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COMMENTARY

When New Jersey Public Television launched its first broadcast in April of 1971, it carried the hopes of a determined band of activists — including future Governor Tom Kean — who were convinced that, with its own television station, New Jersey would receive the kind of news coverage routinely denied it by major network affiliates in New York and Philadelphia.

In the 39 years since the red light went on atop the camera in a studio in a converted supermarket in a Trenton suburb, the network has endured efforts to sell it, convert it to a commercial outlet, relinquish its broadcast license altogether, or turn it over to a foundation or non-profit entity.

It's been pilloried as ideologically slanted, and its coverage of government and politics as fundamentally unfair. It occupies a unique — some say untenable — position in that it relies to some degree on state budget appropriations granted by many of the same individuals who are its outspoken critics.

Former Gov. Christie Whitman, for instance, once famously compared the network to Pravda, the government-controlled news agency in the former Soviet Union, to make her point that state funding should cease.

Its future once again is in some doubt, awaiting the findings and recommendations of a

The network has met its responsibility and achieved the purpose for which it was created,

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[Expect Tiger Woods to emerge stronger, smarter, humbler](#)

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