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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

SEP 26 1996

DOCKETING DIVISION In the Matter of the Commission Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 83-464-TP-COI Investigation Relative to Establishment of Intrastate Access Charges. In the Matter of the Application of The Ohio Bell Telephone Company for Approval of an Alternative Form Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT of Regulation. In the Matter of the Implementation of Substitute Senate Bill 306 or Substitute House Bill 734 of the 121st) Case No. 96-532-TP-UNC General Assembly

COMMENTS OF AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF OHIO, INC. RESPONDING TO AMERITECH OHIO'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

I. INTRODUCTION

AT&T Communications of Ohio, Inc. ("AT&T"), by its attorneys, respectfully submit these comments in response to Attorney-Examiner Jeffrey R. Jones' Entry of September 19, 1996 in the above cases. That Entry provided interested parties with an opportunity to file comments in response to Ameritech Ohio's letter of September 18, 1996 on the subject of the pay telephone set use fee.

Ameritech's May 23, 1996 tariff filing with the Federal

Communications Commission ("FCC") could not be more patently clear -- the
pay telephone set use fee or charge (the "set use fee") is a part of the Carrier

Common Line Charge basket ("CCLC"). The failure of Ameritech to eliminate
the set use fee from its intrastate tariffs on September 1, 1996, therefore,

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unquestionably violates the settlement agreement entered into Case No. 96-532-TP-UNC. In accordance with the settlement agreement, if Ameritech Ohio is to retain the benefits of its alternative regulation plan, the Commission must direct Ameritech to immediately eliminate its recently created set use fee, a part of the CCLC, and refund the charges recovered from IXC's since September 1, 1996.

II. THE SET USE FEE IS AN ELEMENT OF THE CCLC

On April 26, 1995, Ameritech sought a waiver of the FCC's part 69 Rules in order to <u>restructure</u>¹ the charges for the use of its pay telephones to originate interstate traffic. The waiver was necessary in order to restructure rates and create the new pay telephone use fee.

Ameritech Ohio acknowledged in its August 16, 1996

Memorandum Contra in Case No. 83-464-TP-COI that costs associated with the receipt of pay telephone traffic by interexchange carriers ("IXCs") have always been included in the CCLC, a charge based on each carrier's total minutes of switched access use. Ameritech claimed in its FCC filing that it had developed the ability to identify all interstate traffic that originates from its pay phones

Ameritech Ohio stated that "[t]he institution of Ameritech Ohio's set use fee was accompanied by a restructuring of rates to remove costs previously included in the calculation of the CCLC." As will be explained below in these comments, pay telephone costs were not removed from the CCLC calculation. Instead, the basis of recovery of such costs was changed from a total switched access minutes basis to the number of calls from a pay telephone. In fact, Exhibit 1 to Ameritech's May 23, 1996 FCC tariff filing demonstrates that the "current revenues" and "projected revenues" for the CCL access service after creation of the new rate element within the CCLC basket (the set use fee) were virtually identical (\$224,647,817 before the creation of the new CCL rate element and \$224,673,668 projected after creation of the set use fee as a new rate element). Thus, the restructure was merely to create a new element to be included within the CCLC basket, namely, the set use fee.

and the identity of the IXC to which such traffic was routed. With this recently developed information, Ameritech proposed to establish a new discrete rate element within the CCLC to recover pay telephone costs on a different basis (i.e., the number of pay telephone calls instead of each carrier's total minutes of switched access use.)

Ameritech's FCC tariffs filed to establish this new element, however also illustrate that the set use fee has been and still is an element of the carrier common line charge. See attachment A. Carrier common line access service has three rate elements: premium rates for terminating and originating minutes; non-premium rates for terminating and originating minutes, and the pay telephone use fee (the set use fee). This set use fee was established because Ameritech wanted to change the cost recovery methodology of pay telephone costs. Pay telephone costs are still recovered in the CCLC, but on a different basis than are premium rates and non-premium rates. Pay telephone costs are now recovered on the basis of the number of calls originating from Ameritech pay phones rather than on the basis of total switched access minutes. As succinctly shown in Exhibit 1 to Ameritech's FCC tariff filing (attachment A), the set use fee rate element was created out of the first two rate elements of the CCL (premium and non-premium rates). Only the recovery mechanism for CCL changed; the pay telephone traffic costs were created from pre-existing rate elements of the CCLC and are still considered carrier common line access costs according to the Ameritech FCC tariff.

The fact that the set use fee is merely a rate element within the CCLC is further supported by the conclusion of the staff of the Wisconsin PSC in its September 4, 1996 letter to Ameritech Wisconsin.² Although Ameritech Ohio's counsel indicates that both the law in Ohio and the facts distinguish the Ohio case from the Wisconsin case, that is inaccurate.

As referenced in the Wisconsin PSC staff letter, Wisconsin has a statute which prohibits a price-regulated telecommunications utility, such as Ameritech Wisconsin, from reinstating or substituting an intrastate carrier common line charge after September 1, 1996. While Ohio does not have a similar statute, Ameritech Ohio has agreed to the same prohibition by virtue of the settlement it signed in Case No. 96-532-TP-UNC, which was accompanied by S.B. 306, legislation which allowed reinstatement of Ameritech Ohio's alternative regulation plan. While Ameritech Wisconsin is statutorily prohibited from mirroring interstate carrier common line charges, Ameritech Ohio is likewise prohibited by virtue of its settlement agreement. The fact remains that the PSC of Wisconsin staff has recently addressed this issue and has found that the set use fee is a replacement for a portion of the CCLC. This Commission should find persuasive the Wisconsin staff's conclusion.

In fact, Ameritech itself called the set use fee "a new rate element of the Carrier Common Line basket" at page 7 of its reply comments submitted

² The Wisconsin PSC staff letter was filed in this docket by MCI Telecommunications Corporation and AT&T on September 9, 1996.

in FCC Docket No. CC 96-268. Indeed, Ameritech went on to state that it will identify the

"pay telephone revenue requirement allocated to originating and terminating CCL charges . . . then divide that amount by the number of interstate calls originating from Ameritech pay telephones during that base period. To maintain revenue neutrality Ameritech will treat the costs to be recovered through the set use fee as an exogenous amount and remove those costs from the Common Line basket price cap index." (Ibid.)

Finally, a careful review of Ameritech Ohio's September 18, 1996 letter also illuminates that Ameritech Ohio never affirmatively denies that the set use is part of the CCL. The reason for this obvious omission is plain; the set use fee is a part of the CCLC.

III. AMERITECH HAS VIOLATED THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN CASE NO. 96-532-TP-COI

Ameritech Ohio signed the settlement agreement in Case No. 96-532-TP-COI on May 20, 1996. Paragraph 4 of that settlement agreement provides:

4. Ameritech Ohio shall timely file tariffs which reduce to zero (\$0.00) for the term of the plan of alternative regulation the intrastate carrier common line rate effective September 1, 1996. The Commission shall approve such tariff filing to be effective no later than September 1, 1996.

Ameritech Ohio stipulated to the reduction of the CCL rate to zero.

It did not stipulate to a particular revenue reduction level.³ When Ameritech

³ Much of Ameritech's September 18, 1996 letter is devoted to what can only be viewed as creative accounting - manufacturing the illusion that even without the elimination of the set use fee, IXCs are receiving a greater value than the projected \$21 million dollar impact at the time the settlement was reached. This is both irrelevant and misleading. It is irrelevant

Ohio signed the stipulation in May, 1996 pay telephone traffic costs were being recovered through the carrier common line charge, but on the basis of total switched access minutes. Today, pay telephone costs are still recovered through the carrier common line charge, but, via this new element, on the basis of the number of calls originating from Ameritech Ohio pay telephones.

This intrastate set use fee is part of the CCLC and must be reduced to zero just as the rate for premium and non-premium usage CCL charges have been reduced to zero. Anything otherwise is a violation of the settlement agreement and the clear intent of the parties in signing that agreement.

IV. CONCLUSION

The pay telephone set use fee should have been eliminated as of September 1, 1996 as it is part of the carrier common line charge ("CCLC"). Merely because the method of recovery of pay telephone costs differs from the method of recovery for premium and non-premium rates should not make a difference. Ameritech's own FCC tariffs clearly show that the set use fee is part of the CCLC.

The settlement agreement in Case No. 96-532-TP-UNC provided for a reduction of the intrastate carrier common line rate to zero. Zero means zero. Ameritech Ohio has continued to mirror its interstate set use fee in Ohio, and,

because the Settlement Agreement in Case No. 96-532 was a <u>rate</u> reduction, not a specific revenue reduction. It is misleading because while the \$21 million represented the PUCO Staff's estimated impact of eliminating the CCL in Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT, Ameritech has increased the interstate CCL by over 50% since May, 1996 when the Settlement Agreement was signed. It should not be lost on this Commission that Ameritech Ohio has "made itself whole" since the elimination of the other intrastate CCL rate elements with these interstate increases. These increases - contrary to Ameritech's letter - represent no additional value to AT&T in the intrastate.

thus has violated the settlement agreement. AT&T respectfully requests the Commission to order Ameritech to refund all set use fee dollars recovered since September 1, 1996 to the inter-exchange carriers and to require Ameritech to file a new tariff which provides for a rate of zero for the set use fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing "Comments of AT&T Communications of Ohio Inc. Responding to Ameritech Ohio's Letter of September 18, 1996," was served upon the parties of record, as designated on the attached service list, by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 26th day of September, 1996.

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Thomas E. Lodge Thompson, Hine & Flory One Columbus 10 West Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3435 Vicky M. Norris Century Telephone Company of Ohio . 65 E. State Street, Suite 1000 Columbus, Ohio 43215 "ATTACHMENT A"

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MC



Relatio II. Shirtum Director Faderal Regulatory Planning & Policy

May 23, 1998

Transmittel No. 974

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20854

Attention: Common Carrier Bureau

The accompanying tariff meterial, issued on behalf of Ameritach and bearing Tariff F.C.C. No. 2, Access Service, is sent to you for filing in compliance with the requirements of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. This meterial, scheduled to become effective May 24, 1995, consists of revised tariff pages as indicated on the following revised check sheet.

Teriff F.C.C. No.

Check Sheet No.

2

881st Revised Page 1 206m Revised Page 1.1

Under authority of Special Permission No. 98-493 of the Federal Communications
Commission, Ameritach proposes revisions to the tariff and support documentation for
Ameritach's pending Transmittal No. 953 and advancing the effective date to
May 24, 1998. Transmittal No. 953, filed Merch 5, 1996, proposes to introduce a Pay
Telephone Set Use Fee and restructure rates to remove costs included in CCL rates which
are related to providing pay telephones.

Support material pursuant to Section \$1.49 of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations is submitted herewith.

- 2-

The required filling fee, check number 1198 for \$565.00, the original copy of this letter and F.C.C. Form No. 159 were sent to the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, PA via UPS Next Day Air on May 23, 1996. All correspondence and inquiries concerning this filling should be addressed to me at the above address.

Kristin U. Shulman Af

Attachments:

Teriff Pages
Documentation

Copy of Letter and Attachments concurrently delivered to:

Chief, Tariff Review Branch (Public Reference Copy) International Transcription Services, Inc.

TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 2 881st Revised Page 1 Cancels 880th Revised Page 1

ACCESS SERVICE CHECK SHEET

Title pages 1 and 2 and Pages 1 to 655 inclusive of this tariff are effective as of the date shown. Original and revised Pages as named below and Supplement Nos. 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42, 43, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 55, 56, 57, 56, 59, 62, 64, 65, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 79, 63, 65, 66, 90, 92, 93, 94, 96, 95, 99, 100, 101, 103, 106, 106, 106, 116, 117, 121, 133, 134, 135, 137, 140, 144, 153, 160, 162, 184, 185, 187, 170, 179, 183, 184, 190, 191, 194, 195, 196, 197, 199, 200, 201, 203, 204, 208, 209, 210, 214, 215, 216, 217, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 234, 236, 237, 239, 244, 245, 247, 248, 249, 250 251, 252 and 253 contain all changes from the original tariff that are in effect on the date hereof.

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7 6th 34 4th 7.1 3rd 34.1 1st 8 11th 35 5th 8.1 4th 35.1 1st 9 16th 36 6th 9.1 1st 36.1 6th 10 21st 37 13th 10.1 6th 37.1 4th 10.2 6th 37.2 6th 11 4th 37.3 5th 12 5th 37.4 1st 13 5th 37.5 2nd		2nd				
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13 5th 37,5 2nd			37.2			
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15.1 9th 38.3 3rd						
15.2 1st 38.4 3rd						

* New or revised Page Issued: May 23, 1996 (TR974)

Effective: May 24, 1996

Kristin U. Shulman, 4G62 Director, Federal Regulatory Planning & Policy 2000 W. Ameritech Center Drive Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60196-1025

TARIFF F.C.C.NO. 2 205th Revised Page 1.1 Cancels 206th Revised Page 1.1

ACCESS SERVICE CHECK SHEET

Page	Number of Revision Except as Indicated	Page	Number of Revision Except as Indicated	Page	Number of Revision Except as Indicated
48	3rd	68.2	•	-	
40	11th	69.Z 69	3rd 7th	84.3	- 1st
49.1	9th	69,1	Original	85	10th
50	11th	70	(1gina) 4th*	85.1 86	2nd
50.1	2nd	70.1	Original	87	181
50.2	2nd	70.2	2nd*	88	Snd Snc
50,2.1 50.3	2nd	70.3	2nd	28	8th 4th
50.4	2nd 1st	70.4	375	89.1	12th
50.5	2nd	70.5 70.6	Original	89.2	11th
50.6	Oiriginal	70.7	Original	80	7th
51	1 s t	70.8	Original Original	90.1	5th
53	7th	70.9	Original	90.2	Origina)
53.1	6th	70.10	Original	91 93	151
53.2	5th	70,11	Original	94	3rd [*] 4th
53. 3 54	6th	70.12	Original	96	1st
54.1	6 ជា 11th	70.13	1st	97	5th
54.2	1st	70.14 70.15	Original	98	12th
55	ist	70.15	Original	99	4th
56	7th	70.17	Original Original	99.1	Original
58.1	2nd	70.18	Original	104 107	3rd
56.2	151	70.19	Original	109	1st 1st
56.3 56.4	181	70.20	PanighQ	110	314
56.5	1 st 1 st	70.21	Original	110.1	41h
57	7th	70.22 70.23	Original	111	āth
58	1st	70.24	2nd* 38th*	111.1	2110
59	16th	79.25	18th	111.1.1 111.1.2	2nd
59.1	11th	72 75	151	111.1.3	3rd 2nd
59 ,1,1	Original	<u>75</u>	2nd	112	7th
59.2 59.3	41h	76	19th	112.1	4th
50	1st 10th	77 78	19th	112.1.1	2nd
61	8th	70	17th	112.1.2	2nd
61.1	6th	80	18th 18th	112.2	4th
62	4th	80.1	2nd	113	12th
63	7th	81	4in		
64 64.1	7th	81.1	3/14		
65	5th	82	4th		
65.1	5th 2na	82.1	Original		
66	Sin	83 83,1	en		
86.1	7th	84	1# 1 14th		
67	19th	84.1	51h		
67.1	O th	84.1.1	2nd		
68	17th	84.1.2	1at		
55.1	17th	84.2	4th		

* New or revised Page Issued: May 23, 1996

(TR974)

Effective: May 24, 1896

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TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 2 4th Revised Page 70 Cancels 3rd Revised Page 70

ACCESS SERVICE

3. Carrier Common Line Access Service

The Telephone Company will provide Carrier Common Line Access Service (Carrier Common Line Access) to customers in conjunction with Switched Access Service provided in Section 5 of this tariff.

3.1 General Description

Carrier Common Line Access provides for the use of end users' Telephone Company provided common line by customers for access to such end users to furnish interstate Communications.

Premium Access is Switched Access Service provided to customers under this tariff which furnish interstate MTS/WATS and Switched Access Service in an end office converted to equal access.

Non Premium Access is Switched Access Service provided in an end office not yet converted to equal access to customers that do not furnish interestate MTS/WATS.

A Special Access Surcharge, as set forth in 7.4.2(E) following, will apply to interstate special access service provided by the Telephone Company to a customer, in accordance with regulations as set forth in 7.4.2 following.

A Pay Tolophone Use Fee will apply to all completed interstate calls originating from pay telephones,

Sy

y Relasued material scheduled to become effective on deferred date of June 3, 1996 under Transmitts! No. 968.

(TR974)

Issued: May 23, 1998

Effective: May 24, 1996

TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 2 2nd Revised Page 70.2 Cancels 1st Revised Page 70.2

ACCESS SERVICE

- 5. Carrier Common Line Access Service (Cont'd)
 - 3.3 Undertaking of the Telephone Company
 - 3.3.1 Provision of Service

Where the customer is provided Switched Access Service under other sections of this tariff, the Telephone Company will provide the use of Telephone Company common lines by a customer for access to end users at rates and charges as set forth in 3,9 following.

3.3.2 Interetate and Intrastate Use

The Switched Access Service provided by the Telephone Company includes the Switched Access Service provided for both interstate and intrastate communications. The Certier Common Line Access rates and charges as set forth in 3.9 following apply to interstate Switched Access Service access minutes and Pay Telephone messages in accordance with the rate regulations as set forth in 3.8.4 following (Percent interstate Use - PIU).

8v

3.4 Obligations of the Customer

3.4.1 Switched Access Service Requirements

The Switched Access Service associated with Carrier Common Line Access shall be ordered by the customer under other sections of this tariff.

3.4.2 Supervision

The customer facilities at the premises of the ordering customer shall provide the necessary on-hook and off-hook supervision.

সর্বাহ্যমন্ত্র material scheduled to become effective on deferred date of June 3, 1998 under Transmittal No. 968.

(TR974)

lasued: May 23, 1996

Effective: May 24, 1986

TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 2 2nd Revised Page 70,23 Cancela 1st Revised Page 70,23

ACCESS SERVICE

- 3. Carrier Common Line Access Service (Cont'd)
 - 3.8 Rate Regulations (Contd)
 - 3.8.5 Determination of Premium and Non-Premium Charges (Cont'd)
 - (E) The originating Premium Access or Non-Premium Access, per minute charge(s) apply to:
 - all originating access minutes of use;
 - less those originating access minutes of use associated with FGA Access
 Genvices where the off-hook supervisory signaling is forwarded by the
 customer's aguipment when the called party answers:
 - less all originating access minutes of use associated with calls placed to 700, 800 and 900 numbers;
 - plus all originating access minutes of use associated with calls placed to 700, 200 and 900 numbers for which the customer furnishes for each month a report of either the number of calls or minutes or a report of the percent of calls or minutes that is assessed Carrier Common Line charges, and for which a corresponding reduction in the number access minutes of use has been made as set forth in (D) preceding.
 - 3.8.5 Application of Telecommunications Carrier Pay Telephone Use Fee

A Pay Telephone Use Fee will apply to any telecommunications interexchange armonistic transformation and requities and/or services of Telephone Company pay telephones. This charge is essessed for use of those facilities or services to complete interstate calls which originate from pay telephones (including, but not illmited to calls dialed using 10XXX, 950, Q+, 1+ and 500 numbers). The Pay Telephone Use Fee will apply for each completed interstate message originating from a Telephone Company pay telephone.

y Reissued material scheduled to become effective on deferred date of June 3, 1996 under Transmittel No. 988.

(TR974)

Issued: May 23, 1996

Effective: May 24, 1986

TARIFF F.C.C. NO. Z 36th Revised Page 70.24 Cancels 36th Revised Page 70.24

Rate

ACCESS SERVICE

- 3. Carrier Common Line Access Service (Cont'd)
 - 3.9 Rates and Charges

Ali States

Carrier Common Line Charge

Premium Rates

Terminating and Originating - Per Access Minute		8y 8y
lilinois	\$.002316 Sy	Sy
Indiane	.005086	1
Michigan	.005922	
Ohio Wisconsin	,005203	
vyigconsin	.004824 Sy	Ŝy
Non Premium Rates		
Terminating and Originating - Per Access Minute		5y 3y
Illinois	.001042 Sy	_
Indiana	.002289	Sy
Michigan	.002065	1
Oplo	.002341	
Wisconsin	.00208! Sy	. S y
Pay Telephone Use Fee		Sz
- Per Originating Message		.
for Completed Calls	.248 Rx	
•	-470 (14	8z

- z Reissued material scheduled to become effective on deferred date of June 3, 1996 under Transmittal No. 966.
 Issued under authority of Special Permission No. 95-495.
- y Reissued material scheduled to become effective on

June 3, 1996 under Transmittel No. 985.

(TR974)

Effective: May 24, 1888

Set Use Fee Modification Transmittel No. 974 May 23, 1996

DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Under authority of Special Permission No. 96-493, Ameritech hereby submits revisions to the tariff and support documentation for Ameritech's pending Transmittsi No. 953. Transmittsi No. 953, filled March 5, 1998, perposes to immoduce a Pay Talephone Use Fee and restructure rates to remove costs included in CCL rates which are rejeted to providing pay telephones.

The revised rate reflects 1995 base period Telephone Use Fee demand and the 1995 revenue requirement. Also, per the Commission staff's request, included is a revised Fart 59 interators Cost Allocation Report.

Exhibits provided are:

Exhibit 1 Rates and Revenue

Exhibit 2 Rate Calculation

Exhibit 3 Part 69 interstate Cost Allocation Report

Enhits 1

AMERITECH Pay Telephona Use Fee Relea and Revenues

d Proposed Proposes d Rutes Resease	1,611 60.004256 8115,390,788 4,392 60.001613 814,572	7,440 \$0.004250 \$72,195,614 8,808 \$0.601913 \$72,1955	\$ peo \$0.2480 \$35,463,752	\$224,673,648	155, 85 I	Percent change
Restated Desert	1/282,651,811	17,222,497,440 2,068,306	142,998,080			
Oument Revenue	3137,714,720 778,818	222 YOF THE S	_	124,447,817		
Parent Pa	\$0,000846 \$0,000271	\$0.005046 \$1.005046	•			
Sees Period Demostd	11,212,451,511 1,604,332	17,222,487,440 2,888,888	•			
	OCI. Terretreting Frem. Terretreting Noos-Frem.	Originating Prem. Originating Non-Prem.	Pay Telephone Use Fee	TOTAL.	Officernoe	

Exhibit 2

AMERITECH Pay Telephone Use Fee

Rate Calculation

Pay Telephone Use Fee Revenue Requirement	\$35,463,752
Pay Telephone Use Fee Demand	142,999,000
Pay Telephone Use Fee Proposed Rate	0.2480

EXHIBIT 3

Part 69 Interstate Cost Allocation Report

	Common Line Pay Telephone
Plant Specific Expenses	11,290,992
Plant Non-Specific Expenses Excluding Accounts 6540 2 6560	2,371,557
Customer Operation Marketing	1,585,087
Customer Operation Services	1,371,409
Corporate Operations Expense	4,612,897
Other Expenses	16,875
FCC Expense Adjustment	72,843
Depreciation & Americanion	7,877,819
Total Expenses	29,199,759
State & Local Taxes	276,459
Other Taxon	1,439,653
Federal Income Tax	1,021,343
Net Return @ 11.25%	3,601,696
Total Parahone Expenses, Taxes and Return	35,538,909