

Telecommunications Regulation & Deregulation in Industrialized Democracies

M a r c e l l u s S. S n o w

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATION AND DEREGULATION IN INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES

by:

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I wish to thank a number of individuals and institutions who helped bring this book to fruition and who stimulated my efforts in carrying out the research, grant proposal, funding, and workshop on which it is based.

The idea for comparative research on telecommunications regulation formed the basis of my sabbatical leave during 1980–1981 at the Universität Bonn, where I was a Fulbright research professor. I am indebted to my academic host during that year, Professor Carl Christian von Weizsäcker, who at the time was head of the Wirtschaftspolitische Abteilung of the Institut für Gesellschafts- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften at Bonn and is now at the Universität Bern. Because of rewarding discussions at Bonn and elsewhere in Germany with him and with other colleagues—Jörg Finsinger, Hans Mathias Keplinger, Günter Knieps, Jürgen Müller, Karl-Heinz Neumann and Ingo Vogelsang—I became so interested in telecommunications policy in West Germany that my original plans for cross-country research were postponed.

After returning to the University of Hawaii and continuing my research and writing on West Germany for about a year, I again felt ready to examine telecommunications regulation in a number of other countries. With the patient help of Roger Noll of Stanford University (whose valuable suggestions on editing this volume I also very much appreciate), I explored the possibility of a research workshop funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation that would bring economists and others together from several industrialized countries to present papers on regulatory topics in telecommunications, broadcasting, and information and draw up an agenda for future research.

The exacting process of composing a grant proposal to the NSF was aided by a stay at Stanford University during the summer of 1983. As a Visiting Scholar at the Hoover Institution, I had access to individuals there and throughout the Stanford campus who were of great help in focusing and refining my ideas. I wish especially to thank Dennis Bark and Tom Moore of the Hoover Institution and James Rosse of the Department of Economics for their valuable comments and perspectives.

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My deepest appreciation is reserved for the conference participants and contributors to this book. It is they who took an idea on paper and brought it to life; the contents of this volume testify to their success in doing so. Thank you, collectively and individually, for your written contributions and your stimulating discussions at the workshop.

My home institution, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, generously provided me with a 2-year, half-time appointment as an Associate Researcher with the Social Science Research Institute from 1982 to 1984 that gave me the time to perfect my grant proposal, organize and conduct the workshop, and prepare this book. I would like to thank Donald Topping, the SSRI director; also Sady Sakai of SSRI was extremely helpful in aiding me with the fiscal and administrative details of the grant. Freda Hellinger and Karen Ah Mai provided able assistance in manuscript preparation. My colleague Moheb Ghali, director of the Office of Research Administration, stood by me on the university's behalf with the grant proposal.

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was submitted and followed through with useful guidance after the grant had been approved. I appreciate his help at all stages.

Although some chapters of this book are critical of certain aspects of the public sector, I hope that the volume as a whole, funded as it was by the taxpayers of the United States, argues convincingly for the continuing importance of governmentally supported research, particularly that of an international collaborative nature.

My wife Jo has been supportive throughout. This book is dedicated to her and to our children.

Marcellus S. Snow

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PART 1

Introduction and Analytical Tools from Economics and Political Science

