CC Docket 96-128

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: Thomas Martin <televalu@gte.net>
To: Mary Izzard <MIZZARD@fcc.gov>
Date: 6/26/98 12:54pm
Subject: Re: Comments to the Chairman -Reply

Hello Mary,

This is fantastic; I thank you very much for your response!

I have read and reread your response and have come to the following conclusion.

It is not the FCC's fault we have this mess.

Is that what you are saying?

If this is true. Then why is this the case?

The FCC needs to take charge here and have the guts to say to the American Public that Payphone Service Providers deserve compensation for these types of calls. The FCC could announce that users could be charged by the PSP's for toll free calls the same as a local call. Then if PSP's wish to charge for these calls this will be allowed at the time the call is initiated. The only time this charge should go against a calling card is if the user of the pay phone desires it. The long distance service provider could handle this if they wanted to allow it.

In other words, why not allow the free market to work here. I wonder why the most complicated, inconvenient, and least desirable system has been put into place when a simple and convenient way is available.

Of course, why should I have such wonderings, after all the government is in charge here? Just once though, I would be refreshing to see the government do the right thing.

Mary Izzard wrote:

> Chairman Kennard asked that I reply to your e-mail.
>
> The Commission intends to actively monitor the payphone marketplace by
> regularly meeting with representatives from the states, PSPs, and
> consumer advocates.
>
> The 28.4 cents per-call compensation rate is a default rate that can be
> reduced or increased at any time through an agreement between the
> long distance company and the Payphone Service Providers. The FCC
> encourage long distance companies and the PSPs to contract with each
> other for more economically efficient compensation rates.
>
> Some long distance companies are advising consumer that the FCC
> decided that consumers making calls from payphones should pay a
> per-call charge to compensate have significant leeway on how to
> compensate PSPs. The FCC left it to each long distance company to
> determine how it will recover the cost of compensating PSPs.
>
> I hope this information proves helpful.

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