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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

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| Title       | <b>Cornfeld Charged With Phone Fraud</b>   |
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# Cornfeld Charged With Phone Fraud

Financier Bernard Cornfeld, former head of a multimillion-dollar mutual fund empire, was indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury here on charges of defrauding the Pacific Telephone Co. through use of two illegal "blue box" devices used to make 344 overseas phone calls.

The blue boxes were seized from Cornfeld's plush Beverly Hills mansion Jan. 28 by the FBI. Cornfeld's secretary was arrested at the time and accused of using the devices.

But no charges were brought against Cornfeld until Wednesday.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Robert C. Bonner said Cornfeld directed or caused the blue boxes to be used from at least July, 1974, until they were seized.

Bonner estimated the phone company was cheated out of \$1,000 for each month the illegal devices were used. He added it was not known how long the boxes had actually been in use or why the millionaire was using the devices to call Europe.

The devices, the indictment alleged, intercept the phone company's long-distance overseas network so as to make the phone calls for free.

If convicted, Cornfeld could receive a maximum of five years in prison on each of the three counts on which he was indicted.