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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the matter of Southwestern Bell Telephone)
Company's tariffs to revise P.S.C. Mo. - No.) **CASE NO. TT-96-21**
36, Optional Payment Plan (volume and term)
discounts) for Switched Access Services.)

DISSENTING OPINION BY COMMISSIONER HAROLD CRUMPTON

I respectfully dissent from my distinguished colleagues in their decision to suspend the tariff sheets in this case. The issues raised by the parties in opposition to the tariff do not support the majority's decision to suspend. The primary issue raised by AT&T and Staff is that the tariff by its nature may be anticompetitive.

The counter argument advanced by MCI is that the proposed tariff will lower access charges paid by the IXCs to the LEC. It is interesting to note that AT&T is the largest potential beneficiary.

Since the Commission has in the past determined that discounts based on usage are lawful, I patiently await Staff's evidence that will support its recommendation to suspend in light of the fact that the ratepayers are the ultimate losers during this suspension.

Respectfully submitted,


Harold Crumpton, Commissioner

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri
on this 18th day of August, 1995.