



Exploding The Phone

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title **Letter to Fred Vinson, Attorney General, from E. William Henry, Chairman, FCC, regarding toll fraud**

Date 1965-06-09

Author(s) Henry, E. William (FCC)

Abstract Letter from E. William Henry, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to Fred M. Vinson Jr., assistant attorney general, criminal division, Department of Justice regarding electronic toll fraud. "It appears that... devices have been designed which either attached to a called telephone to prevent the recording of incoming local and long-distance calls, or are used to send out signals in connection with the placing of a call to prevent any registration of the call on telephone company equipment. It further appears that the use of these devices not only is causing and increasing loss of revenue but has also proved to be an aid of persons engaged in criminal activity."

Keywords gambling; blue box; black box; Federal Communications Commission; FCC

Source National Archives (FCC Records)

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Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
 Assistant Attorney General
 Criminal Division
 Department of Justice
 Washington, D.C. 20330 (?)

Recreation – original scan
 on next page

Dear Mr. Vinson:

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has brought to our attention the problems it and other communications common carriers have had with the increasing use of electronic and other devices to obtain communications service by fraudulent means. It appears that in addition to the fraudulent use of credit cards, devices have been designed which either attach to a called telephone to prevent the recording of incoming local and long-distance calls, or are used to send out signals in connection with the placing of a call to prevent any registration of the call on telephone company equipment. It further appears that the use of these devices not only is causing an increasing loss of revenue but has also proved to be an aid of persons engaged in criminal activity.

We understand that the Criminal Division is already familiar with the nature of the problem. It appears to us to be a growing one, and one which warrants treatment on a national level. We therefore favor enactment of legislation which would impose criminal sanctions on the use of physical devices to obtain communications service by fraud, or the making, possessing, selling, or advertising of any physical device with knowledge or reason to believe that such device is intended to be used in obtaining communications service by fraud.

We recognize, of course, that the Department of Justice would be primarily responsible for administering any new federal criminal statute which might be enacted. We would be happy to cooperate in any way which would be helpful in the consideration (?) of such legislation.

This letter was adopted on the 9th day of June, 1965.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION

E. William Henry
 Chairman

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Adopted in Commission Meeting, June 9, 1965
 Item #5. General Agenda

JUN 10 1965⁵

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Mr. Fred M. Tison, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

319-3

Dear Mr. Tison:

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has brought to our attention the problem it and other communications common carriers have had with the increasing use of electronic and other devices to obtain communications service by fraudulent means. It appears that in addition to the fraudulent use of credit cards, devices have been developed which either attach to a called telephone to prevent the recording of incoming local and long-distance calls, or are used to send out signals in connection with the placing of a call to prevent any registration of the call on telephone company equipment. It further appears that the use of these devices not only is causing an increasing loss of revenue but has also proved to be an aid to persons engaged in criminal activities.

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This letter was adapted on the 9th day of June, 1965.

BY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION

E. William Henry
Chairman

SIGNED BY ABOVE
MAILED BY

JUN 10 1965

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Adopted in Commission Meeting, June 9, 1965
Item #3, General Agenda