

I object to the proposed merger of Time Warner and Comcast. The reasons are evident by the appointment of the current chairman of the FCC, a great disappointment, a former lobbyist for the cable industry. Talk about the "fox guarding the henhouse?"

While much of the commentary the FCC has received has been on the merger of Comcast and Time Warner, the real question is the already existence of the duopoly of AT&T and Verizon, both of which have basically agreed upon dividing the entire country in half. What has happened under the sleeping eye of the FCC is nothing less than two geographic monopolies. Professor Paul Samuelson, who was my economics professor at MIT in 1967, did teach me of the existence of geographic monopolies.

AT&T and Verizon have already carved the country into two geographic parts: Verizon, with their FIOS, and AT&T, with their U-verse, each of which are geographic monopolies. Comcast/Time Warner is no more than a sock puppet for AT&T and Verizon, both of which are merely both part of a duopoly. Think I am wrong? Look back when Microsoft propped up Apple with half a billion dollars after it had trouble. Microsoft needed a sock puppet, which was Apple. If you are too new to this concept, click here: <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-12-09/worst-deal-ever-microsofts-apple-investment>.

The FCC, suggesting "hi-speed" and normal Internet traffic is simply ridiculous. It is basically a device by which AT&T and Verizon can escalate internet access rates, if not to subscribers, then to providers such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, extortion of which has already occurred by one of their sock puppets. The cost will be passed onto the subscriber, either in direct surcharges or "throttling," which AT&T already has implemented on their "unlimited" cellular grandfathered plan and one of the cable providers has already extorted out of Netflix. A sad day for America.

And remember -- Time Warner and Comcast are, whether they merge or not, merely the sock puppet for the duopoly the FCC has already allowed de facto to occur with AT&T and Verizon in the present day, while every federal regulatory has been asleep at the switch.

"A nation undivided?"

"Forget about it," under the current FCC administration.