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Title **Phone Company Plays Safe, Gives Blind Bilker a Job**

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Abstract Josef Carl Engressia, Jr., who was recently the subject of of a court case brought by South Central Bell, starts his first job ever at Millington Telephone Co. in Memphis.

Keywords Memphis, TN; Josef Carl Engressia, Jr.; Millington Telephone Co. (MTCO); South Central Bell (SCB)

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Phone Company Plays Safe, Gives Blind Bilker a Job

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP).—Josef Carl Engressia Jr., who became interested in telephones because of his blindness, and says he learned to call around the world without being billed for it, starts his first job Monday—with a telephone company.

"I guess they'll have me do whatever I can that they need done; maybe I can work on the test board," said Engressia, 22. He will be a \$2-an-hour employe of the Millington Telephone Co., a small independent in suburban Memphis.

It is his second recent encounter with a telephone company.

Earlier this year he was arrested and charged with defrauding South Central Bell by using mouth whistles amplified by a specially built electronic device to make

long distance calls and bypass the company's billing equipment.

He says he could call for free anywhere in the country or in the world and once even called around the world and talked to himself on a second telephone.

Engressia was fined \$10 and given a 60 day suspended jail term after being convicted of malicious mischief in the South Central Bell case. City Court Judge Ray Churchill noted that there was no legal record of the alleged calls and threw out the fraud charges on grounds of insufficient evidence. He found Engressia guilty instead of malicious mischief.

"I can understand how he was driving them crazy," the judge said.