

them until Teleport installs an unneeded switch at Nynex's Bronx site.

Nynex's director of regulatory planning, Larry Chu, questions whether Teleport "really needs" 60,000 numbers in Manhattan. He says the Bronx incident was a "misunderstanding."

INTERCONNECT TO NETWORK

If a newcomer wants to sidestep Bell lines and partner up with, say, the local cable-TV system, it still must "interconnect" to the Bell network so calls can go through. In negotiating interconnection agreements, rivals say the Bells often drag out the talks to thwart them. Only a few deals have been reached.

Most Bells won't let rivals near their own equipment once it is installed, unless they have a Bell escort. That adds to rivals' expenses and ensures that the Bells know exactly what the newcomers are up to.

When a Bell installs a rival's gear, it charges rent for the space the electronic boxes occupy. The fees "can be more expensive than a penthouse at Trump Tower," quips Andrew Lipman, an MFS senior vice president. Setting up in a 10-by-10 foot space, cordoned off with chain-link fencing, can run \$60,000 up front, plus charges for power, cabling and rent that can add up to \$2,000 a month.

Once inside, rivals don't exactly get the welcome mat. Bell Atlantic Corp. employees in Philadelphia once refused to let MFS workers use the restrooms because they weren't required to by the FCC. "To us, that epitomized the kind of obstacles we face every day," MFS's Mr. Lipman says.

Bell Atlantic spokesman Eric Rabe responds: "I'm sure when Wendy's shows up next to McDonald's, they don't exactly roll out the red carpet. That's the nature of competition." He says the company is getting better at working with rivals.

AT&T IN CHICAGO

Even giants haven't fared well in negotiating with the Bells. AT&T, one of the world's most powerful telecommunications companies, has been trying to break into the Chicago market under Ameritech's Customers First plan since last spring, to no avail.

AT&T says Ameritech won't disclose where "conduit space" is available for AT&T to install new lines, thereby hindering AT&T in designing its network. The long-distance giant has resorted to having its engineers walk the streets, peeking under manhole covers to find the space.

Although AT&T had hoped to launch local service later this fall, it now says it doesn't know when it will proceed.

"This process just hasn't worked," says William Clossey, an AT&T regional vice president.

Tom Hester, Ameritech's general counsel, says of AT&T: "Here they are, one of the world's largest corporations with a tin cup expecting us to fill it up."

US Signal had hoped to avoid such experiences in Grand Rapids. Local entrepreneur Ron VanderPol founded the closely held company in 1983, aiming to get into long distance in the wake of the AT&T split. US Signal now derives about \$80 million a year in long distance, mostly in Ameritech's region. It figured its hometown would be the perfect place for getting started in local service.

The city ostensibly was one of the nation's most open local phone markets. A 1992 state law—supported by Ameritech—required local phone companies to let rivals hook up to their networks.

MAJOR HURDLES

US Signal filed for state approval as a local carrier in April 1994 and planned to offer service by the fall. But after US Sig-

nal's first meeting with Ameritech later that month, "we knew we had major hurdles," US Signal's Mr. Clift says.

The Bell balked at leasing out any of its phone lines, depriving US Signal of a way to reach customers.

Ameritech negotiators also wanted to charge US Signal \$4.40 per name to list customer phone numbers in Ameritech directories. Yet US Signal says the Bell pays phone companies in adjacent areas 30 cents apiece to list the other companies' customers' numbers.

US Signal also says Ameritech refused to refund \$240,000 that it had paid to install gear in five switching sites. The gear was never put into place. Ameritech says it spent the money preparing the sites, then decided against installing the equipment. It did so after a federal appeals court in Washington struck down FCC rules ordering the Bells to let rivals install and maintain their own gear.

In August 1994, US Signal formally complained to Michigan regulators. In February, regulators ordered Ameritech to file new prices and terms for interconnection agreements.

Ameritech did—five times in the succeeding eight months. State officials rejected all of the proposals. A sixth attempt, filed this month, is under review. Representatives of the Michigan Public Service Commission say Ameritech tried to set exorbitant prices, dictate how rivals must set up their networks, and impose charges the state doesn't allow.

For example, Ameritech proposed charging rivals \$20.37 a month plus 8.2 cents a call for a customer who wanted to leave Ameritech but hold on to the old phone number.

Regulators ordered Ameritech to reduce that monthly fee to about a dollar.

After pressure from state officials, US Signal says Ameritech made a new offer: Set up your network the way you want, but we will lease you only 96 lines per switching site—instead of the thousands per site that US Signal wanted. Do it our way, Ameritech said, and you will get as many lines as you want. "We just couldn't possibly believe they were serious," Mr. Clift says. "But they were."

TRIAL BASIS

This month, Ameritech backed down a bit. It dropped its demand for extra fees for directory listings. The Bell also agreed to lease all the lines US Signal wanted, regardless of how US Signal set up the network. Just one catch: This will be on only a six-month trial basis, leaving the Bell free to rescind the deal next year.

Two weeks ago, Ameritech filed a motion in the Michigan court of appeals, challenging the authority of regulators and legislators to force the Bell to open up its network. That seems to fly in the face of the company's self-styled image as a crusader for competition in the local phone business. "I don't really understand it," says Mat Dunaskiss, a state senator who helped draft the open-market law. He calls the Bell's action "a step backward."

Ameritech says it filed because it felt regulators "went beyond their authority" in ordering the Bell to provide rivals with connections that Ameritech says are priced below its costs. But Ameritech says it still supports "full and fair competition."

US Signal argues otherwise. One day earlier this month, the tiny rival was besieged with complaints from dozens of customers who kept getting rapid busy signals when they dialed. Engineers checked the system and concluded that Ameritech hadn't set up enough lines to handle the calls.

Mr. Clift says Ameritech readily conceded its error and took care of the problem, which Ameritech says also affected its customers that day.

Customers are beginning to blame US Signal for the foul-ups, even though the company has no control over such matters. "Customers say it's our fault, and let us know they never had these problems with Ameritech," says Mr. Clift, who worries some will make good on their threat to go back to the Bell.

"They haven't left us yet," he says with a sigh. "But they're threatening."

JACK LASKOWSKI, A TRUE LEADER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us know how important the labor movement has been for the improvement of working conditions and fair compensation for millions of Americans. None of this would have happened if it had not been for tireless, visionary individuals who were willing to work on behalf of their coworkers. Jack Laskowski, the current director of UAW region 1D, has been such an individual who was honored for his dedication at an event last Friday.

Jack has been a member of UAW Local 362 since 1958 when he started to work at General Motors's CPC Powertrain plant in Bay City. He followed on the traditions established by his father, Walter "Bullet" Laskowski, who took part in the UAW's first strike at the Chevrolet plant in Bay City in 1936, which led to the formation of Local 362.

Since 1958, Jack has served as a member of the bargaining committee, chaired by his father. He also was a benefit plans representative and editor of the local paper until he joined the staff of the international union. Jack served on the staff of 1D since 1971, and then became the assistant director in June, 1986, and finally director on June 17, 1992. He has been a vital component of labor's presence in Saginaw, Bay City, and the northern portion of Michigan's lower peninsula.

Jack's involvement in matters affecting people extend beyond his activities in the UAW. He has served as a member of organizations like the NAACP and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. He served a 3-year term as a city commissioner of Bay City. He has throughout his adult life been active in the Democratic party, including his current membership of the Kent County Democratic Party Executive Committee.

He and his wife Sally also raised three wonderful sons, Greg, Tim, and Mike, who have become a bilingual special education teacher, a director of labor at Occupational Health Care, and another generation of GM worker and member of UAW Local 2031, respectively.

I have had the good fortune to know Jack personally for many years. I consider him to be a friend, a capable advisor, and someone I am proud to know. Now, he is going to join the UAW leadership at Solidarity House as a vice president for the UAW. His dedication and devotion will be applied for even a broader range of UAW members.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of a career of devotion and a lifetime of leadership, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Laskowski the very best in his new position, and thank him for his years of

service on behalf of his brothers and sisters with the United Auto Workers.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CLYDE LEWIS

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 1995

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Clyde Lewis of Plattsburgh, NY, one of the most outstanding patriots of the 24th District of New York and perhaps our Nation.

The residents of northern New York and leaders throughout the Air Force know Mr. Lewis as the Father of Plattsburgh Air Force Base. Mr. Lewis was instrumental in bringing the Air Force to Plattsburgh and over the years helped make Plattsburgh Air Force Base the best of the best. He has also helped the community endure the recent closing of Plattsburgh Air Force Base with grace, pride, and dignity.

Mr. Lewis formed the original Air Base Liaison Commission in July 1952. Its purpose was to represent Plattsburgh and help establish an Air Force based in the area. The commission succeeded in bringing the air base to Plattsburgh and on January 29, 1954, groundbreaking ceremonies were held. While the Air Base Liaison Commission changed its name to the Air Base Liaison Committee in 1958, its duties and firm support of the Air Force did not change. As chairman of the commission and committee, Mr. Lewis committed steadfast support for the men and women of the Air Force and their mission at Plattsburgh.

Mr. Lewis understood that Plattsburgh Air Force Base would be key to a strong national defense and that support from the community would be crucial to the success of the mission as well. Mr. Lewis, himself, had a long and distinguished career in the military. During World War II, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and was appointed an aviation cadet. He earned his wings and was commissioned in March 1943 and served two tours less one mission with the 401st Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. Mr. Lewis served successively as a flight commander, operations officer and B-17 squadron commander.

Mr. Lewis received numerous honors throughout his military career, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one oak leaf cluster, France's Croix de Guerre with palm and the European Theater of Operations Campaign Medal with six battle stars.

Mr. Lewis has also been involved in numerous civic activities and professional organizations. In 1948 the New York Chamber of Commerce honored him as Outstanding Young Man of the Year and in 1949 he was named National Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the first World War II veteran to serve in that position. He continues to be active in the VFW on the national level. He served as chairman of the Plattsburgh Air Base Liaison Commission from 1952 to 1959 and from 1959 on, he served as chairman of the Air Base Liaison Committee. In 1975 Mr. Lewis participated in the National Security

Forum, Air War College and in 1978 the Department of Defense Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. He is a member of the Elks Club, Knights of Columbus and the U.S. Strategic Institute and Defense Orientation Conference. He is also a member of the Clinton County, New York State and American Bar Associations.

Mr. Speaker, Clyde Lewis is an inspiration to every American. He is a true leader and an example to each and every one of us of what can be accomplished with persistence, faith and dedication. And for all that he has done, and will continue to do, we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

HONORING AMERICAN LEGION
TONY F. SOZA POST 41

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the American Legion Tony F. Soza Post 41 in Phoenix, AZ, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and its history of service to the community. Since its original pledge at the inception of Post 41, originally named Thunderbird Post 41, to serve the disabled, the distressed, the widowed, and the orphaned, it has dutifully served those groups and far exceeded its mission. Post 41 has gone on to fund services and charities and provide a home for many organizations. It also has helped organize projects for the betterment of the Phoenix community.

In October 1945, Post 41 was organized with a membership of only 16 dedicated veterans. Largely, the founding group was of Hispanic descent due to geographical and cultural circumstances. By November of that year, it received its charter. The post's first Commander, Ray Martinez, soon asked some prominent citizens to serve as an advisory committee and began lobbying for the property to build the post's home. Soon, construction of the post was finished and, with patriotism and dedication in their hearts and souls, the group moved on to other goals.

They saw a great need for a baby clinic and in 1948, they set out to build one. It was the first baby clinic in the community. Post 41 also made commitments to children and youth programs like high school Oratorical competitions, baseball, Boys State, scholarship and school awards, Scouting, flag education, emergency assistance, and community service. They made holiday baskets for needy families and took on a city bond campaign to fund parks and recreation programs to help combat juvenile delinquency.

And the post continued to grow. In 1957, it constructed the Rhonda Room, exclusively for members, which quickly became a popular gathering place for veterans and their families and friends. In 1961, it dedicated the Frank Fuentes Hall, a spacious hall with a separate bar and stage. The post also became a local meeting place for other organizations such as the Unit 41 Women's Auxiliary, the Airborne Luciano Maldonado Chapter, the American GI Forum, and the Vietnam Veterans organization.

In 1990, the post built a new kitchen, dining room, and auxiliary quarters and since then,

remodeling and new additions have enhanced the building and its services to its membership of more than 1,000 veterans.

Throughout its history, Post 41 has undertaken huge and numerous tasks and accomplished them proudly. The organization has earned prestige and honor over the decades and earned an unparalleled reputation in the annals of American Legion history throughout the State of Arizona. Although most of its founding fathers have gone the way of old soldiers, they have left behind a strong inspiration that proudly drives the current members in their ongoing mission to serve their community.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the American Legion Tony F. Soza Post 41 and for these reasons I hope that my colleagues join me today in wishing the post the very best in its continued service to veterans and the community.

MAKING CHILDREN'S DREAMS
COME TRUE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 1995

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on behalf of a truly wonderful organization, the Children's Wish Foundation International. I cannot think of a cause more noble than the desire to grant a wish to a fatally ill child. We all look back on our childhood, reminiscing over happy, sad, and exciting events that helped shape the individuals we are today.

There are thousands of children who never reach their 18th birthday; they never have the opportunity to look back on their childhood. Often times their only memories are of chemotherapy, doctor visits, and hospital stays. The Children's Wish Foundation gives these children something to look forward to, a dream come true, a special event or gift to brighten their days.

The tragic loss of our innocent youth is not restricted to the United States alone. Many countries around the globe are coping with the loss of their children. The Children's Wish Foundation would like to recognize the courage of these young children and the volunteers who help make their dreams come true by designating November 26 to December 2 as International Children's Wish Week.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this body to provide its full support for this endeavor. It is unfortunate to lose a life at such a young age, one full of promise and potential; but even sadder when an opportunity to bring a smile and a special memory to one of these children is missed.

I am blessed with two healthy boys. Not all parents are so fortunate. I know that if there was one specific wish my child dreamed of, I would do everything in my power to make sure that wish came true. The Children's Wish Foundation International assists parents in fulfilling a dream, no matter how large or small, from buying pink hair ribbons for a little girl who is waiting for her hair to grow back after chemotherapy or sending a little boy to Disney Land to meet Mickey Mouse.

I would like to commend the Children's Wish Foundation on its heartwarming work on behalf of those children and families who need it