



Exploding The Phone

db176

www.explodingthephone.com

Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title **Big Brother is Listening ... Captain Crunch Busted Again**

Publication *YIPster Times*

Date 1978-03-00

Author(s) Beal, Dana

V/I/P Vol. 6, No. 1, No. 28, p. 8

Abstract Article describes the arrest of John Draper in the Poconos in Pennsylvania, and the current state of phone phreaking, all from a highly paranoid point of view.

Keywords John Draper; Captain Crunch; phone phreaks; Poconos, PA; laser switch; cheesebox; cheese box; blue box; red box; silver box; Remote Observation (REMOB); Electronic Switching System (ESS); FBI; NSA; DEA; yuppies; AT&T

Notes Printed author name is A. Craig Phonephreak. This has been annotated by hand to "(Dana Beal)".

Source An anonymous phone phreak

The following pages may contain copyrighted material. We believe that our use of this material for non-commercial educational and research purposes constitutes "fair use" under Section 107 of U.S. Copyright Law. If you wish to use this material for purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner, if any. While it will make us slightly sad to do so, we will nonetheless comply with requests from copyright owners who want their material removed from our web site.

Big Brother is Listening . . .

Captain Crunch Busted Again

(DANA BEAL)

by A. Craig Phonephreak

The safehouse had been under surveillance for some time. Shattered by mountains, more than a hundred miles from the big cities, the tenants felt they'd safely distanced themselves from the surveillance.

But the authorities were only waiting.

Finally, when the dissident inventors in the house felt they were far enough along with their computer project, they had a housewarming party—just the excuse techies and computer freaks need to get together and compare notes.

At about 1:30 on the unusually warm, Indian Summer day, the host together with 5 or 6 early arrivals decided to take a walk thru the woods down to a waterfall. The foliage of the mountains was aflame with autumn reds and oranges—deer-run with deer, ducks, hawks a-circling and diving.

As they were walking back up the road toward the house, an unmarked car pulled up, and the driver, in plain clothes, jumped out and demanded identity papers.

When the inventor admitted he was from the house, the other man in the car said, "He's the one we want!" In a move that netted a "whole ring"—ten nonconforming computer buffs, about 6 or 7 carloads of criminal police, assisted by a helicopter that circled overhead the whole time, had completely sealed the environs.

In the manner of more subtle, up-to-date totalitarian regimes, most everyone was merely detained, questioned, threatened and then released when sufficiently terrorized. But in the midst of the criminal police were the ruthlessly efficient agents of Security, who directed everything, and took possession of every notebook, phone book, stray piece of equipment and computer component. They also seized both main computers in the house, which contained the program for the dissident's invention—a laser switch which would obsolete the official, state-sanctioned Telecommunications Monopoly—and ordered the two actual inventors arrested by criminal police for "theft of industrial secrets."

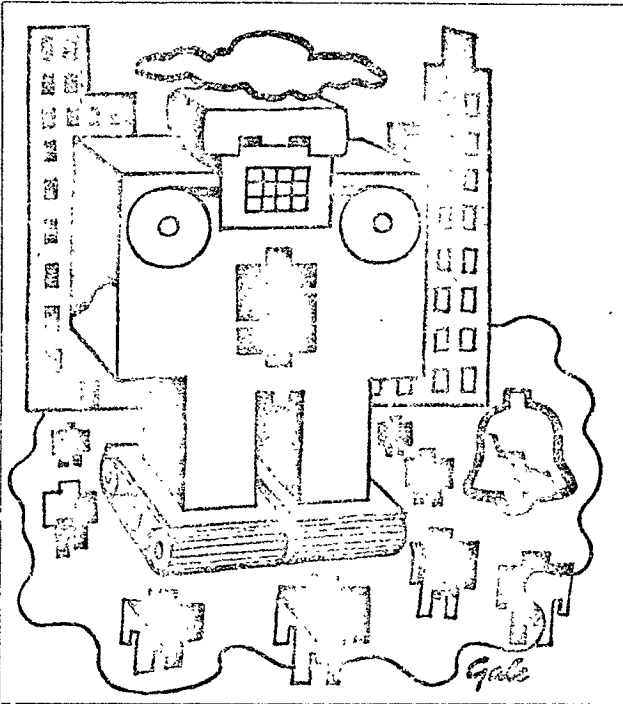
Did it happen in Russia? Iran? Brazil? America 10 years from now?

No, as a matter of fact, it happened in Pennsylvania, in the Poconos, Saturday, Oct. 22, to John Draper, a.k.a. Captain Crunch, and a colleague. Besides the laser switch and a number of other secrets Telco was after, they got the fruits of the high-stakes contract to computerize a cable TV company that brought Draper to the Poconos in the first place.

Crunch was arrested by Telco Security and held on 5 charges—of which 2 have been dismissed—and \$20,000 bond. John languished in a cell for almost a month before bail was reduced enough to be raised. Yes, he's in America. Once again, a lone scientist-inventor is being sacrificed to a bloated, inhuman monopoly.

Behind closed doors—within the "red zones" in giant Bell switching centers that are off-limits to all but selected Telco employees, inside equally clouded, one phone phreak safehouse—a War is going on.

It is a Cold War—the stuff of sci-fi



and spy thrillers—but nonetheless both sides are demanding Unconditional Surrender.

It is a battle for the future of telecommunications—a struggle over whether there can actually be such a thing as private electronic conversation, or whether the phone in your kitchen or bedroom will become the ultimate apparatus of Big Brother Surveillance.

You will not, in any Telco publicity about their phenomenal 43 Billion Dollar Net Profit in 1977, find much mention of their fastest-growing Sector—selling "private security services", i.e. mainly to the government.

With more than 7,000 agents (250% more than the D.E.A.), Bell Security maintains one of the largest police forces in the country, with a semi-official status uniquely different from other private security forces.

They have something else no one else has; the capability "built-into the system" to tap any phone in the country. Sam Ervin's Senate Privacy Hearings featured testimony by Telco A.L.C.I.O. union rep. about "silver boxes" that could monitor 10 lines in the D.C. area from one console. But with Telco's new electronic toll switching equipment, the same capability can be programmed in a will system-wide—as "software in the computer", to effect.

They are now ready to place at the disposal of any government here a capacity to search out and monitor interesting phones that would make the Castro go green with envy—especially inasmuch as one additional modification in your local switching office enables Security to turn any phone in to a trap by amplifying the bell circuit,

whether it's on the hook or off!

This is a permanent investigative capability that is completely outside the government—not subject to restraints of court orders (Telco Security actually implements all court-ordered taps, unsupervised, and then bills Uncle Sam for the taps) with no limits except to scan for phones which are being used by "interesting parties" which Telco Security, a. ex-FBI and such, know they might be having to get a legal tap on.

The bitch is that this whole capability is in a matter of software in a computer, and they've rigged the law so that even looking for it is a crime. That's why they got Crunch.

Contrary to pop myth, phone-phreaking is not, primarily, a way to make free calls. The cheese-box, the blue-box—all the break-thrus of phreaking involved trying to get a secure line. Making a free call was and is secondary.

The red box was developed after the bluebox.

Calling from payphones to elude taps, privacy-lovers used blueboxes to access excess toll-free trunks, bypassing prying operators whose attentions are reserved for the pay-circuits.

But the idea of thousands of phreaks boxing from random payphones goaded Telco into putting in fascinating new technological weapons to ferret out and punish wire outlaws.

In 1977 they completed installation of a computerized "bluebox alarm" which will net you a call back from Telco Security within 2 minutes of use of the characteristic 2600 Hz bluebox

tone on any phone [See June/July ish, 77].

Their most recent response to the development by phone phreaks of security-conscious calling systems is an innovation that allows them to tap into any phone with nothing but the number, another touchtone phone, and two access codes.

In the past six months news of this new RFMOte Observation [RFMOB] facility has swept the phone phreak underground.

Apparently, a number of phreaks have gotten into the new system by scanning, [see accompanying article], but have hesitated to publicize it because of Telco's feud breath on their necks.

The system was first demonstrated to Crunch by anonymous telcom-communication upsters at 4:00 AM one morning when he was asleep in California. John awoke to find himself on a conference call, with some phreak touchtoning a series of numbers that tapped them into the "requests" line of a radio station in Iowa—except that no one at the station suspected anyone was listening.

The system, it was explained, isn't fully operational yet, but when it is it will be possible to dial in to the secret number of RLEMOB in Iowa or some place, and by using a touch tone phone, access the phone number one wishes to tap without the rapee hearing so much as a beep or click.

This new system of tapping a phone differs from existing cut-in methods such as silver boxes capable of observing service on any phone line in a certain exchange or auto-verify circuits the operator uses to go in on someone's line in an emergency. This is a fairly new and sophisticated way of observing lines at random without actually "clipping in" from the central office or exchange.

Now the existence of a "Silver Box" is public record, confirmed in testimony before Sam Ervin's Senate Privacy Hearings.

Ma Bell claims the Silver Box is being used to [1] observe phone company employees to insure they follow the well-established procedures set down in the Bell practice manual, [2] prevent fraud—where Telco cops can dial into a suspected phone freaks line, or anyone else's for that matter, and keep up with what's happening.

Since silver boxes connect to thousands of lines it is pretty hard for the phone company to deny their existence or to conveniently move them from exchange to exchange. However, with the new ESS [Electronic Switching Systems] type of phone exchanges the phone company can program the same thing through a computer. Sometimes called generics, these programs are physically invisible and known only to the highest echelon phone dicks.

Think of the application for Telco Security, coordinating with special operators, shadowing someone to listen in on conversations they're deliberately making from payphones—being able to come in on the line seconds after a call is finally made!

Since most Telco cops are ex-FBI agents or some how have been rejected

continued on next page

All-New 1978 Telephone Credit Card Code Contest!

Short of direct expropriation, about the only way left to gnaw away at Telco's billion-dollar profits is mass consumer action. We all know the so-called Public Service Commissions are creatures of the fascist Bellmonster. This is why the new credit card code is a favorite feature of our readers each year.

So great has been the demand, that we have decided to extend an opportunity to participate to one and all. YIPster Times is proud to announce the first annual Credit Card Contest.

This contest gives you a chance to see what the phone number of your most deserving landlord, gov't. official, corporate fatcat or local narc would look like as a credit card number.

To be eligible for the unbelievable first, second, or third prizes (which we can't even mention in print), or at least get your entry listed in the honorable mentions in the next YT, observe the following contest rules:

- 1.) Take the offending number, which consists of 7 digits, and affix the corresponding RAO number (see table—it's like a secret area code for the operator, but it goes last, not first: the White House at 202-456-1414 becomes 456-1414-032-A.)
- 2.) Next, match the 7th digit (4561411-032-A) with the appropriate Telco cryptograph-letter (A), using your Captain Crunch Secret De-coder, to get the final character:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
Q Z M A H X F T L R

- 3.) Be sure to include a brief explanation of what the people at the number have done to deserve this.
- 4.) Employees of the Telephone Company, their agents, or agents of Telco Security are prohibited from entry.

5.) Send Entries no later than midnite, April Fool's Day, to:
Credit Card Contest
Box 392 Canal Street Station
New York, New York 10013

This contest offer is open to all, but void where prohibited by law. No purchase is necessary, and there is no Blue Box top to send in. All entries will be judged on the basis of originality, uniqueness, and validity by a panel of stoned judges, dredged from our editorial staff.

Secret RAO Code

New Jersey	201	091,094	Nebraska	308	237	Toronto	517	476
Dist of Columbia	202	032,033	Chicago	312	097,098,234	Mississippi	601	059
Hartford	203	020	Michigan	313	083,086	Arizona	602	064,065
Seattle	206	163	Detroit	313	083,183	Vancouver	604	463
Stockton	209	254	St. Louis	314	177	Madison	608	201
Fresno	209	289	Georgia	404	022,063	Minneapolis	612	126
New York City	212	012,017	Atlanta	404	035	Ottawa	613	473
		019,021,023,	San Jose	408	293	Nashville	615	047
		024,072,074	Pittsburgh	412	033	Memphis	615	457
Los Angeles	213	046,192,194	Milwaukee	414	088	Boston	617	001
		184,167,332	San Francisco	415	158	Massachusetts	617	007
Santa Monica/Venice	213	537	Berkley	415	167	Nevada	702	271
Philly	215	041,043	Toronto	416	478	Virginia	703	033
Alton	218	050	Arkansas	501	147	Charlottesville	704	319
Cleveland	216	062	Kentucky	502	550	Houston	713	151
Duluth	218	126	Oregon	803	131	San Diego	714	164
Maryland	301	011	Louisiana	504	048	Utah	801	154,363
Colorado	303	153	New Mexico	505	105	Tampa/St. Petersburg	813	152
Miami	305	044	Spokane	806	128	Pennsylvania	814	206
Wyoming	307	137	Dayton	513	185	New York State	914	141

Scanning for Phun & Prophet

This is the first of a series of articles basic phone phreaking techniques

Over the years phone phreaks have amassed a huge amount of knowledge through the technique of scanning. Scanning is simply sequentially dialing every phone number in a given exchange (an exchange is the first three digits of the seven-digit number).

The trick is to know which exchanges to dial. Good places to start are the local government exchanges. To find these exchanges, just consult your phone directory. Look under listings such as the Post Office, US Magistrate, Army, etc. In most cases, almost all of the numbers will be under one exchange. Closer inspection

may reveal that all of the numbers are between certain ranges (such as 264-7000 to 264-9000, assuming that 264 is your local exchange).

So, to start scanning, you would dial 264-7000, 264-7001, 264-7002 and so on. Let the phone ring two or three times before trying the next number. Naturally, one should have a touch-tone phone.

If the number should answer with a strange tone or something weird, record that number. The important thing is to keep careful records of what you are doing. Another important thing to remember is that it will probably take a few weeks of scanning an hour or so a day before you find any useful numbers.

Once you have tried about a thousand numbers (8 or 9 hours work once you get the hang of it), you should go back and try to figure out what you have found. At first the best thing to do is to consult an old-time phone phreak (if you know one), who will know how to exploit what you have found better than you can.

If a number answers with a dial-tone, you have probably found a remote access to a government tie-line. This will let you call out long distance and be billed for the local call. Try dialing 9 first when trying to get through.

Usually a high-pitched beep goes to some computer. This needs a data terminal, and if you can break the

password you can gain entry into some government computer.

There are also interesting recordings—the FBI has a number that its agents can call for all the latest news.

In D.C. (and certain other big cities) the network audio for ABC, NBC and CBS are carried over phone lines in case of a breakdown in standard services.

If you are really lucky you may find something really heavy like REMOB. Watch out.

A few phreaks in NYC are trying to start a scanning hot-line you can call in for tips on scanning or advice on how to use numbers you may have found. Watch this space for further developments.

continued from previous page

from other law enforcement agencies, naturally the Telco cops do favors for their friends and ex-sidekicks at the FBI, NSA, DEA etc. by handing out REMOB access codes, so they too can amuse themselves by listening to some yippies rap on the phone.

Besides constantly passing info to regular law enforcement, Telco agents have become adept at "laundering" such info to make it look like it came from a "confidential informant", and imitating prosecutions by claiming they stumbled across "evidence of a crime" while "service-observing".

Proving such a para-prosecutorial set-up exists can be a problem, however.

In the beginning of October, when Draper took the computer job in Pa., he approached the Yippies for advice on where his information would do the most good. But the closer John has gotten to formally testifying to Congress, the more close encounters he has had with the law.

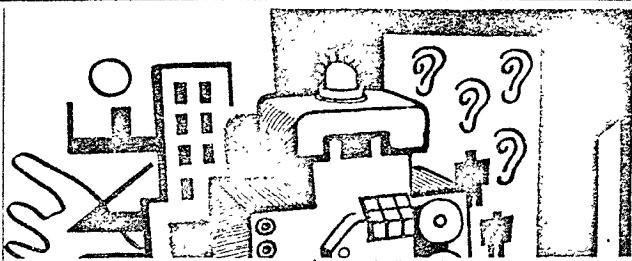
On Dec. 27, after a hard day of making the rounds among New York

mediapleople expected to be sympathetic, John was busted again. This time it was New Jersey cops. He was charged with misdemeanor possession of electronic parts. Like Lenny Bruce, local law enforcement are now competing to see who will jail the famous Crunch.

Meanwhile, Crunch was able to get immunity from prosecution from a grand jury in Iowa interested in his testimony about the REMOB facility there. References to the new system occur in professional journals.

Last summer one sue's box was discovered by West Coast phone phreaks when a magazine published boasts by the local phone company that such a thing existed in the area. The phreaks simply dialed every number in the exchange until they found it.

The REMOB number and access code stayed the same for weeks, months—as rumor flourished and publicity mounted. About a month ago, just as the story of the persecution of John Draper appeared in the *Village Voice*, it was changed.



YIPster Times

by Youth International
Party Information Service
Member APS, Universal Life Church
Volume 6, Number 1, Issue 28
March 1978—Published Monthly

\$6 per year
9 Bleecker Street
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10013
212-533-5028

Managing Editor.....David DeRosa
Cops Editor.....Alice Torbush
Art Direction.....Jeff Tiedrich
Circulation.....Dianna Angel
Distribution.....the Aron Kay
Political Correspondant.....David Miller
Correspondant at Large...Ben Mavel
Rewrite Editor.....Dana Beal
Production.....Fami
Bionics.....Bob Druskin

Contributing Editors
Steve Conhoff, Nancy Borman, Mike Chance, Sexy Rexy Steve Ault, Dave Miller, Gabrielle Schang, Shay D. Addams, Robert Mitchell, Leon Ypsky A. J. Weberman, I. Dzerzhinsky
Contributing Artists
Peter Bramley, Randy Jones, Adrian Baron Nano O'Reilly, Bob Gale
Staff
Cisco Kidd, Al Brooks, Fath, Annalisa Argel, Steve D., Linda, Wayne and Bob Angel, Dave Clayton, Harry Wasserman, Woody, Russ, Amy, Robn, Ann, Bah, Guirney, Beth, Steve Long, Pat Small