

**Call** from page D6

tions Act that, among other things, regulates local phone service.

As the hearing, lawmakers got an earful. Dorice Knutson of Southfield loves her local Ameritech telephone service.

"I love my phone service," said Knutson. "And whenever I have a complaint, Ameritech takes care of it."

Bloomfield Hills resident Robert Kachadourian — who earlier this month met with the staff of the Michigan Public Services Commission to complain about incomprehensible billing statements — had a different view.

"We (consumers) are being robbed and raped," Kachadourian said, complaining about special access charges.

State Rep. Robert Gosselin (R-Troy) said he, as well as other lawmakers, have been getting an unusually high number of complaints about telephone service. "We're looking at regulations on natural gas and other utilities,"

**AMERITECH**

he said, "but most of the complaints deal with telephone service."

Concern is so great, Gosselin said, that Monday's three-hour hearing was too short to accommodate all the customers who signed up to testify. More than 20 phone users testified Monday, but there wasn't time to hear 60 or more who wanted to speak, said the lawmaker, adding that the hearing will be continued at a time and date to be determined.

Oakland Township resident Tom Strangway said he intends to return when the hearing is continued. He wants to complain to lawmakers about being assessed toll charges for calls he considers local.

"I live less than four miles from the township office," said Strangway. "Yet it's not a local call, and I'm charged extra." State Rep. Marc Shulman (R-

West Bloomfield) said he has sponsored a bill that could be the basis for the new legislation for the rewrite of the '95 Michigan Telecommunications Act.

His bill will foster true competition for local phone service, he said, resulting in lower rates, better service and more protection for customers.

A spokesman for Ameritech, however, had a different view of Shulman's bill.

"The bill creates hundreds of pages of new regulation for Michigan's 38 local telephone companies," said Michael Barnhart, director of public affairs for the telephone company who attended Monday's hearing.

"It (Shulman's bill) is unfair regulation," insisted Barnhart, "and it will be a disaster for Michigan consumers."

Barnhart said the bill is particularly unfair because it would impose regulations for companies that provide local phone service "while giving long distance companies 'free reign.'"

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**OBITUARIES**

**IAN H. BROWN JR.**

Services for Ian H. (Scott) Brown Jr., 73, of Farmington, were held March 22 at Trinity Episcopal Church, in Farmington Hills with the Rev. Ronald Reinhart officiating. Burial was in North Farmington Cemetery in Farmington Hills.

Mr. Brown was born March 30 in Ithampaning and died March 17 in Lakeland, Fla. He worked as a civil engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation and was a World War II Navy veteran. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing softball.

He is survived by former wife, Jean; sons, Daniel (Claire) and Lawrence (Jill); daughter, Rebecca (Edward) Brinkale; sister, Beverly; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, 10130 Northland Drive 48075.

**RUTH L. RUSSELL**

Services for Ruth L. Russell, 92, of Redford, will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, March 27 at Heene-

Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Terry Prisk officiating. Burial will take place at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

Mrs. Russell was born Oct. 10, 1907 in Heaven-er, Okla. and died March 24 at Heartland Health Care Center in Dearborn Heights. She worked at the Botsford Inn when Henry Ford was the owner and also worked at the Clinton Inn at Greenfield Village. She was a member of the Farmington Eastern Star for over 50 years and served as Worthy Matron in 1950. Mrs. Russell was also a member of Dorean Bible Church in Livonia.

She is survived by daughters, Marilyn (Joe) Prisk and Carol Russell; grandson, Rev. Terry Prisk; and granddaughters, Colleen Bell and Patricia Welch. She is preceded in death by her husband, Walter; and granddaughters, Cheryl Prisk and Kathleen Collins.

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