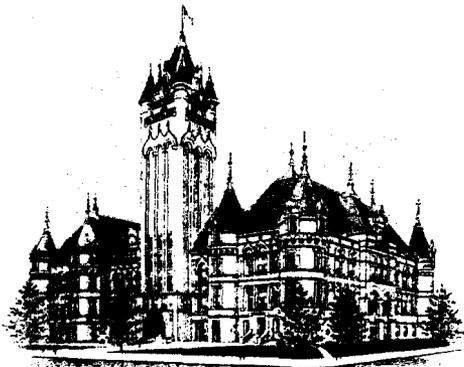


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SPOKANE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

LARRY V. ERICKSON
SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF

JOHN A. GOLDMAN, Undersheriff
MICHAEL J. AUBREY, Undersheriff
DONALD R. MANNING, Chief Criminal Deputy
JAMES J. HILL, Jail Commander
JOHN H. MCGREGOR, Patrol Captain

COUNTY-CITY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99260



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AUG 12 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 21, 1994



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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Honorable Hundt,

Billed Party Preference (BPP), as we see it, threatens the controls we have on our inmate phone system and the source of funding for our Inmate Welfare Fund.

U.S. West is supplying us with equipment which will prevent three-way calling and stop fraudulent non-collectable calls. The system also provides a means of screening all calls and completing calls only to numbers approved by the Jail Administration. This allows us to prevent, or stop, harassing phone calls by inmates.

Our Inmate Welfare Fund receives money from inmate phone commissions. In return, inmates gain legal resources, educational opportunities, behavior training, recreation/relaxation items, and indigent services.

We, the Jail Administration and not the inmates, are the contracting party with U.S. West. We just don't see where BPP would help us, and we haven't asked for it.

If your concern is with the phone costs to the inmates, please consider the cost of implementing BPP since the inmates would ultimately cover that cost. Also, in Washington State, phone rates are regulated by the Washington Public Utilities Commission, which keeps the costs down for the inmates.

In conclusion, we urge you to exempt jails which have inmate phone services with the controls and benefits we have described from Billed Party Preference.

Sincerely,

LARRY V. ERICKSON, Sheriff

Captain James J. Hill
Jail Commander
Spokane County Jail

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