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re: Docket #'s:	96-262
	94-1
	91-213
	92-253

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary, Room 222
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554 Website

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<http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/>

To F.C.C. Offices,

Monday, February 24, 1997

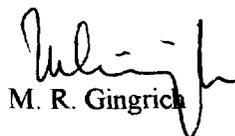
Though I note some cut off dates, I did not receive the fax from your offices, with detailed information, until late last week. The docket #'s you request to be included, are above in the blue bordered box.

I write in reference to information which has come to my attention, concerning the Federal Communications Commission and telephone companies; not just here in Texas. Some local phone companies (if not all of them) in some sort of group consortium, have asked the FCC for permission to charge their telephone service users a per-minute fee for computer data transfer time. I understand the companies in question are asserting that the increased usage of telephone lines is causing undue strain on their systems and they wish to pass along the extra expense of updating and maintaining their systems to consumers.

I would strenuously object to the imposition of such a fee, on the grounds that most telephone service consumers have subscribed to and pay for telephone service on an unlimited-time basis, for local calling or toll free service {800# types} in specific, and have heretofore never been required to specify what type of communication they use this service for.

Additionally, it seems that if all of us, as telephone patrons, have the right to speak in an unlimited way with other parties (again, locally) for as long as we choose to do so without restriction, we also have the implied right to engage in any other type of electronic communication via the service for which we've paid, regardless of its format or the frequency of the communication itself. It is my understanding that electronic data transfer (disregarding the added online time) puts no more strain on telephone hardware than simple voice communications, and as such the telephone companies have no right to monitor or in any other way censor the populace - their clients' usage of the electronic media service they have pledged to transfer time.

In consideration of the above, the telephone companies have no right to monitor or in any other way censor the populace - their clients' - usage of the electronic media service they have pledged to provide on a previously unlimited basis. If the telephone companies wished to apply for the right to raise the overall charge for their services because of increased traffic, perhaps this proposal might have basis for at least some consideration. But, I feel that giving such organizations the right to selectively apply a tariff on specific forms of communication within their systems threatens to impinge upon the constitutionally guaranteed right of institutionally unmonitored communication within our society. Thank you for this opportunity to express these perspectives on this subject.


M. R. Gingrich