

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS

Re: Complaints Against Various Television Station Licensees Regarding the ABC Television Network's November 15, 2004, Broadcast of "Monday Night Football"

Although the Commission finds that this broadcast does not violate 18 U.S.C. §1464, it does raise the issue of broadcasters acting responsibly when deciding what to air during the hours when children are likely to be in the audience. At a time when recent surveys show that a substantial majority of parents are very concerned that children are being exposed to too much inappropriate content, I would hope that television broadcasters would go the extra mile in exercising self-discipline when airing or promoting programming that may not be appropriate for younger viewers. There wasn't much self-discipline in this particular promotion. As stewards of the public airwaves, broadcasters can and should do better.