~~Pm~~ - July '92

Ms. Searcy 7990

PLEASE Please

Keep 800 numbers

free - give the

people a break,

don't open up another

avenue for the confidence

games PLEASE

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JUL 27 1992

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Victoria L Degnan
[illegible] North Ave #1
Houston PA 15342

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7/4/92 RM-7990

I just read an article to the effect that some 800 phone #'s may no longer be free.

Please add me to the list of people who are protesting this. I would like to beg you to use whatever authority you have to keep 800 #'s free. Nothing is simple anymore and to keep 800 numbers free would be make a lot of sense + be such a service to all us citizens + tax payers. I have my phone blocked from 900 calls + I would like to depend on 800's being free.

Please do anything you can, I have just done everything I personally can by writing you.

Inquiring minds want to know!

Thanks for your attention

Joan White
[illegible] Plant
[illegible] Rd
[illegible] 07152

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RM-8010 (310) 429-5846
July 17, 1992

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Donna R. Searcy
Sec'y for FCC
Room 222
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Pls seriously consider new rules that will keep all 800 numbers toll-free. Any company with a service they want to charge for can use the 900 numbers — and we can choose to block outgoing 900 numbers if we wish.

The toll-free 800 number is a boon to consumers. Let's keep it that way.

Thank you.
Evelyn Ferris

MRS. JACK FERRIS
4136 LOS COYOTES
LAKEWOOD, CA. 90713

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Eleanor E. Walker
401 Rt 22 W #45A
No. Plainfield, NJ 07060

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Ms. Donna R. Searcy
Secretary for FCC
Room 222
1919 M St., NW
Washington, DC 20554

This is to express my agreement with the view expressed in the following news article. I, too, agree that the 800 numbers should be kept toll free.

Keep 1-800 numbers free from extra-charge schemes

OUR VIEW The FCC should enact new rules to guarantee that calls to 800 numbers are toll free.

Even the wariest buyer should be able to take some things on faith. One of them is that calls to 900 numbers cost money, but calls to 800 numbers don't.

For 25 years, "1-800" has spelled "free." Most of the time, it still does. But a few money-hungry opportunists are changing that. Having fouled the 900-number nest, they're now setting up shop in unbesmirched 800 territory.

They're providing sex advice for $4.95 a minute or psychic readings for as much as $120. Or they're sending out postcards that invite "sweepstakes winners" to call a "toll-free" 800 number to identify their prizes. Once on the line, the unlucky winners have to punch in more numbers to find out what they've won — for a fee.

This mischief can and should be stopped.

Thirty-four states' attorneys general have asked the Federal Communications Commission to bar long-distance companies from supplying 800 service to companies that wind up charging consumers for the calls.

The FCC should do as they ask.

Years of habit tell people that "800" means "no cost to you."

Yet no rule says 800 calls have to be free. Long-distance companies can't even deny 800 service to anyone until complaints come pouring in.

If 900-type services can be disguised by 800 numbers, consumers miss out on some hard-won protections, like free blocking of outgoing 900 calls. There is no free blocking of 800 numbers.

Two long-distance companies — AT&T and Sprint — are working with the FCC toward new rules to protect the integrity of 800 numbers.

New rules won't punish legitimate businesses; anyone who wants the dialer to pay can sign up for a 900 number.

The FCC should act to keep 800 numbers free from sleazy operators.

To tell the FCC what you think about keeping 800 numbers toll free, write:
Donna R. Searcy
Secretary for FCC
Room 222
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

July 22, 1992

Donna R. Searcy
Secretary for FCC
Room 222
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Searcy:

Having read recently the controversy surrounding the use of toll - free "800" numbers, I strongly encourage that continued exclusive use of "800" numbers be FREE. Allowing cross - over to toll calls which have in the past been identified as "900" numbers, would be extremely difficult and confusing for consumers.

The current system of free "800" and pay "900" numbers is easily understood and fair. Confusing the system with pay "800" numbers will create unnecessary confusion, resentment, and hostility. Please don't let that happen.

Sincerely,

Wm. C. Lindelof

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JUL 27 1992

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 12, 1992

Donna A. Searcy
Secretary of F.C.C.
1919 M. Street N.W.
Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Searcy

I am writing in response to an article in a recent edition of the USA Today in regard to 1-800 telephone numbers. In my opinion, when a consumer dials a 1-800 number it is their belief that, that call is toll free. If at some point the call is to be billed to the consumer it should be mandated that the consumer be notified if proceeding with the call will result it charges of so much per minute.

Sincerely,

Cindy Gomez

Cindy Gomez

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JUL 27 1992

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Steve Moore
5211 W 72nd Terrace
Prairie Village, Kansas
66208

June,92

Complete a 800 telephone number and you are assured of toll free communication. That is at least the perception of the consumer.

This service is loosing credibility with misleading advertising techniques practiced in this country. Specifically converting calls to 900 type charges during direction of call. This takes a person out of the so called free mode and into the pay mode.

It is essential for the F.C.C. to maintain control of this fraudulent practice. This will only contribute and promote criminal activity, with us the consumer becoming the victims.

As a concerned taxpayer, I hope this letter promotes attention which acts only to protect what 800-FREE intentions are designed for.

Sincerely,

Steve Moore.

Steve Moore

RM-7990

TELE-PUBLISHING INC
126 Brookline Ave
Boston MA 02215

617-536-2340
Fax: 617-536-7977

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July 13, 1992

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Honorable Alfred Sikes, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Petition for Expedited Declaratory Ruling, to Preempt South Carolina PSC
DA 92-590

Dear Chairman Sikes:

Tele-Publishing, Inc. is filing these comments pertaining to the above-captioned docket. By way of background, Tele-Publishing Inc. is a Boston-based audiotext service bureau, doing business in fifty states.

Our company has never resisted reasonable efforts to protect consumers from fraud and other abuse. In fact, to the contrary, we have worked hard with various trade organizations and consumer groups to educate consumers about their rights in the information marketplace and to set the highest standards for quality programing and ethical business practice. To those ends we have offered testimony before committees of both houses of Congress and a variety of other interested parties, including the National Association of Attorneys General, the FTC and the FCC.

In adopting its rules for pay-per-call services the Commission wisely recognized the problems created by the patchwork of inconsistent rules, and sought to maintain exclusive jurisdiction over interstate calls. By requiring callers to "opt-in" if they wish to avail themselves of information services, the South Carolina Public Service Commission has clearly overstepped its bounds, going far beyond its legitimate interest in protecting ratepayers and insuring the availability of monopoly services.

The action of the South Carolina Public Service Commission, as cited in the above-referenced petition, and similar action by any individual state will be injurious to the public good and the information marketplace, by fostering public confusion and thwarting the development of legitimate voice information services.

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TELE-PUBLISHING INC

Additionally, we support without reservation, the comments of the Information Industry Association in this matter, which we participated in developing.

We urge the Commission to unequivocally assert its jurisdiction over interstate pay-per-call services and grant the petition of the National Association of Information Services, Audio Communications, Inc., and Ryder Communications without delay.

Respectfully submitted,

TELE-PUBLISHING, INC.

Peter J. Brennan
Director of Development