

June 28, 2008

Congresswoman Diane E. Watson
4322 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 302
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Dear Congresswoman Watson,

Thank you for taking the time and effort to address my concerns regarding Global Tel*Link.

I received the correspondence from the Public Utilities Commission this week, and have a question. They wrote, "Global Tel*Link has policies that may be specific to the population being served." What does this mean – the prison population and their families deserve to be overcharged, and calls limited, at the whim of Global Tel*Link?

The Commission only addresses "cramming," the practice of placing unauthorized, misleading, or deceptive charges on your telephone bill, and not the manner that the customer is charged or the manner of treatment, which causes undue stress on the already stressed families involved.

I'm enclosing a copy of the letter, which the Commission indicates made copy to you, but I request investigation of the "policies that may be specific to the population being served." Isn't this a form of discrimination?

And, again, I appreciate your interest in my dilemma. By the way, did U.S. Representative, Maxine Waters, share my letters, started as far back as 1993, when I first wrote President Clinton? If not, please write me and I will send them to you.

Sincerely yours,

Althais J. Aka
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August 23, 2008

Dear Senator Obama,

I started this letter a few days before the unveiling of your choice for Vice President, Senator Biden. I have not followed his career, but I do like his sense of humor, so I guess I like him.

Everybody talks about how great an orator JFK was. I did admire his ability to inspire listeners with feelings of their own possibilities. But a greater presidential speaker was FDR. From the speeches, which I have seen on TV, FDR spoke of the tasks to be done, the plans to move the country out of the Depression and of the years that would follow.

There was no "tit for tat," no back and forth, about what his opponent had said or had failed to say. It is probably the TV, that takes and repeats the segment, again and again, but I think that you will be better served to concentrate on your beliefs about the subjects important to you, and not give weight to the demeaning statements of your opponent.

Please consult with someone who knows about off-shore drilling, and why it is presently limited. Were there ecological reasons that it was slowed, in the first place?

Your ten-day trip to Europe was amazing – it seems that Europe really wants the change that they see in you, as we all do, but change must have a direction and goal, not just an existence.

Right now on CNN, if not from McCain backers, using comparisons between Hillary and your use of her words, I am clear about this-Hillary did present precise means for addressing problems in health and education. And, it is your prerogative to employ any written or spoken word, but I do feel you could acknowledge the source, which would incorporate Senator Clinton back into the group. Of course, I don't know what might have transpired between the two of you, but my recommendation would be to let hard feelings go, the both of you.

Well I'm turning in, so I'll close. My hat is off to you and the intelligence you and your wife exude. And the energy is unbelievable!

Always keeping the Faith,

Althais

November 16, 2008

Dear President Elect Obama,

Please let me start by saying that I am not an historian, but merely an observer of life.

I was a child when I lived in New York, and have only visited there three or four times during the '70's. Certainly, however, I felt the horror of the World Trade Center bombardment on 9-11. On a day that seemed to stop in time, over 3,000 people perished on what was BinLadin's second attempt to destroy the World Trade Center.

America tends to televise and celebrate the times when America has done beneficial things in the world—the Peace Corps, the delivery of needed food after a calamity, intervention after natural catastrophes. But having lived overseas myself, and having known many foreign students, another side of America has shown itself. Other countries see our military, as occupying forces, bent on protecting our economic control, exploiting the resources of those countries, forcing the residents to fight over the crumbs to make a living.

Being unfamiliar with BinLadin, until after 9-11, when I did see his image, I thought to myself that he reminded me of a distant cousin from New Orleans, with a long nose and beard.

You would probably not have been elected if you had professed Peace, but instead pushed for continued war in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and "get" BinLadin. But, one must choose between Peace and War. If we do not push forward with all efforts toward Peace, we will never obtain it.

On TV, I have seen the inside of a cockpit, with the pilot observing the computer screen, aiming at a particular target to bomb. From the cockpit, it appears that the pilot has found his mark, but once the bomb hits the ground, it devastates the whole surrounding area.

We may never know the devastation and death that American bombs have caused overseas, or the U.S. playing one leader against another in a foreign country, in an attempt to gain more control of resources.