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Title           **Sentencing Delayed in Telephone Fraud Case**

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Abstract       Sentencing delayed for first LA adult convicted of defrauding the telephone company by using false dial tones. A juvenile was convicted in June, 1972, and two additional adults are scheduled to stand trial.

Keywords      Van Nuys, CA; Jack Descent (convicted); blue box; 5600 Colfax Ave.

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# Sentencing Delayed in Telephone Fraud Case

VAN NUYS—Sentencing of a North Hollywood man who reportedly is the first Los Angeles adult convicted of defrauding the telephone company by using false dial tones has been delayed.

Jack Descent, a photographer from Canada, was convicted in November of using a so-called "blue box" to make free phone calls. He will be sentenced March 7.

Jonathan Lappen, the defense attorney, said he is appealing the case.

Descent was arrested following a search of his apartment at 5609 Colfax Ave. in which the blue box was seized.

## \$2,600 in Calls

Dep. City Atty. John Wilson said that \$2,600 in phone calls had been traced to Descent and that "probably there is in excess of \$5,000 more of other phone calls which could not be proven in court."

Wilson said his office started investigating the case on an anonymous tip. The blue box emits a tone into the receiver which allows a caller to reach numbers over the world.

"The caller dials a toll-free 800 number and while it is ringing he pushes a button on the battery-controlled box which dismisses the specific number but maintains the open line," he said.

Different tones emitted

from the box allow callers to reach different geographical areas. Users have employed the system for commercial phone calls and for recreation, racing to see how fast they can place calls in various localities.

## Fraud Increasing

A telephone company spokesman said that computers and electronic detection equipment are being used to detect such practices but that telephone fraud is increasing.

A juvenile was convicted of using a blue box last June and put on probation, he said, and two Sherman Oaks residents were arrested last year following a search for the blue box they reportedly were using. Their trial is scheduled to begin Thursday in Van Nuys.

"We don't know how extensive blue box operations are," the spokesman said. "The revenue losses go into thousands of dollars and we prosecute any cases that we hear about."