



Alternatives to Federal Telecom Regulation Debated At Seminar

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Bell company representatives suggested at a seminar Thurs. it would be better for telecom companies if the industry resolves its problems without "onerous" regulations. "That concept has been noticeably absent in the FCC's" Triennial Review Order, said Lawrence Spiwak, pres. of the Phoenix Center, which sponsored the seminar in Washington. "It's not a good idea" for the FCC or states to interfere with many of the current problems the telecom industry faces, BellSouth Vp Robert Blau said. He said he didn't think federal or state regulators were "equipped to deal with" the decisions. Blau admitted there were some instances where a regulator should step in, but said "a lot of these decisions really should be worked out on a commercial basis" and in "some instances there needs to be some arbitration on disputes."

National Assn. of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Gen. Counsel Brad Ramsay wasn't sure the telecom industry is ready to police itself. He said the FCC made "the best of the bad situation" by moving some issues to the states to resolve: "I don't know if it was the best outcome, but it was the only real response." He said it was "better to let states experiment in a small pool than let the Commission make a big mistake in a larger pool."