

August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

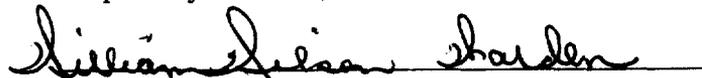
We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

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Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,


Name/Title

Bent County Correctional Facility

Name of Correctional Facility

11560 County Rd. FF.75, Las Animas, CO 81054

Address

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF HENRICO

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A. D. "TOBY" MATHEWS
SHERIFF

July 26, 1994

AUG 1 1994 ROLAND T. BAEHR
CHIEF DEPUTY

FCC MAIL ROOM
H. BRUCE, JR.
CHIEF JAILOR

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

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The Honorable Reed E Hundt, Chairman
Page 2
July 26, 1994

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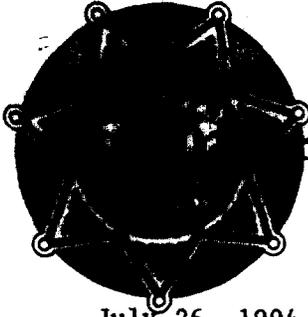
Respectfully submitted,



A. D. Mathews, Sr.
Sheriff

Henrico County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 27032
Richmond, VA 23273

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Robert B. Ball



Alameda County Sheriff's Department

ALAMEDA COUNTY JAIL-SANTA RITA, 5325 BRODER BLVD., DUBLIN, CA 94568 (415) 551-6500

CHARLES C. PLUMMER, SHERIFF
MARSHAL - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

July 26, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference, CC Docket Number 92-77

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As Sheriff of Alameda County, and a Jail Administrator, I am requesting that the Federal Communications Commission exclude local jails from the proposed "billed party preference" system for 0+ Inter LATA pay phone traffic rules.

While there may be ways to prevent fraud under B.P.P., we would be losing our ability to closely monitor phone calls during investigations and would likely lose our ability to quickly block calls to protect victims and witnesses from intimidation and family and friends from unwanted calls and harassment. These issues are very important to me and the citizens of Alameda County.

Eliminating the 0+ commissions received quarterly would have the effect of earning a host of unfunded mandates. California jails have Inmate Welfare Funds which are by law to provide for programs, services and facilities for inmates. Telephone commissions are the primary, in some cases sole, source of revenue for the Inmate Welfare Fund. Many of these programs and services are now mandated by law and the courts, primarily the Federal courts. Elimination of commission revenues would force jails to tap already strapped budgets to fund these mandates.

The services and programs provided by the Inmate Welfare Fund includes Adult Education, GED Programs, basic literacy training, job training, substance abuse and family counseling, Chaplains, religious services and many more. Even basics such as supplying indigent inmates with personal hygiene supplies and letter writing material are provided for by this fund.

The revenues from our inmate telephone system could not be replaced. Local government does not have the funds to pay for the many programs financed with these revenues. We purchase recreation and exercise equipment and fund our law libraries along with paying the staff who supervise and manage these programs.

Without telephone revenues, all these programs would end. These are not just programs for the inmates. The education, training and counseling provided help these people become productive, law abiding individuals rather than a burden to the taxpayers.

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Billed Party Preference, CC Docket Number 92-77

July 26, 1994

Page 2

Before you make any decision, please stop and listen to the thousands of local jails that will be dramatically and adversely impacted by your failure to exclude them from the B.P.P. System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. C. Plummer".

for Charles C. Plummer
Sheriff/Coroner

**PO Box 5323
San Antonio, TX 78201**

July 20, 1994

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AUG 1 1994
FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Representative Hundt:

As both an employee in the communications industry and a tax paying citizen, I am stating my strong opposition to *Billed Party Preference (BPP)* for 0+ Calls. Further, I respectfully request your support in ensuring that Communications Commission Docket 92-77 is defeated.

Confinement facilities are unique and, as such, they require specialized phone system equipment. These systems permit a facility to block an inmate's call to specific numbers, block undesired inbound calls, prevent three-way calling and, overall, reduce fraud and other criminal activity. All of these capabilities are inherent in the equipment which means that, for the most part, intervention by administrative personnel is not required and that the maintenance of security is not jeopardized.

A highly competitive market dictates that the technically sophisticated equipment be installed at little or no cost to the facility and that the provider's commissions be paid to the facility. The commissions facilities receive are a major source of revenue for the inmate welfare funds which finance inmate programs such as family visitation, education and rehabilitation programs. Thus, many of the positive aspects of incarceration are actually being paid for by the inmates.

Succinctly put, most, if not all, of the positive factors derived from the current way of doing business will be discarded if Billed Party Preference becomes a reality. The industry would be going back to the period prior to 1987 when few correctional facilities in the country were paid commissions and many had to pay for their inmate phone service. From a financial point of view, it could be a disaster. Local telephone and long distance companies would no longer have to pay commissions because there would be no competition. Without commissions, facilities would have to turn to their governing body and taxpayers and compete for already scarce resources. Inmate morale funding would be decreased and attended by an increase in inmate control problems. Who would pay for the inmate phone equipment necessary to control calls and prevent fraud and abuse? Again, facilities would have to turn to government sources. Cutting existing programs or increasing taxes would be the requirement to balance budgets. With inmate populations growing at rates estimated from 10 to 15 percent per year, inmate populations could increase by 40 percent by the end of the century. This, of course, will mandate an increase in the number of facilities and manpower to administer them. More inmates and facilities will necessitate more non-revenue producing inmate phone systems if BPP were approved for correctional facilities.

I appeal for your support in defeating Communications Commission Docket 92-77 with the saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Even though inmate phone service is not perfect, a competitive market helps ensure that improvement continues.

Sincerely,



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DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

Mary Mason Community Foundation

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 27, 1994

Mr. Reeve Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Published reports indicate that CBS and Westinghouse will merge resulting in KYW-TV becoming a CBS affiliate and WCAU-TV being sold.

As a 36 year Broadcaster in this city, I could certainly be supportive of such a merger if consideration is given to minority ownership of WCAU-TV. Within the past few years, Channel 10 has made significant contributions as a broadcast medium in this market, and I would have to think that we would lose this very important vehicle in our community.

I strongly encourage you to consider having WCAU-TV become minority owned. If, this happens, feel assured that the CBS/Westinghouse merger will receive the total support of the African American community.

Sincerely,



MARY MASON
EXECUTIVE VICE-CHAIR
NATIONAL BLACK MEDIA COALITION

klg

cc: Pluria Marshall - National Chairman
NATIONAL BLACK MEDIA COALITION

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3900 Ford Road • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

(215) 877-6200

FAX (215) 877-6201

SALINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1027
Wilber, Nebraska 68465

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July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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AUG 1 1994
FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Byron R. Buzek
Saline County Sheriff

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July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street, N.W.
 Washington, D. C. 20554

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 FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket #92-77

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Sincerely,

Wernon R. Alston, Sheriff

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

REPLY TO:

4500 DIPLOMACY DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508-5918

July 26, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

Dear Mr. Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

I have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facilities and have found it to be necessary to route prisoner calls from our facilities to a single carrier that is equipped to handle prisoner calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow prisoners to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. Billed Party Preference will take away our right to coordinate prisoner calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle prisoner calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for prisoner calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of prisoner phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our phones. If BPP is applied to prison facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be prisoner phone service providers to assist us. Without phones, the morale of our prisoners will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage prisoners.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some agencies do not take responsibility for protecting prisoner families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to let the Alaska Public

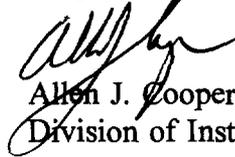
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The Honorable Reed Hundt
RE: Opposition to Billed Party Preference
July 26, 1994
Page 2

Utilities Commission enforce these rate ceilings through their monitoring of contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of departments are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facilities, ultimately reducing prisoner phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions--decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,



Allen J. Cooper, Deputy Director
Division of Institutions

AJC:jd

cc: Larry McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner, DOC
Frank Sauser, Director, DOI

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**San Juan County Detention Center
105 South Oliver
Aztec, New Mexico 87410**

*Bertie Lucostic,
Administrator*

*Bob Yates,
Assistant Administrator*

July 28, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

To the Honorable Reed E. Hundt,

Implementation of a "billed party preference" (BPP) system for correctional and detention systems will severely damage the necessary control and safety of the facilities and present undue stress on budgets.

Traditionally the inmate phone usage is necessary to give the residents contact with their loved ones, friends and legal representations. If the BPP concept is mandated that contact will be minimized due to the facilities inability to afford costly phone systems maintained in the living areas. Due to that cost, free access to telephones in the living areas would no longer be an option. The inmates would have to return to officers placing their calls on designated days. This, in effect, would limit the residents usage and their outside contact with the public. This will place a costly burden officer time and on the budgets due to the necessity of hiring more officers to keep up with the phone call demand.

The fraud encountered in institutions in regard to phone usage is great. In addition to the fraud, the inability to block certain numbers and 3-way calling only increases the criminal activity normally associated with the correctional setting. An example personally encountered, is an inmate placing a call to a number and leaving the phone off the hook and requiring all of the inmates in the cell block to go through him for their calls. This caused a variety of problems. The telephone service company is not being properly paid for the service, the inmates in the cell owes that one man many favors to pay for their calls, and it places that inmate in a position of authority over the other inmates, which makes control and security extremely difficult.

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page 2

The facilities ability to block certain numbers is important due to the public complaining they are being harassed by a certain inmate, and in some cases more than one. Some families request the inmate not be allowed to call due to the family not having the heart to tell the inmate they do not want to talk to that individual every day for hours. These same families do not want to refuse the call and feel very strained because they are told how important family contact and involvement is to the person incarcerated. These unwanted calls place a financial burden on the receiving party.

The capability of placing time limits on the calls helps to assure each inmate will be able to use the telephone when he needs to without having to argue or plead with another inmate to get off of the phone. In this pleading and bargaining process comes the factors of money, commissary, food and in some instances a violence may and has occurred. When these situations occur it takes more officer time to police the telephones and to stop strong arm tactics. Time limits also protect the families from large phone bills that they have difficulty in paying. That family may complain to the inmate about the bills. That inmate is more upset about being incarcerated and having to think of the hardships placed on his family due to his inability to help them financially and by his placing a larger burden on the family just to talk to them. These negative feelings that inmates have, manifest themselves in behavior problems. Again causing more officer time to be used in policing those negative behaviors.

These are but a few instances that could be affected by the passage of BPP. I am against BPP mandates by the FCC due to the future negative effects it will have on inmate phone service.

Sincerely,

BERTIE LUCOSTIC, ADMINISTRATOR

August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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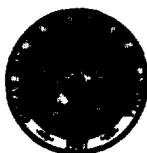
Bill Belt, Sheriff
Name/Title

Avoyelles Parish Detention Center
Name of Correctional Facility

102 Government Street
Address
Marksville, La. 71351

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LARRY A. FIELDS
DIRECTOR



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DAVID WALTERS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OUACHITA CORRECTIONAL CENTER

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 29, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

If BPP goes into effect, it will have a devastating effect on our facility. If we don't have the ability to control inmate calling, then it will be no problem at all for inmates to harass judges, witnesses and jury members involved in their convictions--or even the victims of their crimes.

Inmates have used the two-second window when the operator asks for the caller's name to yell out their obscenities and/or make threats. We had one inmate that called his ex-wife repeatedly over a period of four weeks harassing and threatening her. The only way we found out about it was when she called and complained. We were then able to place a block on the phone. With call forwarding and three-way calling technology, it is very easy to by-pass a block on a phone.

In reference to fraud issues, inmates obtained a number to an international operator. They, in turn, advised the operator they had dialed the wrong number and would ask the operator to re-dial the number for them. The call would then be sent back to one or more U. S. operators which resulted in lower revenues and made it difficult to bill the call. It also is a method to avoid the block on the phone.

On several occasions we have been able to monitor telephone conversations in regards to escape plans and conspiracy to introduce contraband into this facility.

In addition, we would lose our current phone system. We would have to go back to the number of phones we had prior to our existing phone system--from twelve to three. Three phones are not adequate for a five hundred-man facility; that is, if we can afford the



The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
July 29, 1994
Page 2

cost-per-line charge. There is no feasible way we can afford a sophisticated phone system like the one we currently have with our existing budget.

We would also lose revenue that goes into the inmate welfare and recreation fund that is used to purchase sports equipment, satellite systems, supplies for cook-outs, visiting/game shelters for inclement weather, etc.

We are sensitive to the rate inmate families pay for calls. We do, however, feel that BPP is not the answer to the problem. The best method to solve the problem is to contractually require rate ceilings from your provider.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions--decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael K. Addison, Warden

GB:lc

cc: The Honorable Hames H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
Jim West, Administrator, Information Services
Casey D. Warren, Deputy Warden
File

Carroll County Sheriff's Office

DOUG BASS SHERIFF



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TELEPHONE:
(712) 792-4393

FAX:
(712) 792-1310

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
Hart Bldg., Room 135
Washington, DC 20510

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re; CC Docket # 92-77

Dear Senator;

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the entire criminal justice system.

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been the key to our success. This service has been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility.

Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.

For the above reasons and countless others, we believe that the costs of billed party preference for inmates far outweigh the benefits. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Doug Bass

DB/rn

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DOCKET FILE 92-77-310-111
Laymon Godwin
SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR
OUACHITA PARISH

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 28, 1994

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71210-1803
Telephone 318/329-1200

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77, Opposition to Billed Party Preference

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the moral of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed, we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

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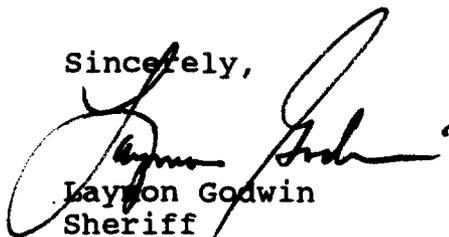
Mr. Reed E. Hundt

Page 2

July 28, 1994

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Layton Godwin".

Layton Godwin
Sheriff

tg

John D. Colvin, III
4911 La Posada
San Antonio, Texas 78233

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July 20, 1994

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Representative Hundt:

As both an employee in the communications industry and a tax paying citizen, I am stating my strong **opposition** to *Billed Party Preference (BPP)* for 0+ Calls. Further, I respectfully request your support in ensuring that Communications Commission Docket 92-77 is defeated.

Confinement facilities are unique and, as such, they require specialized phone system equipment. These systems permit a facility to block an inmate's call to specific numbers, block undesired inbound calls, prevent three-way calling and, overall, reduce fraud and other criminal activity. All of these capabilities are inherent in the equipment which means that, for the most part, intervention by administrative personnel is not required and that the maintenance of security is not jeopardized.

A highly competitive market dictates that the technically sophisticated equipment be installed at little or no cost to the facility and that the provider's commissions be paid to the facility. The commissions facilities receive are a major source of revenue for the inmate welfare funds which finance inmate programs such as family visitation, education and rehabilitation programs. Thus, many of the positive aspects of incarceration are actually being paid for by the inmates.

Succinctly put, most, if not all, of the positive factors derived from the current way of doing business will be discarded if Billed Party Preference becomes a reality. The industry would be going back to the period prior to 1987 when few correctional facilities in the country were paid commissions and many had to pay for their inmate phone service. From a financial point of view, it could be a disaster. Local telephone and long distance companies would no longer have to pay commissions because there would be no competition. Without commissions, facilities would have to turn to their governing body and taxpayers and compete for already scarce resources. Inmate morale funding would be decreased and attended by an increase in inmate control problems. Who would pay for the inmate phone equipment necessary to control calls and prevent fraud and abuse? Again, facilities would have to turn to government sources. Cutting existing programs or increasing taxes would be the requirement to balance budgets. With inmate populations growing at rates estimated from 10 to 15 percent per year, inmate populations could increase by 40 percent by the end of the century. This, of course, will mandate an increase in the number of facilities and manpower to administer them. More inmates and facilities will necessitate more non-revenue producing inmate phone systems if BPP were approved for correctional facilities.

I appeal for your support in **defeating** Communications Commission Docket 92-77 with the saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Even though inmate phone service is not perfect, a competitive market helps ensure that improvement continues.

Sincerely,



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Atlantic County
Department of Public Safety

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Richard E. Squires
County Executive

Glenn English
Department Head

609/645-5881 FAX: 645-5905
TDD: 348-5551

Division of Adult Detention
609/645-5855 FAX: 645-5879

July 22, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 220554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration need at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern some

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5060 Atlantic Avenue • Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

Atlantic County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



July 22, 1994

Page 2.

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77

Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Correctional Facilities or jails do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let the Wardens enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Wardens are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

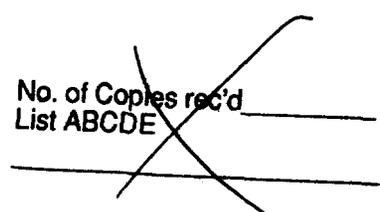
In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions--decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Mazzone, Warden/Division Director
Atlantic County Department of Public Safety
5060 Atlantic Avenue
Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

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FCC MAIL ROOM

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

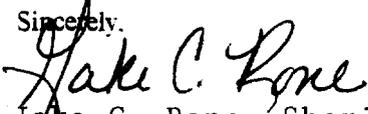
Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Jake C. Rone, Sheriff
New Madrid County
New Madrid, MO 63869
(314) 748-2516

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Snohomish County

July 27, 1994

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Corrections

AUG 1 1994

Robert J. Drewel
County Executive

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

M/S #509
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201
(206) 388-3474
FAX (206) 339-2244

SUBJECT: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at prisoner facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route prisoner calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle prisoner calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow prisoners to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate prisoner calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, prisoner calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us and few that will be trained to handle prisoner calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for prisoner calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of prisoner phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our prisoner phones. If BPP is applied to prisoner facilities, it will be necessary to divert funds from other prisoner programs to finance these phones. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage prisoners.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates prisoner families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs/Jail Administrators do not take responsibility for protecting prisoner families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on prisoner calls and then let Sheriffs/Jail Administrators enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed, we believe the overwhelming majority of Corrections professionals are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing prisoner phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully Submitted,

William B. Harper, Corrections Director

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Sheriff's Department
County of Sonoma
Hall of Justice

600 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, ROOM 103-J
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403
707-527-2511

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MARK IHDE
SHERIFF-CORONER

July 26, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket Number 92-77

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As the Sheriff and Jail Administrator for the County of Sonoma, in California, I was shocked to learn what the proposed "Bill Party Preference" system would mean to the welfare and safety of the citizens of Sonoma County: elimination of call blocking, the loss of a valuable financial resource, and an open door to fraud.

Our current ability to block calls from inmates plays an important role in the safety of victims and witnesses. It also plays a role in our ability to successfully prosecute criminals. Particularly in spousal abuse, the victim is susceptible to the jailed spouse's coercion. In a recent case, one of our Municipal Court Judges (in dealing with a spousal abuse case) ordered the inmate not to call the victim. Without call blocking, which we would lose under the proposed "Billed Party Preference", it would have been difficult if not impossible to prevent a serious case of harassment.

As I am sure you are aware, California has found itself in a difficult financial situation. County government, that portion of government responsible for the county jails, is suffering most. Funds are scarce for all of county government.

Without the funds from the phone provider, programs from inmate rehabilitation will disappear. We do not have the fiscal resources to replace these important funds. A study of sentenced inmate population show that most inmates are there for crimes involving drugs or alcohol. The funds currently received from the phone provider pays for these programs. The loss of these programs would be unconscionable.

Phone fraud, through illegal inmate access to long distance carriers, had resulted in huge losses. We were able to stop this fraud through the current system. But, with "Billed

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