

CENTURYTEL INC

FORM 11-K

(Annual Report of Employee Stock Plans)

Filed 6/27/1997 For Period Ending 12/31/1996

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Industry	Communications Services
Sector	Services
Fiscal Year	12/31

United States
Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 11-K

**[X] ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 1996

OR

**[] TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Commission file number 1-7784

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different
from that of the issuer named below:

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the
address of its principal executive office:

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
100 CENTURY PARK DRIVE
MONROE, LA 71203

Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Directors
Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets available for benefits with fund information of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Dollars and Sense Plan as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, and the related statement of changes in assets available for benefits with fund information for the year ended December 31, 1996. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets available for benefits of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Dollars and Sense Plan as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, and the changes in assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 1996, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules of assets held for investment purposes and reportable transactions are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The fund information in the statements of assets available for benefits and the statement of changes in assets available for benefits is presented for purposes of additional analysis rather than to present the assets available for plan benefits and changes in assets available for plan benefits of each fund. The supplemental schedules and fund information have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

KPMG PEAT MARWICK LLP

/s/ KPMG PEAT MARWICK LLP

*Shreveport, Louisiana
June 12, 1997*

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Statement of Assets Available for Benefits With Fund Information December 31, 1996

	Century Common Stock Fund	Growth Stock Fund	Asset Allocation Fund	S & P 500 Stock Fund	Loan Fund	Money Market Fund	Bond Index Fund	Sub-total

PLAN ASSETS								
Investments, at fair value	\$ 23,454,310	8,306,406	7,241,247	6,841,549	3,947,245	2,651,811	1,177,876	53,620,444
Cash	229,967	-	-	-	-	-	-	229,967
Contributions receivable - employer	369,015	-	-	-	-	-	-	369,015
Contributions receivable - employee	288	-	-	-	-	-	-	288

ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 24,053,580	8,306,406	7,241,247	6,841,549	3,947,245	2,651,811	1,177,876	54,219,714
=====								

	Sub-total	Lifepath 2000 Fund	Lifepath 2010 Fund	Lifepath 2020 Fund	Lifepath 2030 Fund	Lifepath 2040 Fund	Sweep Account	Combined Funds

PLAN ASSETS								
Investments, at fair value	\$ 53,620,444	82,616	579,007	396,566	93,545	244,992	-	55,017,170
Cash	229,967	-	-	-	-	-	-	229,967
Contributions receivable - employer	369,015	-	-	-	-	-	-	369,015
Contributions receivable - employee	288	-	-	-	-	-	-	288

ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 54,219,714	82,616	579,007	396,566	93,545	244,992	-	55,616,440
=====								

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Statement of Assets Available for Benefits With Fund Information December 31, 1995

	Century Common Stock Fund	Growth Stock Fund	Asset Allocation Fund	S & P 500 Stock Fund	Loan Fund	Money Market Fund	Bond Index Fund	Sub-total

PLAN ASSETS								
Investments, at fair value	\$ 23,456,425	6,078,920	6,256,726	4,968,690	3,313,894	3,145,384	1,156,298	48,376,337
Cash	370,702	-	-	-	-	-	-	370,702
Contributions receivable - employer	339,590	-	-	-	-	-	-	339,590
Contributions receivable - employee	-	2,882	-	2,882	-	-	3,842	9,606

ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 24,166,717	6,081,802	6,256,726	4,971,572	3,313,894	3,145,384	1,160,140	49,096,235
=====								
	Sub-total	Lifepath 2000 Fund	Lifepath 2010 Fund	Lifepath 2020 Fund	Lifepath 2030 Fund	Lifepath 2040 Fund	Sweep Account	Combined Funds

PLAN ASSETS								
Investments, at fair value	\$ 48,376,337	98,524	324,042	221,052	29,168	76,688	-	49,125,811
Cash	370,702	-	-	-	-	-	-	370,702
Contributions receivable - employer	339,590	-	-	-	-	-	-	339,590
Contributions receivable - employee	9,606	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,606

ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 49,096,235	98,524	324,042	221,052	29,168	76,688	-	49,845,709
=====								

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Assets Available for Benefits With Fund Information For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Statement of Changes in Assets Available for Benefits With Fund Information, Continued For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

	Sub-total	Lifepath 2000 Fund	Lifepath 2010 Fund	Lifepath 2020 Fund	Lifepath 2030 Fund	Lifepath 2040 Fund	Sweep Account	Combined Funds

Additions to assets:								
Investment income (loss)								
Net appreciation								
(depreciation) in fair								
value of investments	\$ 1,001,214	2,895	34,923	32,133	7,719	19,553	-	1,098,437
Other income	1,234,650	4,216	14,542	9,186	1,645	2,533	-	1,266,772
Interest income	420,437	-	-	-	-	-	80	420,517
Dividends - Common Stock								
of Century Telephone								
Enterprises, Inc.	259,720	-	-	-	-	-	-	259,720

Net investment income (loss)	2,916,021	7,111	49,465	41,319	9,364	22,086	80	3,045,446

Contributions								
Participants	5,036,040	12,314	76,606	80,736	32,016	58,609	-	5,296,321
Company	2,287,893	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,287,893

Total contributions	7,323,933	12,314	76,606	80,736	32,016	58,609	-	7,584,214

Total additions	10,239,954	19,425	126,071	122,055	41,380	80,695	80	10,629,660

Deductions from assets:								
Participant withdrawals	4,784,081	27,329	716	13,942	824	2,730	9,584	4,839,206
Other, net	11,572	35	114	147	86	200	7,569	19,723

Total deductions	4,795,653	27,364	830	14,089	910	2,930	17,153	4,858,929

Net increase (decrease) prior								
to interfund transfers	5,444,301	(7,939)	125,241	107,966	40,470	77,765	(17,073)	5,770,731
Interfund transfers	(320,822)	(7,969)	129,724	67,548	23,907	90,539	17,073	-

Net increase (decrease)	5,123,479	(15,908)	254,965	175,514	64,377	168,304	-	5,770,731
Assets available for benefits:								
Beginning of year	49,096,235	98,524	324,042	221,052	29,168	76,688	-	49,845,709

End of year	\$ 54,219,714	82,616	579,007	396,566	93,545	244,992	-	55,616,440
=====								

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1996

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN

Basis of Presentation

The Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Dollars and Sense Plan (the Plan) was established on May 1, 1986. The accompanying financial statements of the Plan have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and present the assets available for benefits and changes in assets available for benefits. The Plan has made estimates in preparing the accompanying financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The assets of the Plan are invested by the Trustee in various investment programs (funds) which are described in Note 2.

The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

Participation

Participation in the Plan is available to each employee of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. and its participating subsidiaries (the Company), other than those who are classified as associate employees, temporary employees, or employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement.

In order to participate in the Plan, an employee must execute a Salary Deferral Agreement with the Company. In the Salary Deferral Agreement, an employee agrees to a deferral of between one percent and ten percent of compensation. Beginning in July 1996, the percentage of compensation a participant elects to defer applies to the participant's base pay plus certain incentive compensation received, including certain cash bonuses, commissions, and lump sums granted in lieu of pay increases. For periods prior to July 1996, the percentage of compensation a participant elected to defer applied to the participant's base pay only, excluding bonuses, overtime pay and certain other non-salary compensation. The amount of compensation deferred by each participant is credited to an account (Participant Contribution Account) maintained for each participant by the Trustee. The Participant Contribution Account is self-directed.

As of the end of each payroll period, the Company contributes to an account (Employer Contribution Account) for each participant a contribution equal to 50% of each such participant's contribution during such payroll period, however, this matching contribution applies only to the first 6% of such participant's compensation contributed to the Plan. The Board of Directors of the Company may, at its discretion, elect at the end of each year to contribute an additional amount to the Plan. Company contributions may be made in cash or Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Common Stock (Century Common Stock). If made in cash, such cash is applied by the Trustee to the purchase of Century Common Stock.

An employee is permitted to transfer to the Plan as a contribution his interest in another plan qualified under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended (the Code). Such contribution must qualify as a "rollover" amount described in Section 402(a)(5) of the Code, or a "rollover" contribution described in Section 408(d)(3) of the Code. Such a rollover will be credited to a rollover account on behalf of the participant (the Participant Rollover Account).

The interest of a participant in his Participant Contribution Account, his Participant Rollover Account and his Employer Contribution Account is fully vested and non-forfeitable at all times.

Reports to Participants

All participants are furnished with quarterly statements which set forth the status of their accounts in the Plan.

Distributions

If the employment of a participant with the employer ceases because of death, retirement, disability, termination of employment or for any other reason, the participant's entire interest in the Plan may be distributed to him or to his beneficiary in a lump sum. If the participant dies without designating a beneficiary, his interest in the Plan will be paid to his spouse, if any.

Withdrawals

No withdrawals will be permitted from an Employer Contribution Account. A withdrawal may be made from a Participant Contribution Account or a Rollover Account only as a result of financial hardship related to unreimbursable educational expenses, medical expenses which are not reimbursable by insurance, the need to pay for the funeral expenses of a family member, or the prevention of eviction or foreclosure from the Participant's principal residence. The determination of the existence of a financial hardship and the amount required to be distributed to meet the need created by the hardship shall be made uniformly and without discrimination at the sole discretion of the Plan Administrator.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Loans to Participants

The Plan has a provision whereby a participant can borrow from his Participant Contribution Account or Participant Rollover Account. The maximum loan is 50% of the account balance, up to \$50,000. The loans are repaid through payroll deductions and the interest rate is the prime rate published in the Wall Street Journal plus 3%. The loan repayment period may not exceed five years except for loans for the purchase of the Participant's principal residence which may be for any period not to exceed ten years.

Trustee

The Trustee of the Plan, as of December 31, 1996, was Barclays Global Investors (BGI) (formerly BZW Barclays Global Investors, N.A.). The Board of Directors of the Company may remove the Trustee and appoint a successor trustee. The Company and the Trustee have entered into a Trust Agreement which provides for the establishment of a Trust for the purpose of holding and investing the contributions to the Trust pursuant to the provisions of the Plan.

Administration

The Company has appointed a committee to administer the Plan. The individuals who administer the Plan serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Company and may be removed by the Board of Directors at any time. The cost of plan administration is paid by the Company.

Market Value Determination

Investments in Century Common Stock are valued at the closing market quote on December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively. Other investments in the funds, which consist of units of mutual funds, are valued by the Trustee based on the market value at year-end of the underlying assets of each fund. Loans to participants are valued at principal amount outstanding which approximates market value.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNDS

The following is a description of each of the funds available to Plan participants as of December 31, 1996:

- (a) Century Common Stock Fund - consists of shares of Century Common Stock (42.2% and 47.1% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively).
- (b) Growth Stock Fund - consists primarily of investments in common stocks (14.9% and 12.2% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively).
- (c) Asset Allocation Fund - consists primarily of investments in common stocks, U. S. Treasury bonds and money market instruments (13.0% and 12.6% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively).
- (d) S & P 500 Stock Fund - consists primarily of investments in the same stocks and in substantially the same percentages as the S & P 500 Index (12.3% and 10.0% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively).
- (e) Loan Fund - represents loans to participants from the participants' investment accounts (7.1% and 6.6% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively).
- (f) Money Market Fund - consists primarily of short-term investments in various money market instruments (4.8% and 6.3% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995, respectively).
- (g) Bond Index Fund - consists primarily of investments in government and corporate bonds (2.1% and 2.3% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995).
- (h) Lifepath 2000 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2000 (.1% and .2% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995).

(i) Lifepath 2010 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2010 (1.0% and .7% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995).

(j) Lifepath 2020 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2020 (.7% and .4% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995).

(k) Lifepath 2030 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2030 (.2% and .1% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995).

(l) Lifepath 2040 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2040 (.4% and .2% of assets at December 31, 1996 and 1995).

A participant may instruct that his contribution be allocated among the various funds. A participant may change his investment allocation instructions at any time, however, a participant can only change his contribution percentage on a quarterly basis.

All amounts allocated to a participant's Employer Contribution Account are invested in Century Common Stock. Participants who have not attained age 55 have no power to transfer amounts in the Employer Contribution Account to an investment fund other than the Century Common Stock Fund. Participants who have attained age 55 may redirect the investment of the balance in their Employer Contribution Account.

(3) INCOME TAXES

The Plan and related trust meet the necessary requirements of Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a) and, accordingly, the trust underlying the Plan is exempt from income taxation pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 501(a). A favorable determination letter was received in July 1996 related to the Plan.

(4) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by BGI. BGI is the Trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Company to BGI for trustee, investment management, record keeping and other services amounted to \$164,967 for the year ended December 31, 1996.

(5) CONCENTRATION OF INVESTMENTS

As of December 31, 1996, 42.2% of the assets available for benefits were invested in Century Common Stock. Substantially all of the remaining assets available for benefits were invested in mutual funds managed by BGI.

(6) COMPANY/PARTICIPANT DIRECTED FUNDS

The Century Common Stock Fund includes contributions from the Company and participants. Participant contributions are directed solely by the participants. Contributions from the Company are directed by the Company, except for contributions made on behalf of participants who are age 55 or older. Such contributions can be redirected by these participants to the funds of their choice. All other funds are participant directed.

The following Statements of Assets Available for Benefits - Century Common Stock Fund and Statement of Changes in Assets Available for Benefits - Century Common Stock Fund, which include estimates made by BGI, detail the Company directed and Participant directed portions of the Century Common Stock Fund.

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC. DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Statements of Assets Available for Benefits - Century Common Stock Fund

	Company	Participant	Total
December 31, 1996	Directed Portion	Directed Portion	Century Common Stock Fund

PLAN ASSETS			
Investments	\$ 12,527,025	10,927,285	23,454,310
Cash	122,802	107,165	229,967
Contributions receivable - employer	369,015	-	369,015
Contributions receivable - employee	-	288	288

ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 13,018,842	11,034,738	24,053,580
=====			
December 31, 1995			

PLAN ASSETS			
Investments	\$ 11,499,058	11,957,367	23,456,425
Cash	181,644	189,058	370,702
Contributions receivable - employer	339,590	-	339,590

ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 12,020,292	12,146,425	24,166,717
=====			

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Statement of Changes in Assets Available for Benefits - Century Common Stock Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

	Company Directed Portion	Participant Directed Portion	Total Century Common Stock Fund

Additions to assets:			
Investment income (loss)			
Net appreciation (depreciation)			
in fair value of investments	\$ (379,570)	(255,420)	(634,990)
Interest income	7,109	6,204	13,313
Dividends - Common Stock of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc.	138,690	121,032	59,720

Net investment income (loss)	(233,771)	(128,186)	(361,957)

Contributions			
Participants	-	1,676,431	1,676,431
Company	2,287,893	-	2,287,893

Total contributions	2,287,893	1,676,431	3,964,324

Total additions	2,054,122	1,548,245	3,602,367

Deductions from assets:			
Participant withdrawals	1,069,358	1,008,859	2,078,217
Other, net	(2,284)	36,760	34,476

Total deductions	1,067,074	1,045,619	2,112,693

Net increase prior to interfund transfers	987,048	502,626	1,489,674
Interfund transfers	11,502	(1,614,313)	(1,602,811)

Net increase (decrease)	998,550	(1,111,687)	(113,137)
Net assets available for benefits:			
Beginning of year	12,020,292	12,146,425	24,166,717

End of year	\$ 13,018,842	11,034,738	24,053,580
=====			

Schedule I

**CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC.
DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN**

Item 27a - Schedule of Assets Held for Investment Purposes

December 31, 1996

Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor or similar party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	Current Value Per Unit/Share
Investment in Century Common Stock	1,691,820 units/ 759,654 shares	\$ 20,741,492	23,454,310	(Note 2) 13.86 30.875
Loan Fund (interest rates ranged from 9% to 12%)	-	3,947,245	3,947,245	(Note 2) -
Barclays Global Investors Money Market Account	229,967 units	229,967	229,967	1.00
Investments in Mutual Funds for Qualified Employee Benefit Plans Managed by Barclays Global Investors:				
Growth Stock Fund	542,277 units	6,982,148	8,306,406	(Note 2) 15.32
Asset Allocation Fund	607,553 units	6,469,600	7,241,247	(Note 2) 11.92
S & P 500 Stock Fund	430,089 units	5,030,783	6,841,549	(Note 2) 15.91
Money Market Fund	2,651,811 units	2,651,811	2,651,811	1.00
Bond Index Fund	124,121 units	1,203,083	1,177,876	9.49
Lifepath 2000 Fund	7,616 units	80,462	82,616	10.85
Lifepath 2010 Fund	47,703 units	548,462	579,007	12.14
Lifepath 2020 Fund	30,629 units	370,537	396,566	12.95
Lifepath 2030 Fund	6,870 units	86,747	93,545	13.62
Lifepath 2040 Fund	16,925 units	230,724	244,992	14.48
		\$ 48,573,061	55,247,137	

Notes: (1) The above data is based on information which has been certified as accurate and complete by the trustee, Barclays Global Investors. Barclays Global Investors sponsors these funds and, accordingly, is a party-in-interest. Additionally, Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc., as sponsor of the Plan, is considered a party-in-interest.

(2) These investments are greater than 5% of assets available for benefits.

Schedule II

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC. DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Item 27d - Schedule of Reportable Transactions

For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

Description of Transaction	Purchase Price	Redemption or Selling Price	Lease Rental	Expense Incurred	Cost of Asset	Current Value of Asset at Date of Acquisition or Disposition	Net Gain
<hr/>							
	(Note 2)						
Category (3) - A series of transactions in excess	<hr/>						
of 5% of beginning of year plan assets	<hr/>						
available for benefits	<hr/>						
Investments in Century Common Stock (65 purchases, 171 sales)	\$ 4,653,150	4,432,841	-	-	3,602,888	(Note 3)	829,953
Investments in Mutual Funds for Qualified Employee Benefit Plans Managed by Barclays Global Investors:							
Growth Stock Fund (116 purchases, 111 sales)	2,823,662	1,219,521	-	-	977,317	(Note 3)	242,204
Asset Allocation Fund (84 purchases, 120 sales)	2,052,942	1,149,819	-	-	1,004,465	(Note 3)	145,354
S & P 500 Stock Fund (109 purchases, 115 sales)	1,702,190	811,051	-	-	620,720	(Note 3)	190,331
Money Market Fund (88 purchases, 110 sales)	1,471,170	2,065,161	-	-	2,065,161	(Note 3)	

Notes: (1) The above data is based on information which has been certified as accurate and complete by the trustee, Barclays Global Investors. Barclays Global Investors sponsors these funds and, accordingly, is a party-in-interest. Additionally, Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc., as sponsor of the Plan, is considered a party-in-interest.

(2) The purchase price denotes cost and current value of the security on the transaction date.

(3) Current value is substantially the same as purchase price or selling price of the security on the transaction date.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Retirement Committee has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Dollars and Sense Plan

June 27, 1997

By: /s/ David G. Thiels

David G. Thiels

Retirement Committee Member

CENTURY TELEPHONE ENTERPRISES, INC. DOLLARS AND SENSE PLAN

Index to Exhibit

Exhibit
Number

23.1 Independent Auditors' Consent

EXHIBIT 23.1

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' CONSENT

The Board of Directors
Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc.:

We consent to incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements (No. 33-5836 and No. 33-48554) on Form S-8 of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. of our report dated June 12, 1997, relating to the statements of assets available for benefits with fund information of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Dollars and Sense Plan as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, and the related statement of changes in assets available for benefits with fund information for the year ended December 31, 1996, and related financial statement schedules as of and for the year ended December 31, 1996, which report appears in the December 31, 1996 annual report on Form 11-K of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Dollars and Sense Plan.

KPMG PEAT MARWICK LLP

/s/ KPMG PEAT MARWICK LLP

*Shreveport, Louisiana
June 25, 1997*

End of Filing

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