

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94304

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS  
Professor Joshua Lederberg

Area Code 415  
321-1200

Mr. H. I. Romnes  
Chairman of the Board  
American Telephone & Telegraph  
195 Broadway  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

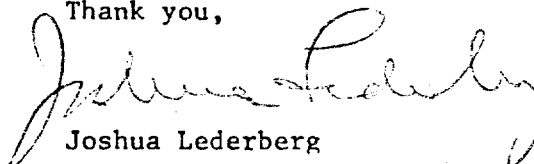
I would be grateful to you for information you may have available  
on: *(see attached clipping from the W.S.J.)*

Did you submit a technical brief to detail your concerns about the  
unrestrained of customer-owned apparatus to the telephone system?  
*connection*

In view of the very wide variation in quality of communication that  
I experience in calling long-distance, it occurs to me that the  
main problem may be exactly the converse. If you establish speci-  
fications for customer connections, there will also be implied speci-  
fications for the communication bandwidth over the system, and you  
will be subject to verifiable complaints about the lower wings of the  
distribution of the service you sell. Naturally, as a publically  
regulated utility, ~~and~~ any enhancement of the worst-case service  
will only become possible by compensating rates; I also perceive  
your horror at the possible evolution of pressures to charge for  
the actual service delivered-- i.e., a customer who gets a noisy  
line would be charged accordingly less for his call, with a large  
fuss and overhead to measure that quality.

Do you have any comment on these concerns; are they included in your  
briefs?

Thank you,

  
Joshua Lederberg

NOTE: I write a weekly column on "Science and Man" for the Washington  
Post and affiliated newspapers. Your information may be helpful  
to me in drafting future columns.