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I.J. (DEC. 19, '75)

Cummings pleads innocent over 'blue box' charges

SEATTLE (UPI) — Veteran actor Bob Cummings yesterday pleaded innocent to charges that he used an electronic gadget to cheat the telephone company by making up to \$4,500 worth of free long distance calls.

King County Superior Court Judge Warren Chan continued the case until Jan. 2 when a disposition will be made on the charges or a trial date set.

Cummings, 65, remained free on his personal recognizance. Since his arrest Tuesday he has continued to play the leading role in the play 'No Hard Feelings' at the Cirque Dinner Theater.

The stage, television and film actor was charged with two gross misdemeanors for possessing a "blue box" device to defraud the telephone company on long distance charges between Oct. 9 and Dec. 16.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail or a \$1,000 fine.

Police said when they arrested Cummings at his apartment the box was being used to make a call.

An affidavit attached to the charges said Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Co. claimed the box had been used for a minimum of \$4,500 in long distance calls.