

In sum, this proceeding has been formally pending for more than 12 years. Each stage of it has been carefully considered and all actions taken by the Commission in this area have been announced in normal fashion and widely distributed and discussed within the communications industries.

The Commission, of course, welcomes any guidance the Congress may want to give in this important area. We have reached the stage where we apparently have before us sufficient data to make a determination, in the discharge of our statutory responsibilities, as to whether, and under what conditions, authorizing subscription television is in the public interest.

I want to stress that the Commission has reached no decision on this question. In fact, Commissioner Wadsworth, the chairman of our Subscription Television Committee, in signing the report to the Commission, appended a statement as follows:

I agree that this matter should be brought to the attention of the full Commission at this time. However, I wish to make my position clear: In agreeing to submission of this document to the full Commission, I do not mean to imply that I endorse adoption of it. Nonetheless, in view of the history of this proceeding, I believe that the public and all parties to it are entitled to an early Commission decision on the basic question presented.

In reaching its determination, the Commission will, of course, fully consider the views presented in the docketed proceeding, and the oral arguments presented to the Commission during the past week, as well as the hearings now being held by this committee.

In conclusion, may I emphasize again that there has been no resolution of the issues which have just been argued so extensively before us. Since the entire matter is still under study, we are not in a position to express the Commission's conclusions on the substantive issues.

That concludes my written statement, Mr. Chairman.

(The Subscription Television Committee's report and proposed Fourth Report and Order, referred to above, follow:)