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Title **Engineers Pay Toll for Phone 'Business'**

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Abstract Louis G. Mackenzie and Robert L. Lafond Sr. sentenced to three years probation for blue box fraud. Article states "the telephone company got wind of it in 1963 when Mackenzie's attorney appeared on a national TV show demonstrating the device." States that McKenzie allegedly sold about 25 blue boxes.

Keywords Louis G. Mackenzie; Robert L. Lafond Sr.; Mackenzie Laboratories; blue box

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ENGINEERS PAY TOLL FOR PHONE 'BUSINESS'

But for a bad connection, Louis G. MacKenzie and Robert L. LaFond Sr., two Pasadena electronics engineers, might still be selling their "little black boxes" to make free long distance telephone calls.

The bad connection was a telephone company undercover investigator who purchased one of the black boxes.

As a result, MacKenzie and LaFond were placed on three years' probation Friday for bilking the phone company by using an "unauthorized" electronic device.

Superior Judge Eugene E. Sax also fined MacKenzie \$750 and LaFond \$150.

MacKenzie, 49, is owner of MacKenzie Laboratories at 1367 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena. LaFond, 28, is one of his employees. Primarily the firm makes magnetic tape playback devices; but several years ago it developed a "multi-frequency tone generator," a black-boxed affair that could bypass the phone company's billing system in placing long distance calls.

The boxes sold for \$250

and MacKenzie allegedly sold about 25. The telephone company got wind of it in 1963 when MacKenzie's attorney appeared on a national TV show demonstrating the device.

A grand jury indicted the two men last Dec. 7, and they pleaded guilty March 14. Which leaves the telephone company with one annoying question:

Who owns those other 24 little black box boxes?