BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Consideration of BellSouth)	
Telecommunications, Inc.'s entry)	Docket No. 960786-TL
into interLATA services pursuant to)	
Section 271 of the Federal Telecomminications)	Filed: July 17, 1997
Act of 1996.)	
)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

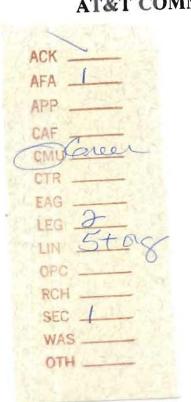
JOSEPH GILLAN

ON BEHALF OF

FLORIDA COMPETITIVE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION,
AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN STATES, INC.,

MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

AND WORLDCOM, INC.





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1		I. INTRODUCTION AND WITNESS QUALIFICATION
2		
3	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
4		
5	A.	My name is Joseph Gillan. My business address is P.O. Box 541038,
6		Orlando, Florida 32854.
7		
8	Q.	What is your occupation?
9		
10	A.	I am an economist with a consulting practice specializing in
11		telecommunications. My clients span a range of interests and have
12		included state public utility commissions, consumer advocate organizations
13		local exchange carriers, competitive access providers, and long distance
14		companies.
15		
16	Q.	Please briefly outline your educational background and related

l experience

A. I am a graduate of the University of Wyoming where I received B.A.

(1978) and M.A. (1979) degrees in economics. My graduate program

concentrated on the economics of public utilities and regulated industries

with course work emphasizing price theory and statistics.

In 1980, I joined the staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission where I had responsibility over the policy content of Illinois Commission filings before the U.S. District Court and the Federal Communications Commission. In addition, I was responsible for staff testimony relating to the emergence of competition in regulated markets, in particular the telecommunications industry. While at the Commission, I served on the staff subcommittee for the NARUC Communications Committee and was appointed to the Research Advisory Council overseeing NARUC's research arm, the National Regulatory Research Institute.

In 1985, I left the Commission to join U.S. Switch, a venture firm organized to develop interexchange access networks in partnership with independent local telephone companies. At the end of 1986, I resigned my position of Vice President-Marketing to begin a consulting practice. I currently serve on the Advisory Council for New Mexico State

1		University's Center for Regulation.
2		
3	Q.	On whose behalf are you testifying?
4		
5	A.	My testimony is sponsored in this proceeding by the Florida Competitive
6		Carriers Association (FCCA), AT&T Communications of the Southern
7		States, Inc. (AT&T), MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI), and
8		WorldCom, Inc. (WorldCom). The FCCA is the successor organization to
9		the Florida Interexchange Carriers Association. In anticipation of the
10		fundamental change that will result from the full implementation of the
11		Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act), FIXCA has broadened its name
12		and membership to respond to a broader range of competitive issues.
13		
14	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony?
15		
16	A.	The purpose of my testimony is two-fold:
17		
18		(1) to explain why the Act requires that BellSouth first satisfy each of
19		its obligations under Sections 251, 252 and 271 of the
20		Telecommunications Act, including all applicable federal rules,
21		before it will be authorized to provide interLATA services, and
22		

i		(2) to dem	ionstrate that Bellsouth does not provide the unbundled local
2		switch	ing network element (and its use in combinations) as required
3		by the	Act and the FCC's implementing regulations.
4			
5		As my testim	ony below explains, BellSouth does not satisfy critical areas
6		of the 14-po	int Competitive Checklist. Therefore, its application for
7		interLATA at	uthority is premature.
8			
9	Q.	What specifi	c issues does your testimony address?
10			
11	A.	My testimony	will address the following issues (as delineated in the Issue
12		List):	
13			
14		1.A.	Has BellSouth met the requirements of Section 271(c)(1)(A)
15			of the Telecommunications Act of 1996?
16			
17		3.	Has BellSouth provided nondiscriminatory access to
18			network elements in accordance with the requirements of
19			Sections 251(c)(3) and 252(d)(1) of the Telecommunications
20			Act of 1996, pursuant to 271(c)(2)(B)(ii) and applicable
21			rules promulgated by the FCC?
22			

1		7.	Has BellSouth provided unbundled local switching from
2			transport, local loop transmission, or other services,
3			pursuant to Section 271(c)(2)(B)(vi) and applicable rules
4			promulgated by the FCC?
5			
6		13.	Has BellSouth provided nondiscriminatory access to such
7			services or information as are necessary to allow the
8			requesting carrier to implement local dialing parity in
9			accordance with the requirements of Section 251(b)(3) of
10			the Telecommunications Act of 1996, pursuant to Section
11			271(c)(2)(B)(xii) and applicable rules promulgated by the
12			FCC?
13			
14		The fact that	I do not address other requirements of the Act and FCC rules
15		does not me	an that I believe BellSouth is in compliance with them.
16		BellSouth mu	ast prove its compliance with each and every requirement.
17			
18	Q.	What is the	basic conclusion of your testimony?
19			
20	Α.	The Telecom	munications Act of 1996 represents Congress' affirmation that
21		the competit	ive process unleashed by the AT&T divestiture brought
22		substantial b	enefits to American consumers. In large part, the Act is

applying the same principle which made the divestiture so successful -that is, by requiring that the local network be opened to competitive
providers on nondiscriminatory terms. The MFJ limited this obligation to
the use of the local network in only *one* of its roles (the origination and
termination of long distance traffic); the Act applies this obligation to the
incumbent's network in *all* of its roles (including local and access).
Further, the Act provides that <u>when</u> the network is practicably available on
nondiscriminatory terms to others -- including entrants deploying facilities
-- then BellSouth may be authorized to provide long distance services.

¥

Q. How should the Commission approach its role with respect to evaluating Section 271 compliance?

A.

Under the Act, the fundamental role of a state commission is a *fact-consultant* to the FCC, determining through a practical and quantitative review of the conditions in its state whether BellSouth has fully implemented each of the tools required by the Checklist. This review includes determining whether BellSouth is in full compliance with each of the effective FCC rules implementing Sections 251 and 252, and that broad scale, commercial level, local competition is now possible. Only through a critical examination, where BellSouth's compliance can be empirically

demonstrated through practical experience, can the Commission perform

its statutory role.

Q. Why is empirical review so important?

A. Conducting an empirical review is a necessary step in this process because, for all practical purposes, Congress adopted a national blueprint for local competition based on the limited experience of a few states, none of which had even fully implemented their own policies. The result is a law with excellent intentions, but without the benefit of a working model.

The dramatically higher barriers to entry to the local exchange market (particularly relative to long distance) must be *successfully* eliminated in order for exchange competition to proceed. Local competition depends not upon BellSouth's paper compliance with abstract concepts -- or, even more speculatively, *promises* of future compliance -- but rather upon whether the tools entrants actually needed are available in ways that support entry on a commercial scale. In particular, the Commission must ensure that network elements are fully operational in a manner which enables local entrants to offer services as quickly and broadly as BellSouth will be able to provide long distance services.

A. Does BellSouth today have experience providing these necessary elements?

Α.

No. The following table summarizes the status of local competition in BellSouth's territory in Florida and documents just how premature its claim is that it complies with Section 271. I have presented the results both as a percentage and in scientific notation. Scientific notation is the accepted method of expressing very small values (the size of quarks, subatomic particles and the level of local competition in BellSouth's Florida territory). Table 1 demonstrates that local competition has not yet begun - much less is irreversible as required under the Department of Justice's standard. (See DOJ Brief, dated May 16, 1997, in SBC Telecommunication's Application to the FCC for interLATA authority).

TABLE 1: STATUS OF LOCAL ENTRY IN BELLSOUTH'S FLORIDA TERRITORY AS OF JUNE 1, 1997

	Entrant	BellSouth	Competitive Share	
Measure	Quantity (1997)	Quantity (1996)	Percent	Scientific Notation
Interconnection Trunks	7,612	9,190,968	.0828%	8.3E-04
Unbundled Loops	1,085	6,614,273	.0164%	1.6E-04
Unbundled Switching	7	5,885,000	0001%	1.2E-06

1 2		Table 1 Sources
3		
4		Interconnection Trunks: Interoffice Carrier Links, 1996 ARMIS 4307.
5		Unbundled loops: Working Channels, 1996.
6		Unbundled switching: Total Access Lines in Service, 1996 ARMIS 4307.
7		Entrant quantities based on BellSouth witness Milner prefiled direct
8		testimony in this docket.
9		
10		As Table 1 shows, there is no measurable competition in the BellSouth's
11		Florida territory today. The reason is that BellSouth has not implemented
12		the tools necessary for widespread competition particularly, the operating
13		systems to support network element combinations and, as such, does not
14		satisfy the threshold requirements of Section 271.
15		
16		II. THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 271
17		
18	Q.	What must BellSouth do in order to obtain authority to provide in-
19		region interLATA services pursuant to the Act?
20		
21	Α.	BellSouth bears the burden of proving that it has met each of the
22		conditions necessary for it to provide in-region interLATA services in
23		Florida. In order to receive authority under Track A to provide interLATA

1		services, BellSouth must prove: (1) that it has entered into one or more
2		binding agreements that have been approved by the Commission under
3		Section 252 of the Act specifying the conditions under which BellSouth is
4		providing access and interconnection to its network facilities for the
5		network facilities of one or more unaffiliated competing providers of
6		telephone exchange service to residential and business subscribers; and (2)
7		that the access and interconnection BellSouth is providing under such
8		agreements meets the requirements of the Act's 14-point Competitive
9		Checklist.
10		
11	Q.	What does a determination of Sections 251 and 252(D) and Checklist
12		compliance entail?
13		
14	A.	The Act requires that BellSouth provide the basic tools necessary for
14 15	A.	The Act requires that BellSouth provide the basic tools necessary for commercial scale local competition to become a reality. Included among
	A.	•
15	A.	commercial scale local competition to become a reality. Included among
15 16	A.	commercial scale local competition to become a reality. Included among Sections 251, 252(d) and the Checklist is the requirement that BellSouth's
15 16 17	A.	commercial scale local competition to become a reality. Included among Sections 251, 252(d) and the Checklist is the requirement that BellSouth's carrier offerings comply with federal rules that are designed, in large part,
15 16 17 18	A.	commercial scale local competition to become a reality. Included among Sections 251, 252(d) and the Checklist is the requirement that BellSouth's carrier offerings comply with federal rules that are designed, in large part, to assure that entrants have the same ability to use the preexisting network

Nondiscriminatory access to unbundled network

elements

1 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this 2 Section, to the extent technically feasible, the quality 3 of an unbundled network element, as well as the 4 quality of the access to such unbundled network 5 element, that an incumbent LEC provides to a 6 requesting telecommunications carrier shall be at 7 least equal to that which the incumbent LEC 8 provides to itself. 10

9

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I cite this particular passage to emphasize how very significant the changes will be that must occur in order for BellSouth to satisfy the Competitive Checklist and be authorized to provide interLATA services. It is not enough for BellSouth to claim that it can accept an order and deliver an unbundled element at some uncertain point in the future. Rather, it must alter its systems to support an environment where network elements are available to multiple providers on terms equivalent to BellSouth's use of the network itself.

18

19

Q. Why do your comments focus on the availability of network elements?

20

21

22

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26

Α.

Because entry using unbundled network elements is the option that most closely parallels BellSouth's interLATA opportunity and is most likely to achieve the potential benefits that are central to the Act's success. Of course, I do not intend to imply by this emphasis that other entry approaches, such as service-resale and facilities-construction are unimportant. Rather, network elements (including, network element

1	combinations) provide a wide range of economic benefits and are the most
2	difficult to operationalize and support on a commercial scale.
3	Consequently, once network elements (including combinations) are
4	provisioned in a nondiscriminatory manner, the Commission should
5	anticipate that BellSouth can adequately support the remaining entry
6	techniques as well.
7	
8	This conclusion is based on the following characteristics of entry using
9	network elements:
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	 The pricing of network elements is to be based on cost and nondiscriminatory. If true, then the entrant and the incumbent should face the same cost structure for the underlying network they share. (If not, then an artificial advantage will result that will translate to a consumer loss.) Network elements pre-position the entrant for either network construction of its own or, at the least, the replacement of incumbent local exchange carrier-provided network elements with components obtained from third parties.
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35	• Network elements establish the entrant as a complete provider of local and exchange access services, an economic predicate to full service competition. Partial entry strategies such as service-resale will not drive retail prices (particularly toll prices) to cost, since the incumbent LEC retains an access monopoly to the service-resellers' customers.

1 2 3 4 5 6		 Network elements enable the entrant to craft its own unique local services, varying calling boundaries and feature mixes to meet unique customer needs, thereby unleashing the creative energies of the competitive process.
7 8		Occasill falls in all marks at a section of
		Overall, fully implementing the requirements necessary to make network
9		elements operationally available will be the step most likely to lead to
.0		alternative networks and full-scale facilities competition. Most
.1		importantly, network elements must be available in logical combination
.2		which rapidly permit wide-scale local competition if consumers are to
.3		broadly benefit under the Act as Congress intended. The Commission
4		should carefully scrutinize BellSouth's claim that it is able to provide
.5		entrants with nondiscriminatory access to network elements, and network
6		element combinations, as required by FCC rules.
7		
8 9		III. UNBUNDLED LOCAL SWITCHING AND NETWORK ELEMENT COMBINATIONS
:0		
1	Q.	What conditions must be satisfied for the rapid, wide-scale, local
2		competition required by the Act to become a reality?
:3		
4	A.	The threshold condition is that entrants have the ability to use the existing
.5		network to offer their own services. The local network is simply too vas

ı		for any entrant to replicate this resource in the near term. Of course, this
2		principle nondiscriminatory access to the incumbent's network is the
3		cornerstone of the Act. See 47 CFR § 51.311.
4		
5		The critical step is translating the principle of nondiscrimination into
6		practical tools that entrants can actually use to offer customers competitive
Ū		problem tools that endants can actually use to offer customers competitive
7		services. To give this principle meaningful effect, the incumbent's
8		network must be made available in ways which:
9		
10 11		 enable the entrant to offer service to a broad, geographic market;
12 13		
14		
15		 permit the entrant to design its own service offerings
16 17		(such as, for example, deciding its local calling scope and selecting which "optional" features it will
18 19		include in its basic service);
20		
21		
22		• support customer migrations between carriers with
23		an ease and cost comparable to the ease with which
24		customers can change long distance carriers today.
25		
26	Q.	What entry technique is capable of supporting the rapid, commercial
27		scale entry anticipated by Congress?
28		
29	A.	Commercial-scale entry demands that services can be mass-produced and

customers can shift between carriers simply and inexpensively, where customers experience the same convenience whether they choose the services of the incumbent or those of an entrant for all their telecommunications needs.

- 1

Achieving this vision requires that network elements be offered in logical combinations, as well as in the form of individual components. Of course, individual elements will continue to play a critical role, both to serve large customers and as carriers substitute incumbent-provided facilities with facilities of their own (or those obtained from third parties). Single-element arrangements, however, narrow entrants geographically to selected end-offices (where alternative facilities exist) or to selected customers (those sufficiently large to offset the cost to reconfigure). Logical combinations avoid these concerns which would otherwise, inevitably, force entrants to focus on niche markets.

Q. Doesn't service-resale satisfy the need for wide-scale entry?

Α.

No. Service-resale establishes the entrant as the incumbent's faint echo offering identical services, with little to no ability to offer lower prices.

If a carrier has no interest in designing unique services, has no reason to offer both local exchange and exchange access service, has no desire to

compete aggressively with BellSouth's prices, and has no intention to replace individual network components with the facilities of other carriers (or its own) as they become available, then service-resale is the ideal solution. While service-resale will provide carriers a *simple* entry option - and, for that reason, the Commission can expect that carriers will use this approach, particularly at first -- robust local competition depends upon the more challenging opportunities made possible by network element combinations.

Q. Which network element is most critical to achieving the benefits of network combinations?

A.

The local switching network element is the key to widespread local competition (and, not surprisingly, where BellSouth is far from compliance with the Act's requirements). The switch lies at the heart of local exchange service. It is here where services are created and most revenues generated. The *only* way that entry will occur on a broad scale, and on an economic basis comparable to BellSouth, is if multiple carriers can use the existing switches (and, as explained below, loop/switch combinations) to provide their own individual services.

Q. Do the Act and FCC rules require an unbundled local switch (ULS)

i		network element that establishes its purchaser as a local carrier,
2		coequal to BellSouth?
3		
4	A.	Yes. A multi-vendor switching element which provides entrants local
5		switching capacity with the same opportunities to provide their own
6		services as BellSouth is clearly a goal of the Act and applicable FCC
7		rules. The starting point for defining the ULS can be found in the
8		Competitive Checklist, § 271(c)(2)(B)(vi), which requires that BellSouth
9		must provide unbundled local switching prior to its offering of in-region
10		interLATA services:
11 12		(vi) Local switching unbundled from transport, local loop transmission, or other services.
13		This provision requires that BellSouth offer a local switching element as
14		a generic functionality that can be used by entrants to offer their own
15		exchange services without any requirement that they purchase other
16		BellSouth network elements (loop or transport) or services (such as DA,
17		Operator Services, exchange access or, quite obviously, BellSouth's local
8		service itself).
19		
20	Q.	Has the FCC provided additional detail concerning the ULS element
21		that BellSouth must offer?
22		
23	A.	Yes. Under the Act, the FCC is responsible for defining the minimum set

1	of network elements that incumbent LECs (like BellSouth) must offer to
2	comply with Section 251 of the Act. Section 251(d) charges the FCC with
3	establishing regulations implementing Section 251 of the Act. I realize
4	that there is a legal controversy concerning the FCC's authority to address
5	pricing within these rules and the FCC's pricing regulations are currently
6	stayed. The FCC's rules defining network elements, while under appeal,
7	have not been stayed.
8	
9	The unbundled switching element required by federal rules is the lease of
10	switching capacity on a per-line basis to an entrant that then becomes the
11	subscriber's local telephone carrier with respect to local exchange
12	(including vertical features) and exchange access services:
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	a carrier that purchases the unbundled local switching element to serve an end user effectively obtains the exclusive right to provide all features, functions, and capabilities of the switch, including switching for exchange access and local exchange service, for that end user.
21 22	Order on Reconsideration, Federal Communications Commission, CC
23	Docket No. 96-98, Released September 27, 1996.
24	
25	More specifically, the ULS must include all features, functions and
26	capabilities of the switch, including:
27	

1 2 3	•	basic switching connecting lines and trunks, § 51.319(c)(1)(i)(C)(1),
4 5 6 7	•	any capability available to incumbent LEC customers, including telephone number, white page
8 9		listing and dial tone, § 51.319(c)(1)(i)(C)(1),
10 11		
12 13	•	every feature the switch is capable of providing, including custom calling, CLASS functionality, and
14 15		Centrex, $\S 51.319(c)(1)(i)(C)(2)$,
16 17		
18 19	•	software-controlled systems which transfer end-users to a new exchange carrier in the same interval as the
20		LEC transfers customers between interexchange
21		carriers, § 51.319(c)(1)(ii) (a software-controlled
22		transfer would occur where the entrant purchases the
23		preexisting loop/switch combination serving an end-
24 25		user. In such an instance, it would not be necessary to physically reconfigure the end-user's loop to
26		change its service provider),
27		ominge in service provider,
28		
29		
30	•	establishes the ULS purchaser as the provider of
31		local exchange and exchange access service, §
32		51.307(c) (obligates BellSouth to provide a network
33		element in a manner that permits its purchaser to
34 35		offer any service made possible by the element), §
35 36		51.309(a) (prohibits BellSouth from imposing any restriction that would limit an entrant's ability to use
37		an element to offer any service the entrant desires),
38		and § 51.309(b) (specifies that an entrant may use
39		an element to provide exchange access),
40		
41		
42		
43	•	use of the incumbent's signalling and call-related
44		data base systems in the same manner as the LECs

1 2 3 4	use such systems themselves, \P 51.319(e)(1)(ii) and \P 51.319(c)(2)(iii),
5 6 7 8 9	• access to the <i>entrant's</i> operator services by dialing "0" or "0 plus," the desired telephone number, (FCC Second Report and Order, Docket 96-98, ¶¶ 112, 114, 116.)
11 12 13 14 15	access to directory services using the 411 and 555- 1212 dialing patterns, (ECC Second Percent and Order CC Dealert 96 98 JUL 151)
16 17 18 19 20 21	(FCC Second Report and Order, CC Docket 96-98, ¶ 151). • routing to the entrant's repair functions (611) and
22 23	business office (811). (FCC First Report and Order, CC Docket 92-105, ¶ 46.)
24	
25	The collective effect of these provisions is to define an ULS element that
26	establishes the purchaser as its subscribers' local telephone company in
27	every material respect. The ULS element provides the entrant the ability
28	to: (1) decide the features applicable to each of its subscribers' lines
29	(constrained by the features resident in the switch or accessible through
30	AIN); (2) direct its operator and directory traffic to its own services or
31	those provided by the LEC or a third party; (3) complete local calls using
32	the transport network of the LEC, its own network or the network of a
33	third narty: and (4) provide exchange access services to itself or other

ı		C411G13.
2		
3	Q.	Is the introduction of an unbundled switch element sufficient for wide-
4		scale competition?
5		
6	A.	No. Unbundled switching, by itself, would provide the heart of local
7		competition without a body to sustain it. Local competition also requires
8		that entrants be able to obtain logical combinations of network elements,
9		including combinations where each network element is purchased from
10		BellSouth.
11		
12	Q.	What combination of network elements do you expect competitors will
13		require to enter the market initially?
14		
15	A.	As a practical matter, because no alternative exchange networks yet exist,
16		I expect that entrants will need to purchase most (if not all) network
17		elements from BellSouth. At the least, I expect entrants to obtain both
18		loop and switch capacity as a combination of network elements (frequently
19		with transport and signalling) to form their basic exchange-serving
20		arrangement. This combination of network elements is known as the
21		"platform configuration."

l		With an ability to obtain the full combination of network elements,
2		competition will not be limited to those areas, and those few customers,
3		that will first attract alternative networks. Any number of entrants will be
4		able to approach the market with new services and competitive choices
5		because each will be able to use however much (or little) of the exchange
6		network they need to offer their services.
7		
8	Q.	Does the Commission require BellSouth to provision network element
9		combinations?
10		
11	A.	Yes. The Florida Commission has consistently maintained that BellSouth
12		must support network element combinations as required under the Act and
13		the FCC's implementing regulations. The FCC rules clearly spell out
14		BellSouth's obligation to honor entrant requests for network element
15		combinations:
16 17 18		47 CFR § 51.315(a):
19 20		An incumbent LEC shall provide unbundled network elements in a manner that allows requesting
		telecommunications carriers to combine such
22		network elements in order to provide a
23		telecommunications service.
24		
25		AT OFD 6 51 0150.
20		47 CFR § 51.315(b):
21 22 23 24 25 26 27		Except upon request, an incumbent LEC shall not
29		separate requested network elements that the

1		incumbent LEC currently combines.
2		
3		The FCC further emphasized its commitment to network element
4		combinations, noting that:
5 6 7 8 9		Under our [the FCC] method, incumbents must provide, as a single, combined element, facilities that could comprise more than one element. First Report and Order, CC Docket 96-98, ¶ 295.
0		
11	Q.	Why are network combinations so important to local competition?
3	A.	For three reasons. First, effecting a large number of customer requests to
4		change local carriers will require that the customer's decision can be
5		implemented in an automated fashion. Using the unbundled loop by itself
6		means that a physical change in the network will be necessary i.e., the
.7		actual loop to the customer must be reconfigured from BellSouth's local
.8		switch to a competitor's every time a customer changes its local service
.9		provider. As a result, unbundled loops (by themselves) cannot satisfy the
20		fundamental condition for local competition that customers can be moved
21		to a new local provider in a service interval equal to the interval that
22		customers will be able to choose BellSouth for long distance services.
23		
24		Second, there are over 23,000 local switches in the local exchange

networks of the incumbent local exchange carriers today. No competitor can replicate, any time soon, this vast switching matrix on which virtually all customer loops now terminate. Importantly, the economic cost of local switching is closely aligned with that of the loops that it connects. To the extent that loop plant is a natural monopoly, a similar (although not identical) conclusion must apply to the local switches that connect them.

Moreover, even where competitive switches are installed, the fact remains that the cost to reconfigure loops, particularly to connect to a geographically distant or different switch, will likely limit the utility of this form of entry to large customers. The only way that entry will occur on a broad scale, and on an economic basis comparable to BellSouth, is if multiple carriers can use the existing switches (and loop/switch combinations) to provide service.

Q. Does the Department of Justice recognize the availability of network element combinations (i.e., the platform) as a necessary precondition to Checklist compliance?

A. Yes. The Department of Justice recently completed its review of Ameritech's application for interLATA authority in the State of Michigan.

In its comments to the FCC, the Department recommended rejection of the

1	application because Ameritech does not satisfy the Checklist, including its
2	requirements to offer network element combinations:
3	
4	This [the FCC's Local Competition Order] requires BOCs to provide what
5	has often been referred to as the "network platform."
6	Thus Ameritech cannot receive Section 271
7	authority unless it makes common transport
8	available, in conjunction with both unbundled
9	switching and the 'network platform,' as both a
10	legal and a practical matter.
11	No.
12	(Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Justice, Ameritech-Michigan, June
13	25, 1997, pages 14-15.)
14	
15	Furthermore, the Department noted the importance of the "network
16	platform" to achieving the competitive environment envisioned by the Act.
17	
18	
19	It is important to appreciate, however, the
20	competitive significance of the failure to provide
21	these items, which precludes a determination that
22	approval of Ameritech's application would be
23	consistent with the public interest. With respect to
24	unbundled switching and shared transport (as
25	defined by the relevant orders of the Commission
26	and the MPSC), Ameritech's failure to make these
27	Checklist requirements practically available to its
28	competitors forecloses an important entry vehicle
29	involving the "network platform."
30	
31	(<u>Id.</u> at 34.)
32	

1		Consequently, the Department of Justice both recognizes that the platform
2		is necessary to satisfy the stated requirements of the Competitive Checklist
3		as well as its competitive importance to consumers.
4		
5	Q.	Has the FCC recently reaffirmed its decision to require BellSouth (and
6		other incumbents) to provide network element combinations in the
7		manner you have described?
8		
9	A.	Yes. The FCC has reemphasized the importance of network element
10		combinations in its recent access reform decision. The FCC has
11		specifically rejected applying access charges to purchasers of network
12		elements (who, in effect, become the access provider for their customers),
13		including BellSouth's argument that resale treatment should apply:
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		We [the FCC] are also unpersuaded by suggestions that access charges should be imposed on unbundled elements because provision of competitive service by rebundling the same network elements used by the incumbent LEC to provide access is equivalent to resale of a retail service. (FCC First Report and Order, Docket 96-262, Released May 16, 1997, ¶
24		340.)
25		
26		As a result, the FCC reaffirmed the decision in its Interconnection Order
27		that the loop and switch network elements establish their purchaser as the

I		provider of both local exchange and exchange access service:
2		
4		As we noted in the Local Competition Order,
5		payment of cost-based rates represents full
6	`	compensation to the incumbent LEC for use of the
7		network elements that carriers purchase.
8		
9		
10		Allowing incumbent LECs to recover access
11 12		charges in addition to the reasonable cost of such facilities would constitute double recovery because
13		the ability to provide access services is already
14		included in the cost of the access facilities
15		themselves.
16		
17		(<u>Id.</u> at ¶ 337.)
18		
19		In fact, the FCC emphasized that it would have taken a more prescriptive
20		approach to access charge reform if new entrants could not use network
21		elements, including combinations, to enter the exchange market.
22		
23	Q.	Has the appeals court upheld the FCC's decision concerning the
24		application of access charges?
25		
26	A.	Yes, in a decision dated June 27, 1997, the Court of Appeals for the 8th
27		Circuit upheld the FCC's decision to permit the temporary application of
28		interstate access charges " even though such charges on their face
29		appear to violate the statute " The practical effect of this decision is

1		to uphold the FCC's temporary exception an exception which has now
2		expired and affirm the FCC's authority to require that the ILEC is no
3		longer the access provider for the ULS purchaser's customers.
4		
5	Q.	Does BellSouth have the operational systems to support unbundled
6		local switches and combination of network elements?
7		
8	A.	No. BellSouth has not yet operationalized an unbundled local switching
9		network element that satisfies the above-cited requirements. BellSouth has
10		recently informed AT&T that its systems do not have the ability to render
11		accurate bills for this arrangement. BellSouth has admitted this to the
12		Commission. (BellSouth's Response and Memorandum in Opposition to
13		AT&T's Motion to Compel, Florida Dockets 960833-TP/960846-TP, filed
14		June 23, 1997, page 8).
15		
16		Importantly, creating the systems needed for unbundled local switching to
17		be practically available systems to place the purchaser in control of the
18		features on its subscribers' lines, systems to support carrier-access billing
19		by the entrant (and, just as importantly, to cease the access billing by
20		BellSouth), and the software and systems necessary to ultimately provide

some time to develop.

21

22

the entrant control over the routing of its subscribers' traffic -- will take

1 2		IV. THE COMPETITIVE IMPLICATIONS OF FULL SERVICE COMPETITION AND THE NEED FOR RAPID LOCAL ENTRY
3		
4	Q.	Why did Congress require state regulators to verify complete
5		implementation of the Competitive Checklist?
6		
7	A.	BellSouth's interLATA opportunity is immediate and ubiquitous. There
8		must be a similarly rapid opportunity for entrants to offer local services
9		broadly in the market or competition will fail. The speed and ease by
0		which BellSouth can provide long distance services (discussed in Section
. 1		IV) means that the Commission must be absolutely convinced that local
2		exchange markets are competitive and that the Checklist is operational
3		before BellSouth is allowed to enter the long distance market. It will
4		simply be too late to try and establish local competition after BellSouth as
5		entered the long distance market.
.6		
.7	Q.	Will BellSouth's ability to offer interLATA services alter the
8		telecommunications industry?
.9		
20	A.	Yes. It is important to recognize that the removal of the interLATA
21		restriction on BellSouth will forever change the telecommunications
22		industry and has implications for both local and long distance competition.
23		This expectation underscores not only the need for local competition, but

the need for local competition now.

The most likely consequence of the removal of BellSouth's interLATA restriction is the reintegration of the local and long distance markets. BellSouth will *never* operate as a conventional interexchange carrier, providing long distance services to a customer that obtains local service from another provider. Rather, BellSouth will operate as a full service provider, offering both local and long distance services.

I recognize that Bellsouth will use a different *legal* entity to offer interLATA service. The relevant issue, however, is whether BellSouth will offer its interLATA services through an entity that is perceived as a separate provider by Florida consumers. If not, then BellSouth is essentially operating as an integrated full service provider and the future of competition depends on the ability of others to do the same.

Q. What will be the effect of BellSouth's offering interLATA services?

A.

As I discuss in more detail below, the combined effect of a market preference for "one-stop" shopping and BellSouth's full participation as a one-stop provider will have a dramatic effect on the structure of the telecommunications industry. BellSouth will not "enter" the long distance

market so much as its interLATA authority will effectively eliminate long distance service as a separate market. If consumers prefer one-stop shopping -- and available evidence suggests this is the case -- then there must be competition for each service in the "one-stop package" or competition in all telecommunications markets will suffer. The single most important piece of any package -- indeed, the compulsory element of the package -- is local phone service.

Q. Are you implying that the future of all competition depends on local competition succeeding?

A. Yes. Local service must become competitive or full service competition will never be a reality. BellSouth cannot be permitted to offer interLATA long distance services (and thus become a full service provider) until others can just as easily offer local services and compete.

As shown below, BellSouth's ability to offer interLATA services will be rapid and complete. It will quickly be able to offer long distance services to every customer within its territory as soon as it has obtained its legal authority. Sections 251 and 252(D) and the Competitive Checklist (and the federal rules which it includes) are intended to assure that others have a comparable ability to approach these same customers and offer a choice of

•		Tall Set vice provider,
2		
3	Q.	Will it be simple for BellSouth to offer long distance services once it
4		obtains the legal authority to do so?
5		
6	A.	Yes. There is no question that BellSouth will be able easily to offer long
7		distance service after all, thousands of firms since divestiture have
8		entered this market without any of the advantages of being an incumbent
9		local exchange carrier. The reason that BellSouth will be able to enter the
10		long distance market so quickly, however, is that the actions needed to
11		reduce (indeed, eliminate) long distance entry barriers began more than 15
12		years ago and are now fully implemented.
13		
14		Divestiture, and the FCC rules which followed it, fundamentally
15		restructured the industry to enable long distance competition. Fifteen years
16		later, these changes are all fully implemented and operational. In 1995
17		more than 42 million customers changed their long distance carrier, many
18		within 24 hours of making the decision. (Peter K. Pitsch, The Long
19		Distance Market is Competitive, PITSCH COMMUNICATIONS
20		September 3, 1996, page 2).
21		

In direct contrast to the uncertainty surrounding local competition, the

1		behalf of some interexchange carriers.
2		
3		Overall, BellSouth already performs (or possesses the capabilities to
4		perform) most of the functions necessary to provide interLATA service
5		and, for those functions that it does not, it can easily out-source these
6		functions in a competitive environment.
7		
8	Q.	What is the practical consequence of the observation that long distance
9		entry is now easy?
10		
11	A.	The practical effect is that BellSouth can become a full service provider
12		overnight once the legal restriction is removed. BellSouth has already
13		contracted for the long distance "network elements" it will need to provide
14		service. (BellSouth has chosen AT&T as its interLATA network vendor.
15		See Merrill Lynch, BellSouth/AT&T Contract Reinforces the RBOC/GTE
16		Investment Case, June 20, 1996, reprinted as Appendix 5 to Telecom
17		Services Bulletin, August 9, 1996.)
18		
19		BellSouth is free to mix and match interLATA network elements in any
20		combination it chooses to create any service it desires. Unlike the
21		restrictions that BellSouth wants to impose on local competitors, there are
22		no requirements that BellSouth provide some interLATA network elements

1		before it may purchase others, nor is BellSouth limited to the resale of the
2		retail services designed by its competitors.
3		
4		Further, BellSouth will be able to immediately convert customers to its full
5		service package with little incremental effort or cost. The cost to move
6		customers to its long distance services is nominal. BellSouth charges
7		\$1.49 to implement such a change and its true cost (i.e., its economic cost)
8		is far less.
9		
10		BellSouth's entry barriers are insignificant because it has the equivalent of
11		cost-based network elements; it can combine any network element of its
12		choice without restriction; it has complete control of the services it offers;
13		it enjoys the benefit of incurring only the economic cost of its local
14		network facilities; and, each of the operational systems necessary to
15		support its entry are fully implemented and routine.
16		
17	Q.	Does this anticipated demand for one-stop shopping imply that
18		BellSouth would be disadvantaged if the Commission first assures that
19		the conditions for local competition are actually available and working
20		before BellSouth is authorized to provide interLATA services?
21		
22	A.	No. BellSouth will no doubt claim that any approach which does not

guarantee it immediate entry will provide its competitors a "head start."

This claim is a complete illusion -- as much an illusion as the "head start" enjoyed by the outside runner of a race. The runner in the outside lane requires a "head start" because that runner has farther to run. Similarly, entrants to the local market -- where each and every aspect of local competition is new and untested -- require actual market experience before the Commission can determine whether the tools are actually being provided in the manner necessary for local competition to be commercially viable.

Q. Are today's barriers to entry in the local market comparable to those that once existed in long distance?

Α.

No. By contrast to entry into the long distance market, the barriers to entry into the local service market are high. As a starting point, the Commission should understand that long distance networks exhibit significantly different economic characteristics than local networks. Intercity long distance networks are high-usage facilities, requiring relatively little switching investment, with more flexibility in right-of-way selection between distant points. As a result, the nation's experience establishing long distance networks was relatively rapid (i.e., only 20 years) and successful.

1	These attributes, however, do not apply to local networks. Local networks
2	are constructed to specific premises for individual consumers, not general
3	areas. Switches are located closer to customers, loop investment sits idle
4	much of the day, and local calling volumes far exceed those of long
5	distance. These characteristics make entry into this market significantly
6	more difficult and costly than entry into the long distance market.
7	
8	For comparison, consider,
9	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	• AT&T serves the entire nation with just over 130 switches (MCI, Sprint and WorldCom use fewer); the LECs have 23,000. (In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Completion Provision of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket 96-98 (FCC First Report and Order), ¶ 411 (August 8, 1996).) In Florida alone, BellSouth has 218 switches.
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	• In 1995, long distance carriers serving BOC territories switched 54.6 billion interLATA calls; the BOCs switched 482.7 billion calls, nearly 9 times more. (Table 2.10, 1995 Statistics of Communications Common Carriers, All Reporting RBOCs.)
29 30 31 32 33 34	• Each long distance switch typically routes the traffic of multiple cities (sometimes states); local switches, on average, handle the routing of 6,200 customers. (Table 2.10, 1995 Statistics of Communications Common Carriers, All Reporting LECs.)

Local networks are more difficult to replicate because their ubiquity and scale give rise to substantial declining costs. Further, BellSouth acquired the local rights-of-way necessary to establish the basic network footprint of loops and local switches over the past 115 years.

Because of the local exchange carriers' economies of connectivity, density and scale, competition will not develop in local markets unless the incumbents share these economies with other service providers. This, in turn, requires the complete implementation of the unbundling and interconnection requirements of the Act, including the modification of operational and billing systems to make these tools real.

Q. Should the Commission rely on the Act's requirement that BellSouth offer long distance services through an affiliate as justification to weaken its review of BellSouth's Checklist compliance?

A. No. Even after the requirements of Sections 251 and 271 are fully satisfied, the Act recognizes that BellSouth will retain an incentive to discriminate in favor of its affiliated long distance services. As such, the Act imposes minimal protections in Section 272 intended to lessen (but which do not eliminate) BellSouth's ability to exploit this incentive by favoring its own competitive services.

The requirements of Section 272, and the FCC rules which implement them, however, do not diminish the Commission's obligation to fully assure that BellSouth has complied with the Checklist. These rules are not a substitute for the competition expected by Section 271's full compliance. For instance, neither "imputation" requirements, nor transactional rules are a substitute for cost-based rates. The true economic consequences of BellSouth's affiliate structure is relevant only when BellSouth reports to its shareholders. The performance of its subsidiary operations individually are irrelevant -- where two subsidiaries are providing service, all that matters is the *net* effect, not isolated performance. When you own the pants, it does not matter in which pocket you keep your money.

V. CONCLUSION

Q. Please summarize your testimony.

A.

Section 271 establishes this Commission as a fact-consultant to the FCC. To discharge this role, the Commission must critically examine BellSouth's claimed satisfaction of the requirements of Sections 251 and 252(d) of the Act and the Competitive Checklist, it must verify that BellSouth complies with all applicable federal rules, and it should report to the FCC on the quantitative status of local competition in Florida. The Commission should

remember that BellSouth must prove that it has satisfied each of these conditions. It is not the responsibility of other parties, the Staff, or the Commission to prove BellSouth's non-compliance.

The Act holds the promise of a fully competitive telecommunications industry, but achieving this vision requires the full implementation of BellSouth's obligations. A competitive one-stop market depends upon a competitive local market as an initial, essential condition. Barriers to long distance entry -- including, importantly, operational barriers -- have all fallen as a result of the nation's decades-long commitment to competition. Local barriers must fall to this same low level for the next stage of the industry's evolution to succeed. My testimony has demonstrated that BellSouth does not provide a local switching network element, nor can it support network element combinations, as required by the Act, the FCC, and this Commission's arbitration decisions.

Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

19 A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

i HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony of Joseph Gillan on Behalf of Florida Competitive Carriers Association, AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc., MCI Telecommunications Corporation, and WorldCom, Inc. has been furnished by U.S. Mail, by hand delivery(*), or by overnight delivery(**) on this 17th day of July, 1997, to the following:

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