



Exploding The Phone

db295

www.explodingthephone.com

Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title **Ma Bell hangs up on man in phone case**

Publication *The Argus*

Date 1973-05-12

V/I/P p. 16

Abstract Arrest warrant issued for a telephone company employee accused of embezzlement through use of a blue box.

Keywords blue box; Fremont, CA; Stephen L. Burke (suspect)

Source Newspaper Archive

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.

Niles SP depot is an open and shut case

Continued from page 1

complaints would have required public hearings before the PUC before S.P. could take any action.

"It's like saying you're not going to steal a loaf of bread, you're just going to take all the slices," says John Angelo, western division chairman of the Brotherhood of Railroad and Airline Clerks. "They'll put extra people on and work like hell to give those shippers good service out of Newark. Then they'll go to the PUC and ask to close the Niles depot on the grounds that the line obviously doesn't need it, and the people up there aren't doing anything."

Eugene Raleigh of the PUC's public information office says that as long as the agent remains, the depot has not been closed down in the commission's eyes, and the transfer of records is perfectly legal.

About a dozen trains a day on the average pass through the depot's classification yards.

Raleigh said the railroad has not filed a formal application to close the station and go through the public hearings since its request last September was challenged by Pacific States Steel Co., a Union City firm.

Reaction from the companies served by the railroad is mixed, ranging from a no-hum at Hubbard and Johnson Lumber Co. to Joe Eastwood III, president of Pacific States, who seemed perturbed to say the least.

"We've said in the past we're willing to cooperate completely with the railroad, and if they think they can run their operation more efficiently from Newark and save money we're all for it," he says. "But they promised us before they did anything they would run the two systems in parallel and give us a demonstration of the better service they can provide from Newark."

"Frankly, I don't care if they route their trains from Santa Fe, N.M. if they do the job. But their service isn't too hot now, and I'm not sure it would be any better if they were located in our back yard. I just think the farther away they get the more they compound their problems. I want to see a demonstration of how this will work before I judge it, but we are having our counsel look into the legal aspects. This looks like an end-run to me."

A spokesman for the railroad claims that service will actually improve from Newark, which is computerized and can retrieve the history of any car in the system within seconds from computers.

"I'd like to see how this works before I decide," says Howard Mohn, customer service manager for Kraftite. "Now I can get my paperwork done in 20 minutes over at Niles. I would imagine it will take at least an hour out of my day if I have to go to Newark."

Al Wehrsdorfer, plant manager at the Blue Diamond Gypsum Division of Flinkkote Co., says his only concern is whether the cars will be on sidings at his plant when he needs them.

"We've gotten very good service from the people at Niles, who know our needs," he says. "We're just afraid the people at Newark won't be familiar with our operation and delays in getting raw materials in or our products out could be costly. But we'll go along with the change to see how it works out."

Spokesmen for Amchem and Hubbard and Johnson Lumber Co. said the move wouldn't make much difference to them at this point, as they have been doing most of their shipping by truck.

"I don't doubt they can eventually do a pretty fair job from Newark once they become familiar with the shippers down there," says one union man. "But I'm sure that the personalized service those persons are used to getting from the Niles depot will be missing. They won't be able to order a car and have it within a short time like they can now. Especially if it gets delayed coming up from Newark."

Housing proponents appeal to Edwards

Continued from page 1

proved by HUD must be submitted by May 29, and the contracts must be issued and property negotiations completed by June 30.

The city, after two referendum elections, finally received voter approval for the 200 units last spring. The specific sites in Decoto have recently been rezoned for multiple dwellings for the Turnkey program, and at the last referendum election, the Decoto area was one of the most enthusiastic in approving the Turnkey plan.

The appeal for Edwards' help with the national office of HUD came after a special session of the Alameda County Housing Forum, where Edwards spoke along with Senator Nicholas Petris, D-Oakland, who has introduced a bill which would not require voter approval of federally funded housing projects.

Union City voters turned down an initial Turnkey proposal two years ago. The vote delayed Turnkey development until enough signatures were obtained on a referendum petition asking for an election, and this time the vote was in favor of the housing.

Others present at the meeting included Vice Mayor Tom Kitayama, Councilman Dick Oliver and City Manager William Zaner.

Kaiser steel prices to be advanced

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) — Kaiser Steel Corp. said Friday that it was increasing prices on sheet and strip products because of "rising costs."

Kaiser Steel said hot rolled steel would be hiked \$8 per ton from \$169, hot bands \$10 per ton from \$151.50, hot rolled strip \$9 per ton from \$165, cold rolled sheet \$9 per ton from \$203.50, and galvanized sheet \$11 per ton from \$212.50.

Phantom makes mark in Newark

Continued from page 1

final resort—when the borrower just won't even try to make his payments and won't give up the car.

The Phantom's services don't come cheap. Mott said he charges \$60 to repossess a car—\$15 extra if he has to make his own key or otherwise break into the vehicle.

The charge for big trucks, several of which he has been getting lately, is \$150. Mott also repossesses campers, trailers, boats—even a plane recently.

Mott said the type of deadbeat he usually chases is someone way behind in his payments who has no plans to pay but is just going to hang onto the car or truck as long as he can get away with it.

There are more such people that one might think, said Mott. Enough of them, said wife Jo Ann, who does the bookwork, for her husband to be averaging about 45 recoveries a month lately.

Many of the deadbeats are repeaters, said Mrs. Mott. At least one, she said, has been visited by the Phantom five or six times in the past dozen years.

Mott told of another whose car he repossessed who immediately went out and bought another one on credit—before anything could be sent to the credit bureaus. Two months

later, said Mott, the new car had to be repossessed.

Deadbeats come from all classes, according to Mott, from really poor people to millionaires. In the former category are many people on welfare, he said, a surprising number of whom have Cadillacs.

Mott said he has also repossessed Cadillacs from very rich people, such as the stubborn man in Saratoga who had three houses but didn't want to make the payments on two of his cars.

Mott's tools of the trade may not be very fancy, but they work well for him. His wife said he started 12 years ago "with a hot wire and a bent windshield wiper arm."

Now he has such things as a portable key maker, along with catalogs with number codes of all the locks on all of the cars he's likely to repossess. If Mott knows the lock number, he can make a key in a matter of minutes.

But he also has such things as a "slim jim," a two-foot-long thin steel band which can pop door latches on most American cars. And he has long, thin, hooked screwdrivers and other pieces of equipment to remove door handles, trip latches and pick locks.

Mott said it's getting harder to steal the newer cars because of steering wheel and

transmission locks. He said he encourages all of his customers to get the lock numbers before closing car deals—so it will be easy for him if he must later repossess.

Sometimes Mott is forced to go through a huge ring of master keys—150 of them for General Motors cars. The trouble is, he said, the master key doesn't always work, and his hand can get pretty sore trying 150 keys that don't fit.

Mott has recently hired a full-time assistant, 31-year-old John Evans, a former truck driver. Evans' former trade comes in handy with the increased number of big trucks his boss is now called upon to repossess.

Mott told of his own first experience driving a truck; the first time he drove one was on a repossession job. His erratic driving drew the attention of the police. But he simply showed his credentials, explained his lack of experience with trucks, and the police let him go on his way.

Evans told how he was recently called to San Francisco to pick up a car a dealer had spotted and from which the dealer had removed the coil, preventing the unsuspecting registered owner from driving it.

Evans said he arrived on the scene as several people were offering advice on how to

start the car. "Let me try," he said. He put the coil back in, started the car and, as the "owner" went to thank him, said he was repossessing the car and drove off.

Mott explained why his customers resort to "stealing" back cars rather than going to court to try to get them back. He said the cars depreciate so fast that by the time the case came to trial, the car wouldn't be worth anywhere near what the borrower owed.

The deadbeat might well turn over the keys on the courthouse steps, said Mott, but it wouldn't pay the indebtedness. The lender would still need to get a judgment for the rest of the money—and then have to try to collect that.

So it's better to get the car back as quickly as possible, once a lender decides there is no other way to get the money owed.

Mott said he receives good cooperation from the police, to whom he must report within 24 hours of the time he takes a car. He said there have been some movements aimed at making his type of involuntary repossessions illegal, but he believes there will always be a need for his kind of service.

As long as there is a "something-for-nothing crowd."

Scandal's strongest wave: Bring in coalition team

• More on Watergate scandal on Page 2

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In the strongest reaction in Congress yet to the Watergate scandal, Rep. Henry S. Reuss said Friday that President Nixon and Vice President Spiro T. Agnew should consider resigning to permit House Speaker Carl Albert, who would become President, to set up a coalition government.

The Senate Watergate committee, meanwhile, told U.S. District Court that it has evidence that unnamed White House aides "illegally and improperly removed and destroyed records and documents" in the Watergate investigation.

The committee also asked Chief Judge John J. Sirica to turn over the keys to the safety deposit box in which ousted White House Counsel John W. Dean III placed Watergate documents that he had removed shortly before he was fired.

Reuss, a Wisconsin Democrat, suggested that with Nixon and Agnew voluntarily out of office, Albert could assume the presidency under the constitutional authority which makes the speaker of the House the next man in line.

Then, said Reuss, he could put together a bipartisan administration. Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield, asked for his reaction to the Reuss' suggestion, replied: "I have no comment." Most other congressional leaders had already left town for the weekend.

At least 50 members of Congress have made inquiries at the Library of Congress about impeachment proceedings, and two, Reps. John E. Moss, D-Calif., and Bella S. Abzug, D-N. Y., have called for a House inquiry into impeachment. But no one yet had made a suggestion as startling as Reuss.

"The plain fact is that Mr. Nixon, whatever his involvement in the Watergate, has presided over a corrupt government," Reuss said. "The plain fact is that he has waited an unconscionably long time to do anything about it. A third plain fact is that he has forfeited public confidence."

"Since he has accepted full responsibility for his administration, Mr. Nixon should consider resigning for the good of the country. As a member of that administration, so should Mr. Agnew, though there is no suggestion of his implication in the Watergate."

Reuss, 61, a Harvard-trained lawyer and nine-term congressman, just returned from Strasbourg, France, where he was a member of a U. S. congressional delegation attending the European Parliament.

"Europeans cannot understand how America can limp along with a fractured presidency for the next 44 months," Reuss said. "Over there a crisis such as ours would be resolved by a legislative vote of no confidence, and the prompt creation of a new government."

Reuss said that Albert should appoint "leading Republicans" to roughly half the Cabinet positions; said that presidential appointees from ambassadors on down should be selected on the basis of merit and not patronage; and said "Republicans, in and out of Congress, would be asked to participate in policy-making at all stages."

In other Watergate developments: —Former acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III was questioned by federal prosecutors and was expected to testify later in the day before the federal grand jury in Washington.

—Ousted White House Counsel John W. Dean III was summoned before Chief U. S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica for a hearing Monday. Dean has petitioned that Sirica take custody of Watergate documents that Dean removed from his White House office shortly before he was fired.

—Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr., who at the time was security chief of the Committee to Re-Elect the President, said in a civil deposition that a 10-man team raided the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate complex last Memorial Day weekend.

System to win looses out

NEWARK — Two men who advertised to sell a system to win at betting on the horses have been arrested on charges of bookmaking, following police investigation of the advertisement.

Samuel Rovier, 45, of 1219 East 21st St., Oakland, is charged with two felony counts of taking off-track bets, possession of a stolen gun and marijuana, and being an ex-convict. In possession of a firearm.

Rovier also is charged with conspiring with Eloy C. Chavez, 31, of 1481 Calaveras Road, Milpitas, who is charged with two counts of bookmaking and maintaining a place where bookmaking was carried out.

Police Sgt. Paul Dubois said that the men placed an advertisement over cable television offering to sell their sure-fire system for winning at horse betting.

"There is nothing wrong with selling such a system," Dubois said, "but when they were contacted, we found they went a little further; and were taking bets."

Rovier and Chavez operated mainly out of Chavez' home, but they were taking bets at several different locations, Dubois said. The bets were placed at Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields for their customers, Dubois said.

Robier, a native of Panama, has served three terms in state prison for forgery, and has been convicted for narcotics sales. His bail was set at \$15,000. Chavez' bail was set at \$8,000.



DANIEL ELLSBERG KISSES WIFE AFTER CHARGES WERE DISMISSED AT 'PAPERS' TRIAL

Violations of rights forced verdict. See related story, Page 2

All charges dismissed against Ellsberg, Russo

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The judge in the Pentagon Papers trial Friday dismissed all charges against Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr. on grounds of government misconduct which he said had made it impossible to give them a fair trial.

U.S. District Court Judge Matt Byrne threw out all counts of the espionage, theft and conspiracy indictment, pointing to recent disclosures of wiretaps of Ellsberg's telephone conversations and a burglary perpetrated by a special White House unit.

Byrne also declared a mistrial but said he was specifically dismissing the indictment so there would be no possibility that the defendants could be tried again on the same charges.

Byrne said there had been "an extraordinary series of disclosures regarding the conduct of several government agencies" in the past two weeks. The judge noted they involved

the White House, the Justice Department, the FBI and the CIA.

"We may have been given only a glimpse of what this special (White House) unit did regarding this case, but what we know is more than disquieting," Byrne said.

"The special unit came to Los Angeles and surveyed the vicinity of the offices of the psychiatrist of one of the defendants."

After reporting to a White House assistant and apparently receiving specific authorization, the special unit then planned and executed the break-in of the psychiatrist's office in search of the records of one of the defendants."

Byrne said the CIA, "presumably acting beyond its statutory authority and at the request of the White House, had provided disguises, photographic equipment and other paraphernalia for covert operations."

Byrne said that only within the last 48 hours, after both sides had rested their case, had the government revealed the electronic interceptions of Ellsberg's conversations, and said the government does not know what happened to the authorization for the surveillance or what happened to the records pertaining to the overheard conversations.

"The FBI reports that while the files did once exist concerning this surveillance, they now have been removed from the Justice Department and the FBI files," Byrne said.

"The totality of the circumstances of this case, which I have only briefly sketched, offend a sense of justice," Byrne said.

"The bizarre events have incurably infected the prosecution of this case."

Remember 1922? They will

FREMONT — J. V. "Pop" Gould, former superintendent of the Washington Union High School District, will be guest speaker when graduates of eight classes from Washington Union High gather for a reunion tonight.

Graduates from the classes of 1922 through 1929 will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Holiday House, 29627 Mission Blvd., with Edward E. Enos (class of 1922) acting as master of ceremonies.

The sponsoring committee, composed of a graduate from each class, under chairmanship of Mrs. Laura Mayer (class of 1924), has made dinner reservations for 200 people, including graduates and their guests.

Ma Bell hangs up on man in phone case

FREMONT — An arrest warrant has been issued for a 25-year-old telephone company employe who allegedly has been using a "blue box" to get free long-distance telephone calls.

The blue box is a small electrical device which generates a specific frequency tone which, when played over a telephone mouthpiece, captures a trunk line. Additional signals can then be played to complete the call.

The method bypasses the toll recording system and revenue-measuring equipment to give the user free calls.

Police who investigated the case said a telephone company inspector placed a device on a telephone in the apartment of Stephen L. Burke at 5100 Brophy Drive and discovered, first, that a blue box was being used, and then, that \$50 worth of free calls were placed to the Tracy area using the blue box, which they found in the apartment.

The complaint against Burke charges him with \$50.36 worth of embezzlement.

Divorcee apparent suicide

FREMONT — A 26-year-old divorcee apparently took her life yesterday in the garage of a home at 3145 Saxon Court, according to firemen who went to the scene and found her.

Mrs. Linda Medeiros was seated in a car in the garage, which was filled with auto exhaust fumes, according to the firemen.

Mrs. Medeiros is survived by her former husband, Curt Medeiros of Fremont, and her parents, who live in Hayward.