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00-30

August 24, 2000

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Hon. Magalie Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Ms Salas:

I oppose the merger of AOL and Time Warner because this would give unprecedented and monolithic control of the Internet to this one company. AOL already controls Compuserve -- which is my Internet provider.

Even now, AOL threatens to cancel the accounts of customers whose E-mail messages it deems 'hateful or 'anti-Semitic' [In fact, I have heard that it has already done so.] This is in my judgment a gross violation of free speech. Since Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League seems to have enough leverage to dictate to AOL what he considers offensive, it is entirely possible that E-mails opposing the abhorrent human rights record of Israel or our policy of virtually unquestioned support for Israel will be considered 'anti-Semitic.'

The FCC must impose strict controls to combat the abridgement of First Amendment rights.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Messmann, Ph.D.

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cc: Ms Linda Senecal
Mr. Royce Dickens

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