

ORIGINAL

August 18, 1998

Study on Fair Rates

Records and Reporting

980000A

August 10 I received my Bell South bill dated August 2 for current services rendered. In the same envelope there was a slip of paper (PSC HF) on important information for Bell South customers, showing dates for public hearings on House Bill No. 4785 regarding rate increases. The public hearing for Ft. Lauderdale is to be September 3.

On this bill, however, ahead of time and before any of the hearings are scheduled, an increase was added to the residential rate line. Last month, \$6.77. New rate \$7.18. I wonder what individual or committee decided to get a little more money out of "the folks out there" before hearings are held.

I telephoned (954) 780-2355 about the increases on basic service - she said they were authorized by the FPSC - and, anyway,

- ACK \_\_\_\_\_
- AFA   1
- APP \_\_\_\_\_
- CAF   1
- CMU   1
- CTR \_\_\_\_\_
- EAG \_\_\_\_\_
- LEG   1
- LIN \_\_\_\_\_
- OPC \_\_\_\_\_
- RCH   1
- SEC   1
- WAS \_\_\_\_\_
- OTH \_\_\_\_\_

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STUDY ON FAIR RATES REPORTING

it's only 41<sup>2</sup> cents". I do wish I had asked her name.

I cannot attend the September hearing. I have no car, as I recently gave up driving - high insurance. And I cannot afford taxes. To compensate for the raise in basic rates I told the person who took my call to cut off service to my caller id system - it had been a gift. I was paying a monthly service fee. I will write more letters instead of reaching for the phone. I am 85 and not well enough to get around much. The Social Security check goes only so far - not completely covering the rising cost of living.

I think you can interpret my feelings about this "proposed" rate hike. If the phone company would cut down on the various inserts they enclose with the bill (some in color) do less TV advertising (there is no competition for local area) - their overhead costs would be lessened, I believe, and rate increases would not be necessary.

Thanks for your time.

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