know:

7 Is Kennedy and Dale Mabry flooded?

8 Can I drive on the local roads?

9 Can I get to Ybor?

10 what is happening in Tampa?

11 Clearly, big media is not helpful during  
12 a crisis. Our community issues are ignored by  
13 the media giants. Very little discussion is  
14 given to issues important to the citizens.

15 We get to listen to the repulsively and  
16 distasteful rants during the weekend by  
17 Hannity in -- (Inaudible) -- like the --

18 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 MS. SMITH: -- in case you missed their  
20 daily --

21 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

22 Eliot Steele.

23 (No audible response.)

24 MR. SIGALOS: Richard Crandall.

MR. CRANDALL: Thank you. I am a member

1 of the media that you have been hearing  
2 criticized quite a lot tonight. And I  
3 compliment the Commissioners for your patience  
4 and your courtesy and for listening to  
5 everybody for the last six or seven hours or  
6 so.

7 I began my broadcast career some 40 years  
8 ago in Montana. And I filed a couple of the  
9 comments with the Commission electronically a  
10 couple of years ago regarding Hurricane --  
11 (Inaudible) -- our last speaker was just  
12 talking about, echoing her feelings -- and on  
13 the current issues as well through your  
14 website.

15 I appreciate the opportunity to do that.  
16 However, I'd like to address one other issue  
17 that hasn't really been talked about tonight;  
18 would not have expected to, and that is the  
19 effect of the decision that you make on the  
20 people who work in broadcasting, people like  
21 myself, and the resulting job insecurity that  
22 has evolved from the concentration of  
23 ownership.

24 And I'd like to quote from the website of  
25 a colleague of mine that I just lifted off the

1 web earlier this weekend.

2 "Radio just isn't what it once was," he  
3 says, "budget cuts mean less jobs in the  
4 industry and a lot of old timers are sitting on

5 the beach waiting for the next call, that more  
6 often than not, does not come.

7 I could stab (sic) a living radio station  
8 utilizing the talent of those unemployed at  
9 the current -- tremendous talent in the  
10 employment line. That is what radio has  
11 become today."

12 Please consider not only the opinions of  
13 the people who are listening to radio,  
14 watching television, reading newspapers, but  
15 the people who are in the industry itself.  
16 Thank you. (Applause.)

17 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 Jay Alexander.

19 (No audible response.)

20 MR. SIGALOS: Would the following people  
21 please come to the mike. Mary Gerken, Sumati  
22 Villaman, Ellen Thompson, Larry Thurmond,  
23 Graham Thompson, T.C. Corrigan, Herman Salas,  
24 Steven Norris, Nancy Norris, Susan Haig.  
25 Scott Shoemaker.

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1 MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Moderator, I was in  
2 the last batch. I am Scott Shoemaker.

3 MR. SIGALOS: Yeah. Scott Shoemaker.

4 MR. SHOEMAKER: Good evening. Members of  
5 the panel, thank you for coming to Tampa.

6 My name is Scott Shoemaker. I am an  
7 off-air local -- (Inaudible) -- and technician  
8 in the Clearwater area. And I wanted to give  
9 you some insight from people who are in the

10 industry.

11 The off-air digital transmissions have  
12 been well-received and now becoming aged  
13 within the household and the business. Please  
14 do not ever let the digital signals go the way  
15 of the February 2009 (sic) analogue carriers  
16 that we certainly allowed the grip (sic) of  
17 cable and satellite, which is highly  
18 unfortunate.

19 I would like to highlight many stations,  
20 3.1 or PBS, 3.5, the 24-7 HD, the 8.2 and the  
21 10.2 weather are very, very important  
22 especially in any kind of bad weather.

23 My question, as you're pondering the next  
24 move: what will be the -- (Inaudible) --  
25 function program for people who do rely on

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1 off-air in the 2009 window, when they will  
2 have to fall from the analogue provision to  
3 the digital conversion?

4 Could there be some changes made in each  
5 DMA?

6 For example, could feeds from another DMA  
7 been moved to the Tampa -- (Inaudible) --  
8 tower; for example, could Tampa also have a  
9 PBS feed out of Orlando to provide more  
10 programming in a parallel -- (Inaudible) --  
11 could, for example, the WWSB Channel 40 ABC in  
12 Bradenton also come to the Tampa tower to  
13 provide a second ABC feed?

14 And, as other people have pointed out,  
15 could public-access programming currently on

16 low power, come up to the Tampa tower located  
17 in Brandon as a standard definition DTV  
18 signals provide better coverage (sic.)

19 And last, but not least, many, many  
20 people in my counties simply cannot afford  
21 cable. They cannot afford satellite. They  
22 are dependent on the traditional off-air.  
23 whether they like the digital yet or not,  
24 they're still dependent like the --  
25 (Inaudible) -- to continue. Thank you.

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1 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 MR. SHOEMAKER: Thank you and God bless  
3 America (Applause.)

4 MR. SIGALOS: Mary Gerken.

5 (No audible response.)

6 MR. SIGALOS: Sumali Villaman.

7 (No audible response.)

8 MR. SIGALOS: Ellen Thompson.

9 (No audible response.)

10 MR. SIGALOS: Larry Thurmond.

11 (No audible response.)

12 MR. SIGALOS: Graham Thompson.

13 (No audible response.)

14 MR. SIGALOS: T.C. Corrigan.

15 MR. CORRIGAN: Hi. Thanks for coming  
16 tonight. Thanks for coming to Florida, since  
17 we seem to be a place where pretty much a ton  
18 of important news for America happens.

19 I'm a recent graduate of the media  
20 communications studies master's program at

21 Florida State University. And I'd like to  
22 talk about two issues related to media and  
23 education.

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24 Gannett, the largest newspaper chain in  
25 the country, a company which last year posted

1 profits of eight billion dollars, up almost  
2 six hundred million dollars from the year  
3 before -- granted this was a really tough year  
4 for the newspaper industry, you've heard.  
5 (Laughter & Applause) -- well, they -- they  
6 last August purchased the FSU Florida  
7 Flambeau, which is the university -- or it's  
8 the student newspaper serving the Florida  
9 State community.

10 It's the first student newspaper in the  
11 country to be bought by a major newspaper  
12 chain. And they were, basically, doing a  
13 study to converge the Tallahassee Democrat and  
14 the audience -- or the readers of the Florida  
15 State community to be able to take advantage  
16 of the opportunities there to, basically, milk  
17 the community of our money (sic.)

18 They said that this was just a one-time  
19 thing, that they weren't going to do this  
20 anymore. And then this past February 14,  
21 Gannett purchased the Central Florida Future,  
22 the student newspaper at the University of  
23 Central Florida.

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24 Student newspapers provide an alternative  
25 viewpoint that I think is very important, and

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1 it's incredibly discouraging to know that  
2 they're being bought by major newspaper  
3 chains.

4 I'd also like to say that regardless of  
5 what your decisions are in the next coming  
6 months, I would love for the commission to  
7 stand behind a policy to encourage media  
8 literacy in high school.

9 There's lots of major production programs  
10 in high schools, but I think that media  
11 literacy is something this country is sorely  
12 missing. So thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

15 Herman Salas.

16 (No audible response.)

17 Steven Norris.

18 (No audible response.)

19 Nancy Norris.

20 (No audible response.)

21 Susan Haig.

22 (No audible response.)

23 will the following people please come  
24 down to the microphones. Andres -- Andres  
25 Lopez, Alan Lipke, Mii Carter, Lisa

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1 Montelione, Mark Wachowiak, Don Hackett,  
2 Michael Levinson, Susan James, Jim Zaharis and  
3 Mark Skogman.

4 Andres Lopez.

5 (No audible response.)

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Alan Lipke.

(No audible response.)

Mii Carter.

(No audible response.)

MR. LIPKE: Sorry. I'm Alan Lipke.

MR. SIGALOS: Okay.

MR. LIPKE: I produce radio documentaries. My company is called "Listening Between the Lines." And I'd like to talk to some of the reasons why you became commissioners and why you cared to come tonight.

Some claim -- some believe that news consumers will always find suppliers to their taste. But the rule I learned in journalism graduate school, that freedom of the press belongs to he who owns one, hasn't changed.

And the Internet cannot provide an alternate source of news, since only dedicated, independent organizations can

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afford to investigate and report. It's a soapbox, a great soapbox, but a soapbox nonetheless.

In my lifetime, democracy has increased only through diversity of voices, increased diversity, not just ethnic diversity in U.S. newsrooms, but also in global networks serving and offering the perspectives of billions of people who don't look like me and who don't look like any of you.

So bear that in mind, that giving a

12 concentrated corporate media control over our  
13 public expressions, our public knowledge, our  
14 public and private culture means a tone-deaf  
15 society.

16 It's long been said that those who don't  
17 remember the past are doomed to repeat it.  
18 But when you deny or suppress or limit your  
19 present knowledge, you end up in an unwinnable  
20 swamp of war in the wrong country, a ruined  
21 country, this country increasingly addicted to  
22 environmental poisons.

23 You end up imperiled -- your liberties  
24 imperiled by secret -- secret investigations,  
25 secret courts --

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1 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 MR. LIPKE: -- using torture to defend a  
3 corrupt economy.

4 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 MR. LIPKE: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SIGALOS: Susan Haig.

8 MS. HAIG: My name is Susan Haig, and I'm  
9 the associate conductor of the Florida  
10 orchestra. (Applause.)

11 Thank you. Thank you very much, to the  
12 commission, for your work tonight.

13 I'd like to suggest that -- I would think  
14 that it would be important to revisit the  
15 fundamental triumvirate that we always hear  
16 that the media's responsible for news, sports

17 and entertainment.

18 I personally think it's hard to turn the  
19 clock back on an efficiency, the efficiency  
20 that we heard described tonight. But that  
21 triumvirate, I think, is not adequate in an  
22 era of convergence.

23 And I -- yet, in 19 years as a  
24 professional conductor, I see how hard it is  
25 for journalists to grab very integral art

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1 stories and creative ideas. Yet, it's  
2 essential.

3 So if there's a way to revisit that, then  
4 perhaps let -- get rid of the  
5 word entertainment, which is actually a huge  
6 corporation itself, and somehow I'm sure the  
7 creativity and individuality will --  
8 (Inaudible) -- I think it would be extremely  
9 helpful.

10 We need somehow to get the dissemination  
11 of authentic ideas and creative thoughts in  
12 this world. And I think one of the biggest  
13 problems is the 24-hour distractions from the  
14 central task of creating and reaching the --  
15 creating and renewing a democratic society.

16 So if the commission can somehow ask, in  
17 the renewing of licenses, what the educational  
18 goals and the civic goals of the media are, I  
19 think that would help us all. Thank you very  
20 much.

21 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 We've gone past 11 o'clock now, and so  
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23 we're going to reset the clock so that  
24 everyone will have now 90 seconds.

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25 MS. MONTELIONE: My name is Lisa

1 Montelione. Thank you for saying it right.  
2 Thank you for being here. Your stamina is  
3 incredible.

4 I'm here as a citizen. I don't have a  
5 background in broadcasting. I'm not a  
6 journalist. I just decided to come down here,  
7 because I think it's a very important issue.

8 I moved here 24 years ago. And I joined  
9 a local women's club to get involved in the  
10 community and get to know my neighbors. We  
11 did all the typical stuff, raising money from  
12 donations and things.

13 We have a local newspaper, and everyone  
14 who works at the newspaper lives in the  
15 community. I could call them up, "Come on  
16 down," and say "Do a story," and they'd run a  
17 little ad for our events.

18 The Tribune has purchased that newspaper.  
19 Now, to get a reporter's phone number, even,  
20 it's, you know, five or six or eight phone  
21 calls to find out who it is that's supposed to  
22 cover our area. And the person doesn't live  
23 there, and they don't -- they cover a lot of  
24 communities and don't really have an interest  
25 in any one of them.

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1 And I think consolidation in the media is

2 not a good idea. The Fairness Doctrine is a  
 3 good idea. Local news I get from public  
 4 broadcasting, public radio and covering the  
 5 city and county commission hearing, meetings.  
 6 We don't get that on local news.

7 You don't get that on broadcast CBS, NBC,  
 8 ABC, Fox or any other channel. You have to  
 9 actually seek it out through community  
 10 sources. And if you silence those voices,  
 11 you're silencing a service to those who live  
 12 here. Thank you very much.

13 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

14 Mii Carter.

15 (No audible response.)

16 Mii Carter.

17 MR. CARTER: My name is Mii Carter. I  
 18 moved here in -- (Inaudible) -- milk Carter.  
 19 And I tell you find muck on the bottom of the  
 20 swamp.

21 I have become the only homilies man. And  
 22 I have a quick little story to tell you. My  
 23 friend told me he loaned a -- excuse me. He  
 24 had a saw. He gave it to a friend of his.  
 25 After a few years he went to borrow it. The

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1 fellow was undiplomatic, and he said,  
 2 "Remember who owns this," in order to remind  
 3 him to bring it back.

4 My friend was telling me, and he smiled  
 5 and said, "It's not who owns it that is  
 6 important, it's who gets to use it."

7 So, if the radio and television stations,  
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8 the newspapers, etcetera, who gets to use it,  
9 the competition is rather fierce. And the  
10 question I have for you is:

11 How will you allocate these resources?

12 By what means, what standards will you  
13 decide who gets to use it?

14 Ludwig Von Mises wrote a paper called  
15 "Economic Calculation." He predicted the  
16 demise and collapse of the Soviet Union. This  
17 paper is on an Internet website called  
18 mises.com -- M-I-S-E-S.com -- Economic  
19 Calculation in the Soviet Commonwealth.

20 The paper I wrote is on an Internet site  
21 that I pay less than \$15 to set up. It is  
22 R-K-O-P-O-L-Y, like "RKO Pictures," Monopoly,  
23 rkopoly.com.

24 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

25 MR. CARTER: Thank you.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SIGALOS: Mark Wachowiak.

3 MR. WACHOWIAK: Hi. Good evening. It's  
4 a pleasure to be here. And thank you for  
5 giving me a minute and a half to talk to you.  
6 I'm a chef, and I drove all the way from  
7 Orlando, and I'm going to drive all the way  
8 back when this is over.

9 I happen to work for one of the big  
10 corporate medias. But it wasn't my choice.  
11 See, my theme-park company, they owned a few  
12 Spanish stations and some other stuff, and

13 this big guy that about things to life just  
14 came and bought us.

15 So I just kind of work there. (Laughter &  
16 Applause.) I've got two things I want to say.  
17 I oppose media corporate control and media  
18 consolidation. And I also want to tell you I  
19 want you to preserve neutrality.

20 I get my news from the net, because I  
21 feel that corporate media is not doing its  
22 job. It's a cheerleader for war. And it's  
23 manufacturing consent (sic.) It seem like  
24 Anna Nicole Smith is more important than  
25 global warming, the Iraq war or the

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1 Palestine-Israeli conflict.

2 We have a monopoly of news. We have  
3 canned news with MPRs controlling news. We  
4 have a lack of flavors in locality. You know,  
5 it's -- really, the most vital job of the  
6 corporate media is to give us the truth. And  
7 they're not doing that job.

8 Recently, Somalia -- they were dropping  
9 bombs on Somalia. Of the four corporate news  
10 media, they spent one -- I believe it was ABC  
11 that said something about it. So I just  
12 really emphasize, please do not support media  
13 consolidation. Thank you very much.

14 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

15 Dan Hackett (sic.)

16 (No audible response.)

17 Don Hackett.

18 (No audible response.)

19 Michael Levinson.

20 MR. LEVINSON: I have a question for the  
21 commissioners, and I'd like you to answer it  
22 when I'm done speaking.

23 Have of the campaigns for the office of  
24 president of the United States begun in this  
25 term, or will we have to wait until we go to

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1 New Hampshire or something like that?

2 It's a question I'd you to answer me.

3 My name is Michael Levinson. This is a  
4 public forum. I declare I am a candidate for  
5 the office of President of the United States,  
6 and I'm entitled to broadcast opportunities.  
7 I have affirm an right that was written by  
8 Justice Berger in the United States Supreme  
9 Court. You know all about it (sic.)

10 The issue here is Section 312.87  
11 Telecommunications Law, which states that a  
12 candidate for elective office has the  
13 affirmative right -- that a stations can have  
14 its license revoked for the written or  
15 repeated failure to allow -- (Inaudible) --  
16 candidate for the office of president, as you  
17 well know.

18 So I'm creating an earmark in 2000. And  
19 this is a "New Rule." And you can find it on  
20 msn.com. I covered the earmark in a new --  
21 (Inaudible.) And they said that this -- this  
22 statute passed by the Congress would be  
23 amended, that all of the PBS stations are no

24 longer under the access law.

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25 So if there's a candidate for federal

1 office, he can't go to the PBS stations and  
2 make a -- (Inaudible) -- request for access.

3 well, in this country we have a  
4 Declaration of Independence that allows us to  
5 dissolve a government, and we have a  
6 Constitution that states, "Congress can make  
7 no law to eliminate the First Amendment,  
8 section 312.87, Telecommunications, is the  
9 electronic extension of the access law to  
10 every American living here.

11 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

12 MR. LEVINSON: So that's -- you people  
13 have quietly adopted that --

14 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

15 MR. LEVINSON: -- make your ego addendum  
16 in -- in the -- in the earmarks.

17 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr. Levinson.

18 MR. LEVINSON: And you know what I'm  
19 talking about. (Applause.)

20 MR. SIGALOS: Susan James.

21 (No audible response.)

22 MR. LEVINSON: That was a public  
23 announcement I made, in a public (Inaudible)  
24 -- recently in a -- take note of that.

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25 MR. SIGALOS: James -- Jim Zaharis.

1 MR. ZAHARIS: My name is Jim Zaharis.  
2 I'm from Tampa. I oppose the consolidation of  
3 ownership. Rarely is bigger better. I speak