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Cornfeld Is Charged With Telephone Fraud

LOS ANGELES, June 4 (AP)—Bernard Cornfeld, the financier who spent 11 months in a Swiss prison after his mutual fund empire collapsed, was indicted today by a Federal grand jury on charges of attempting to make free overseas phone calls.

said Mr. Cornfeld had used a "blue box" electronic device to place about 343 overseas calls from telephones in his Beverly Hills mansion.

The three-count indictment

The United States Attorney's office said Mr. Cornfeld had directed several of his employers to use the "blue boxes" to place overseas calls to London, Geneva and elsewhere at a cost of about \$1,000 a month to the Pacific Bell Telephone Company over

a four-month period.

Mr. Cornfeld, once considered a financial and promotional wizard, built Investors Overseas Services into a giant conglomerate controlling \$2.5-billion and a 15,000 - person worldwide sales force in the 1960s.