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There are laws and prohibitions which Congress intended the FCC to follow in its regulatory functions. The actual form of that regulation depends upon the configuration of the Commission and the institutional philosophies of its members.

Scholarly studies of the Federal Communications Commission have been limited to the Commission's approach to specific issues or to its relationships with other governmental agencies. Little scholarly or professional research, written during Johnson's term, had undertaken significant efforts to make in-depth examinations of the institutional philosophies of individual Commission members. (The only research of this nature and purpose involving early broadcast members is contained in a book, published in 1964, which first governmental regulation has taken in the general way, largely due to the growth of the Commission's administrative structure.)