

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS
APPROVING IN PART, DISSENTING IN PART**

Re: Complaints Against Various Broadcast Licensees Regarding Their Airing of the "Golden Globe Awards," Memorandum Opinion and Order

I support the decision to find the utterance of the f-word on NBC's broadcast of the "Golden Globe Awards" to be both indecent and profane. I found ludicrous the Enforcement Bureau's decision that a word that might otherwise be indecent is not indecent or profane merely because it is used as an adjective or expletive. The f-word clearly meets the definition of indecency whether used as an adjective, expletive, "intensifier" (as NBC curiously argues here), or any other part of speech.

I do not agree with all aspects of the majority's analysis. While I am pleased that the majority recognizes that profanity is not limited to blasphemy, I disagree that we need to give notice before we apply the law of the land. The better argument is that the statute itself gives due notice. Along these same lines, I disagreed last year when a majority at the Commission similarly found that notice was required prior to sending an indecency case to a hearing for license revocation, notwithstanding that the statute expressly provides for such an action. In past cases, when there have been truly outrageous violations or repeat offenses, I have sought to have cases sent to hearings to determine if the license should be revoked. This may not be a case where a revocation of license is in order. But neither is it a case that warrants no penalty at all. I believe the Commission would be fully within its rights to impose a fine for this particular instance of profanity and indecency. We send entirely the wrong signal by failing to do so.