



“Between the public sector and the private sector, we have wreaked untold havoc on the media environment.”

These aren't the words of a progressive media advocate such as University of Illinois professor Robert McChesney or The Nation's John Nichols, but of ex-FCC commissioner Michael Copps in January. In an interview on Democracy Now!, Copps attributes his claim to “the abdication of public interest responsibility by the FCC” over the last 30 years and their failure to enforce public interest guidelines and a stronger focus on news.

Here's another example of how the FCC has failed in their responsibility to the public good: In 1995, the FCC forbade companies ownership of more than 40 stations. Clear Channel Communications now owns over 1,500. This rate of consolidation clearly shows no sign of slowing.

The closing of news rooms and the number of reporters on the street instead of the beat goes on as the corporate state continues its relentless and undemocratic consolidation of America's media landscape. Layoffs continue despite a number of companies like McClatchy posting a 21% profit margin, according to the book *The Death and Life of American Journalism*. McClatchy fired a third of their newsroom staff in 2008.

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