



Western Electric

news brief

TO ALL EMPLOYEES

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August 25, 1982

Judge Greene finally signs "it!"

CONSENT DECREE APPROVED AND ENTERED

U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE HAROLD H. GREENE LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON MADE GOOD ON HIS PLEDGE TO "PROMPTLY APPROVE" THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AT&T AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WHEN HE SIGNED WITHIN TWO HOURS AFTER IT WAS SUBMITTED A REVISED CONSENT DECREE CONTAINING THE MODIFICATIONS HE REQUESTED ON AUGUST 11.

AT THE SAME TIME JUDGE GREENE FORMALLY ENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S EIGHT-YEAR-OLD ANTITRUST CASE AGAINST THE BELL SYSTEM.

"THE ACTION BY THE COURT IS TRULY GOOD NEWS," SAID AT&T CHAIRMAN C. L. BROWN. "THE BIG UNCERTAINTIES ARE NOW BEHIND US. ALREADY WE'VE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN FOR ACCOMPLISHING DIVESTITURE IN AN ORDERLY WAY AND WE'LL STRIVE TO HAVE THE DETAILS READY FOR REVIEW WELL AHEAD OF THE DEADLINE."

WITHIN SIX MONTHS STARTING YESTERDAY, AT&T MUST SUBMIT A REORGANIZATION PLAN FOR REVIEW BY JUDGE GREENE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. WITHIN 18 MONTHS STARTING YESTERDAY, AT&T WILL BE REQUIRED TO DIVEST ITSELF OF THOSE PARTS OF THE 22 BELL SYSTEM OPERATING COMPANIES THAT PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE OR LOCAL ACCESS SERVICE.

APPROVAL OF THE DECREE ENDED A SEVEN-AND-ONE-HALF MONTH PERIOD DURING WHICH JUDGE GREENE HEARD FROM HUNDREDS OF INTERESTED CITIZENS, FIRMS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS ON WHETHER THE AGREEMENT WAS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. ON AUGUST 11, JUDGE GREENE ISSUED AN OPINION IN WHICH HE CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WAS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, BUT WANTED MODIFICATIONS IN 10 AREAS BEFORE HE APPROVED IT. THOSE MODIFICATIONS WERE INCORPORATED IN A REVISED DECREE THAT WAS FILED WITH THE COURT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

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