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MAY 13 1996

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5/8/96

MR. REED HUNDT, CHAIRMAN  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1919 'M' ST. N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DEAR MR. HUNDT:

ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF MY LETTER  
OF CONCERN TO KANSAS REP. WELSHIMER & TODAY'S  
WICHITA EAGLE ARTICLE RE DEREGULATION OF  
BABY BELLS & ITS EFFECTS ON LOCAL PHONE RATES.

I FEEL THAT REMOVAL OF REGULATION  
OF UTILITY MONOPOLIES IS DANGEROUS TO THE  
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE GENERAL CITIZENRY.  
I CAN SEE NO GOOD REASON FOR GOVERNMENT TO  
ABDICATE ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA.

CORDIALLY

  
DONALD J. HEENAN  
938 S. GEDENMOOR  
WICHITA, KS. 67218

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CC96-45

**DOWN**  
43.36

CLOSE  
5420.95

**Gold** (N.Y.): \$393.80, up 10 cents  
**Oil** (Kansas): \$19.25, unchanged  
**Wichita wheat**: \$6.64, up 10 cents  
**K.C. wheat**: \$6.64, up 16 cents  
**Steers**: (Dodge City): no market

WEDNESDAY May 8, 1996

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# Local phone bills will rise, group says

■ The local telephone companies' proposed changes could raise rates \$10 a month, a consumer group says.

By Jeannine Aversa

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Local telephone companies are proposing to increase the cost of basic local telephone service for most Americans by \$10 a month over the next five years, a consumer group told federal regulators on Tuesday.

The companies acknowledge that while basic rates could go up, a customer's total bill might not increase because fees for other services such as caller identification or call waiting would go down.

The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, which along with individual state regulators would have to approve the plans, said rates could go up in some places, but that the FCC was committed to ensuring that local phone service remain affordable.

"Everybody should take two aspirins and go to bed and while they are in bed, read the new (telecommunications) law, because the new law says in black and white that it is the law of the land that basic phone service should remain affordable," said FCC Chairman Reed Hundt.

The Consumer Federation of America and the American Association of Retired Persons projected the increase after analyzing filings that 13 phone companies and groups made to the FCC.

The filings are part of an FCC proceeding, which is required by Congress, aimed at revamping the current system used to make phone service affordable in rural and other high-cost areas and for low-income customers.

Of the filings it reviewed, CFA said only two companies — Nynex, a local Bell company, and MCI, a long-distance company that is moving into the local phone business — did not advocate changes that would increase basic rates.

Nationwide, the cost of basic service averages about \$18 a month, according to industry officials.

# Time-Warner merger with Turner hits snag

■ FTC concerned about combined company's control over cable television programming

have the power to reject or approve the merger announced last September.

Consumer groups, cable television competitors and telephone compa-



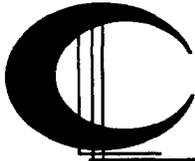
# High on Harley-Davidson

By Michael Arndt

Knight-Ridder News Service

CHICAGO — Step in to Illinois Harley-Davidson Sales Inc. in Berwyn and you can pick up Harley-Davidson T-shirts, boots, leather jackets, watches, ties, towel sets, caps, jeans, calendars and even an application for a Harley-Davidson credit card.

But the closest you'll get to a



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P.O. Box 555, Mineral Springs, NC 28108 : 704/843-4294

May 8, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Hundt;

I just read an article regarding local telephone companies wanting to increase local service fees by as much as \$10.00 a month. As a fight to keep this from happening I'd like to enlighten you to my situation.

Personally, I think I already pay too much just to have a phone on the wall. The break down of my phone bill is as follows:

Service/equipment	\$17.05
Access chg per FCC	3.50
911 service	.96
Dual party rly for hear'g impair	.07
Federal tax	.62
State tax	.52
Total	\$22.72

I can see paying the service/equipment fee, but I think \$3.50/mo. for the phone wire in my house, which has been there since god-knows-when, is outrageous to begin with let alone raising it even one penny.

The phone service is provided by Alltel Carolina, Inc. which is the only service I have available to choose from in this area. We are a single income family with me staying home to care for our 2-year-old son. We carry no extras like call waiting, of which we not only can't afford but have no cause to utilize. We don't have a lot of extra money at the end of each month and most of that goes into maintaining our house.

I understand that with the new bills passed I may soon be able to choose a company like MCI or AT&T, for both my local and long distance service and may be able to get a more competitive rate. But we seem to be in an isolated little area that this may not happen to,

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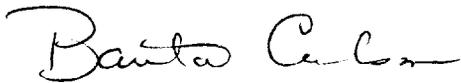
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*[Handwritten signature]*

and I'd be forced to use Alltel anyway. We cannot afford an increase to \$27.00 - \$34.00 a month just to have a phone. Yet like any mother with small children, I feel I need to have one for those 'just in case' situations.

I urge you to put a squash on this rate increase so us low-end middle income families can afford to call for an ambulance, the doctor, or mom on Mother's Day at an affordable, reasonable cost. I appreciate your time and efforts in maintaining the integrity of our phone companies and their services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonita Coulson".

Bonita E. Coulson

P.O. Box 555  
Mineral Springs, NC 28108



CCB  
TGL

May 7, 1996

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dicksy Creek  
16917 NE 35th Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98682

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MAY 13 1996

Reed E Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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**Subject: Residential Telephone Rates**

Please oppose rate increases for basic residential telephone service. Rates must be affordable to the financially disadvantaged, which include many disabled, elderly and other low income people. Telephones are often a life line to reach medical care, fire and police departments, 911, other vital services and coping with isolation.

The telephone companies should not justify increasing rates by saying that rate will decrease for call waiting, caller ID, etc. Call waiting and caller ID are not basic services and are not essential to low income individuals.

If basic telephone service rates must be increased: The Federal Communications Commission must be sure that they are not subsidizing nonessential services nor high technology businesses such as television cable, and cellular telephones, etc. Maybe the telephones companies could be required to provide special rates to low income subscribers.

Very truly yours,

*Dicksy Creek*  
Dicksy Creek

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1017 Alpena Rd.  
Phila., Pa. 19115

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Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing you at this time to voice my opinion as a middle class American citizen regarding the Telecommunications bill passed by Congress. It seems to me that this Bill helps big business get bigger and make more profit at the expense of the citizens of this country. It is guaranteed that my local phone bill will increase due to this Bill, but the telephone industry says that increase will be offset by declining Long Distance Bills. What about the customers that don't use much Long Distance service. For them there isn't any savings, just an increase in basic service and more profit for the telephone companies.

All the supporters of this Bill say there will be lower rates and more choices. This will never happen! Look at Cable Television companies. Their rates keep increasing. They also talked about lower rates and more choices too. In the end consumers pay more of their hard earned money, big business profits sky rocket, and Congress keeps telling us that we are benefitting.

Thank you very much for listening to what I had to say, I think there are many Americans who feel the same way but haven't taken the time to write.

Sincerely,

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