

# Little League charter changes backed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House subcommittee recommended unflinchingly Thursday that Congress amend the charter of Little League

baseball to guarantee girls full rights of participation.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Martha Griffiths, D-Mich., is little more than a formality aimed at making the 1964 federal charter compatible with new rules already adopted by the organization.

Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., chairman of the Civil Rights subcommittee which made the recommendation, said approval by the full Judiciary Committee was likely within a week, with a House vote about two weeks later.

The subcommittee's recommendation followed the testimony of P.J. McGovern, president and chairman of the Little League, based in Williamsport, Pa. McGovern fully endorsed the change.

McGovern noted that while the original charter referred

solely to boys, litigation by women's groups and others in more than 20 states the past two years had prompted the league's trustees and executive board to approve rules changes earlier this summer to admit girls.

He assured the panel that all branches have been "advised to honor the change in good faith and without prejudice."

Edwards said he was "somewhat bothered" by the fact that the Little League meanwhile had established a separate softball program for girls in some cities, a move which McGovern said was designed to accommodate those who weren't good enough to make the national teams.

"It's an obvious signal light to steer the girls there to softball in the first place," Edwards said. McGovern denied

that was the intent, insisting "it was created in good faith."

Rep. Robert McClory, R-Ill., complained that the softball program wasn't open to boys in some cases — thereby posing a reverse issue of discrimination.

McGovern acknowledged that as a thorny question, but said it was feared that boys might monopolize the softball program if it were open to them, depriving girls of the chance to play.

Edwards and McClory stressed, however, that the revised charter clearly would permit no discrimination on either side. They indicated the panel's report to Congress would make specific mention of the softball program, so there would be no misunderstanding that it too, should be opened to all.

# AT&T loses court appeal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The American Telephone and Telegraph Co. lost a court appeal yesterday in its dispute with 30 competing firms who want to use AT&T telephone lines for their own customers.

The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals here said that a ruling against AT&T by the Federal Communications Commission was valid.

The court said AT&T and its affiliate, the Bell Telephone Co., must "provide the services and are prohibited from engaging in discriminatory practices."

The FCC order followed the filing of an antitrust suit

against AT&T by MCI Telecommunications, Inc., a nationwide firm that provides private links with out-of-state sales offices, branches, plants and other facilities.

The MCI suit was filed last March. In April, the FCC told AT&T to provide interconnection service to MCI customers and to other competitors that lease private lines, often at lower rates than AT&T, to businesses.

AT&T said in April that it had disconnected all circuits to nine MCI customers, although MCI had obtained an injunction in January requiring AT&T to provide

local connections to MCI for its network.

Yesterday's Circuit Court ruling came directly in response to an AT&T request for a review of the FCC order.

"AT&T must provide interconnections necessary for the delivery of two particular elements of private line service," the Circuit Court ruling said.

It said the elements were "foreign exchange service," known as FX and used to give businesses such services as local phone service across

state lines, and "common control switching arrangements," the private lines between branches.

"We are disappointed that the court has affirmed an FCC decision having such a major impact on the public," an AT&T spokesman responded.

"Interconnection of the type apparently affirmed by the court will have a negative impact on the cost and the quality of telephone service."

MCI was not available for comment.



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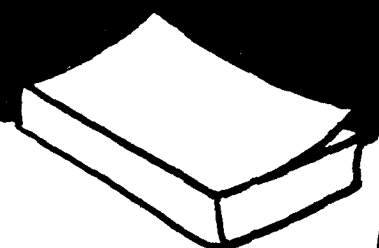
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