

From: Luther Moon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 2:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the Department of Justice,

This letter is to talk to you about and to express my feelings of, the Governments involvement with, and the handling of, the Antitrust case against Microsoft Corporation.

To begin with, I do not feel that this action is being levied against Microsoft on behalf of the American consumer. Fact is, it was then, and is now, the consumer that decided what or which product they wanted and liked best. It was this very freedom of choice by the consumer, and freedom of enterprise for American Businesses, which has made Microsoft? and America, the great company and the great country they are today.

It has been the great innovators like the John Rockefellers, JP Morgans, Andrew Carnegies, Henry Fords, and the Bill Gates of our time that has made this Country the great success it enjoys today? and, it was this freedom to innovate that encouraged them to get up every morning and forge ahead with their ideas and ideals. What might happen to this nation, and its great Corporations, if this freedom to express and freedom to innovate continues to get trampled on?

It appears to me that the consumer can only be hurt and made to suffer the consequence of higher prices and less quality of product should the Government begin the dictatorial regulation of and dictating to a company what it can or cannot supply to, or for the benefit of, the consumer. Is it possible that the American Consumer is smarter than he or she is being given credit for?

It has been due to this freedom of innovation from Microsoft that every American consumer, can today, afford to have a computer in their home. It is also a computer in every home that has spurred an economic growth in this country unparalleled by any nation in the world, until the Government decided to intervene.

It wasn't until the dictatorial intervention of our Government into the innovative business of one of this Nations greatest Companies? that this Country?s economy, over night, started a downslide into economic collapse, unparalleled in the history of this great country. The economic destruction of resources that has ensued has been devastating to the American people.

What, with all this ?Consumer protection? levied against the consumer in the guise of protecting the consumer, I?m just not sure I can afford, or surely don?t need, anymore of this kind of consumer protection. I feel that I have received far better value and protection from Microsoft than I have in the

protectionist interference from our Government (I don't know about you, but there is no longer any retirement left in my retirement funds).

This should be the business of business and not the interference of Government to dictate to the consumer what he or she can or cannot have and at what price we must pay for it. As a consumer? and a Citizen of this Great Land, I feel that I, and I alone, should decide what is served on my plate and how it is prepared.

I have Windows on my computer, not because someone else decided for me what I should use? and not because Microsoft decided for me what I should use? I decided which was best for me from the many choices that were, and still are, available on the market today. And yes, there are choices out there. I'm sorry, but I am being made to feel that because of the wishes of a mere handful, it is the masses that must pay? and this is just not right. It must not be right.

In closing, I would like to say I am a small-business owner and I depend on Microsoft to keep things running for me, for which they obviously have done quite well. If the federal government pursues three more years of litigation in this matter, it would not only hurt Microsoft, but millions of home computer users and businesses across the country. I urge you to please put these lawsuits to rest before our economy deteriorates any further. By intervening in business, you would only be discouraging competition by creating fear on the part of other companies wanting to enter the market. Bill Gates made some excellent business decisions, and he, along with the American Consumer, is now being punished for it. His company has done so much for the economy, and now the government is just wasting more of our money picking on this company.

Respectfully,

Luther Moon