

CC 92-77

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AUG 29 9 50 AM '94

5 Beswick Court
Pleasant Hill, CA
August 23, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing in regard to "Billed Party Preference
CC Docket No. 92-77" which has just been brought to my
attention at today's meeting of Church Women United in our
county. Our Church Women United group works closely with our
Friends Outside organization and also with the County Council
of Churches which coordinates chaplaincy service for inmates
in our adult detention facilities.

It is my understanding that "Billed Party Preference"
would mean that the largest source of funds for our county's
"Inmate Welfare Fund" would no longer available (if and when
people make other choices). That would do incredible harm to
existing and vital programs in our county.

It is through the availability of chaplains in the
facilities and the services that Friends Outside provides to
both the incarcerated and their families that prisoners are
able to maintain emotional stability while serving out their
sentences. These are also the places where the preliminary
steps toward rehabilitation/reentrance into society take
place. Without the funding from the Inmate Welfare Fund,
neither of the agencies would be able to provide the needed
services - - other funding sources are stretched beyond their
means, too.

Please consider the value of programs such as this to
the people in jails, to their families, and to all of us in
the communities to which they will return. Perhaps there is
a better solution to the situation?

Sincerely,

Vernita Kennen

Vernita Kennen, President
Church Women United
Central Contra Costa Unit

Copies: Honorable James Quello
Honorable Andrew Barrett
Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Honorable Susan Ness

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CC 92-77

Edna M. New
5616 Shant Ct.
Clayton, CA 94517
Aug. 23, 1994

Honorable
Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Mr. Hundt,

Re: Billed Party Preference CC Docket No 92-77

As a member of Church Women United affiliated with World Council of Churches and "Friends Outside" we feel that the Inmate Welfare Fund in the Sheriff's Department would be hard pressed to fund schools, libraries, Chaplains, and Christmas food and gifts to families of inmates if Phone Revenue in Jails and Prisons is eliminated.

Please! Help us keep these vital programs alive so that we won't have to need so many prisons.

Also helping you are four other commissioners - the Honorable Andrew Barren, Rachelle B. Chong and Susan Ness. at your same address!

In Christian Love Sincerely,
Edna M. New
Member of Clayton Vly Presbt.
Church in Clayton, CA

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CC 92-77

916 Jones Street
Berkeley CA 94710
August 25, 1994

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

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Re: Billed Party Preference C.C. Docket No 92-77
Dear Sir:

I am writing to oppose the extension of BPP to inmate calls. The groups now providing telephone service to jails would not have the authority to receive process the calls and receive the revenue from these calls and would be unable to purchase or maintain the equipment the prison and jail administrations cannot afford inmate phone equipment without the assistance of inmate phone providers. The end result will be the disappearance of inmate phones and the return to the days of one call per month monitored by guards - not an enlightened system.

The cost would be higher, too, with the need for fraud and security features added to the requirement for the actual user to pay the costs of a new service. This is a populace that really can't afford it. Inmate families do not tend to have incomes that can absorb additional costs.

The current system finances many needed programs such as drug rehabilitation, family visitation and inmate education. If this proposal goes through, thousands of inmates and families will be affected by the loss of these essential programs. The aim of the groups providing these services is to prevent crime - to break the cycle of illiteracy, broken homes, poverty and crime. They need the funds from the telephones to continue. The inmate groups providing these services do so without public funding, an important point in these days of reduced finances.

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It is important to note also, that many
inmate phone providers would support ceilings
on rates. Rate ceilings and quality requirements
are already specified by prison and jail
administrators. Also these providers are
experienced in fraud and security. Please,
there are much better alternatives to BPP - ones
that would not destroy programs.

Very truly yours

Anne Stark

(ANNE C. STARK)

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 29554

August 24, 1994

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

Dear Sir:

I am against the Billed Party Preference Proposal. The proposal to change the method by which long distance telephone Companies are selected for calls from jails would have an extremely detrimental effect on both administrators and inmates. This proposal would also reduce and/or eliminate inmate telephones, would increase the cost of inmate calls, and have a negative impact on families.

In addition, the passage of this proposal would eliminate a funding source for inmate programs provided by Friends Outside. A large part of our funding comes from Inmate Welfare Fund money, and this would be drastically reduced. This funding is extremely important for the continuation of our beneficial programs -- the loss of these funds would have a negative impact on families and the communities served by the Friends Outside endeavors.

Sincerely,



Ann Loar, President Friends Outside Board
Contra Costa County, California

cc:

- Honorable James Quello
- Honorable Andrew Barrett
- Honorable Rachell B. Chong
- Honorable Susan N...

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151 Belle Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
August 24, 1994

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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

Dear Sir:

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

It has just come to my attention that the FCC is considering a proposal called the Billed Party Preference which will change the method by which long distance telephone companies are selected for operator assisted calls including calls from jails. A change in the present method could be devastating to the programs in jails which help inmates and their families. Many of these programs receive their main source of funding through revenues generated from the inmates collect calls.

At our county jail in Contra Costa, California the library, schools, Friends Outside and others receive their primary funding from this resource. Billed Party Preference CC Docket 92-77 could result in the elimination of these programs which are very important to the emotional well-being and rehabilitation of the inmates.

It is urgent that this bill not be passed.

Your consideration is most appreciated.

Sincerely
Mary Ann Van Buren
Oren K. Van Buren, Jr.
MaryAnn Van Buren
Oren K. Van Buren, Jr.

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2012 Silver Lake Way
Martinez, CA 94553
August 24, 1994

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

Dear Sir:

It has just come to my attention that the FCC is considering a proposal called the Billed Party Preference which will change the method by which long distance telephone companies are selected for operator assisted calls including calls from jails. A change in the present method could be devastating to the programs in jails which help inmates and their families. Many of these programs receive their main source of funding through revenues generated from the inmates collect calls.

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It is urgent that this bill not be passed.

Your consideration is most appreciated.

Sincerely,


Marguerite W. Cavagnaro

16. 11 6 6 29 309

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0092-71



JAMES A. KIMBALL
Sheriff

ROBERT CAMPBELL
Undersheriff

LONNY COOPER
Chief Deputy

BRIAN MARVIN
Captain

Administration

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Charleston(217) 348-0585
Mattoon(217) 258-0585

Civil Process Section

Info Ref Subpoena/Summons
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Charleston(217) 348-0584
Mattoon(217) 258-0584

Detective Section

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Charleston(217) 348-0588
Mattoon(217) 258-0588

I-Search - McGruff Program

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Charleston(217) 348-0585
Mattoon(217) 258-0585

Warrants Section

Charleston(217) 348-0592
Mattoon(217) 258-0592

All Other Calls/Jail Info

Charleston(217) 348-7332
Mattoon(217) 258-7332

Coles County Sheriffs Department

701 7th Street • Charleston, Illinois 61920-0347

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August 26, 1994

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AUG 29 1994

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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 the 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 an 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 what we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would 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

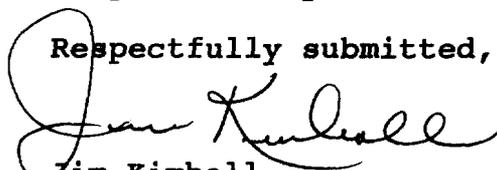
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resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

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 are very concerned that the FCC's 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 contacts. 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 to our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. Please, do 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,



Jim Kimball
Coles County Sheriff
Coles County Sheriffs Department
701 7th Street
Charleston, IL 61920



D.A.R.E.
TO SAY NO!

KANKAKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POLICE



BERNIE C. THOMPSON
SHERIFF

401 ~~2~~ MERCHANT STREET
KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS
815 933-3324 - EMERGENCY
815 937-8250 - ADMINISTRATION

CC 92-77

AUG 29 1994
FCC MAIL ROOM August 26, 1994

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AUG 29 3 02 PM '94

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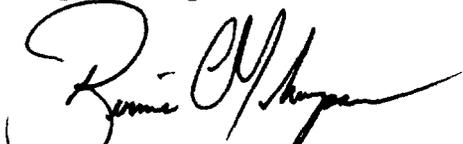
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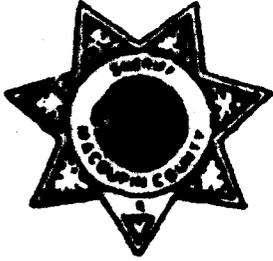
In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. Please, do not adopt regulations that interfere with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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernie C. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

BERNIE C. THOMPSON, Sheriff
County of Kankakee, Illinois

BCT/ef



Jim "Zirk" Zirkelbach

Macoupin County Sheriff

August 25, 1994

215 S. East Street
Carlinville, Illinois 62626
217-854-3135

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

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

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Respectfully submitted,
Jim "Zirk" Zirkelbach
Jim "Zirk" Zirkelbach, Sheriff
Macoupin County

CC 92-77

LARRY A. FIELDS
DIRECTOR



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DAVID WALTERS
GOVERNOR

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
LEXINGTON ASSESSMENT AND RECEPTION CENTER

August 2, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M. Street Northwest
Washington, DC 50554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: Billed Party Preference
C.C. Docket #92-77

Listed below are problems foreseen regarding the Billed Party Preference (BPP) proposal, which is in response to the memorandum from Director Larry Fields regarding inmate phones.

1. Equipment:

The system now in place at the Lexington Correctional Complex is NAI. This company furnished, installed, and maintains the needed equipment. BPP would not have the intricate system that controls how inmate calls are routed, which would allow them to call anyone: harassing members of the legal system, witnesses to their crimes, victims; call abuse and fraud. This system would not have the monitoring system, nor be able to block calls which would prevent the above noted of phone abuse. The customer would not have daily contact with BPP for servicing needs as is now available with the system in place.

Under the BPP proposal, the individual agencies will have to buy, install, and maintain the equipment.

With funding becoming tighter each year, it would be impossible to set up the system for all agencies in the state under this proposal.

2. Commission:

The BPP system will eliminate the revenue sharing, cutting off a critical source of revenue used to benefit the inmates. This

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money is placed into the Canteen Welfare and Recreation Fund and provides programs, activities, and equipment, i.e., equipment for the housing units such as, televisions, ice machines, microwaves, washers/dryers, furniture/equipment for handicapped inmates; equipment for the gym; activities such as ball games and concerts; visiting room improvements. The Oklahoma tax payer would have to bear these costs.

3. Carrier:

Under the BPP proposal, the called party can select the carrier. The carriers will not have the intricate system which is now in place allowing the facility to monitor or block calls, which will allow uncontrollable abuse of phones.

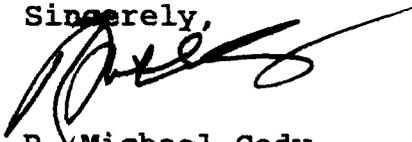
4. Monopoly:

Establishing BPP would soon eliminate private companies, i.e., uncollectible: BPP's loss would be absorbed by the user (inmate's family), whereas, the private companies would have to absorb the cost, resulting in the private company initiating systems to curtail fraud and abuse. With the private companies losing revenue, they would have to close their business, leaving AT&T with a monopoly on the phone systems and allowing them to regulate the costs and passing losses on to the customer.

In summary, the loss of revenue, the cost to the correctional systems to replace a similar system, and cost to users (inmate families) would be so extensive it would ultimately cause the correctional system to be unable to provide this system and to cut back on the number of and use of phones to the inmates.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. If further information is required, please contact me.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Cody
Warden

RMC/DB/mbs

cc/Larry A. Fields, Director, Department of Corrections
Mary L. Livers, Regional Director, Department of Corrections
Jim West, Information Services, Department of Corrections
Business Manager
File