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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title	<b>Plea of Not Guilty; "Black Box" Phone Case</b>
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Abstract	Robert J. Weingardner pleads not guilty to charges of conspiracy and illegal wiretapping. His alleged confederates, Donald Bellenger and Richard Rose were arrested previously.
Keywords	Robert J. Weingardner; Robert Winegardner; Donald Bellenger; Richard Rose; Blue Box
Notes	Winegardner is spelled as Weingardner in other newspaper articles

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## Plea of Not Guilty

# 'Black Box' Phone Case

A stockbroker pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges he hatched a multi-million dollar plot with two other men to make and market ingenious electronic "black boxes" capable of making free long distance telephone calls.

Robert J. Weingardner Jr. of 102 Alta street, was freed on \$5000 bail by Municipal Judge Joseph Kennedy after entering not guilty pleas to charges of conspiracy and illegal wiretapping.

His lawyer, Gary Near, said the accusations were "unfounded."

Police Inspectors Martin Barbero and Jack Toomey

arrested Weingardner's alleged confederates, Donald M. Bellenger and Richard Rose, on October 14 at the office of Arthur Dettner, proprietor of a printing firm at 835 Howard street.

Police said Bellenger and Rose had demonstrated a "multi-frequency generating device" slightly larger than a king-size pack of cigarettes which would let anyone make long distance phone calls without the telephone company being the wiser.

Dettner allegedly gave the men \$500, with the transaction being recorded by Pacific Telephone security men directed by former Police

Chief Thomas Cahill.

Police said Dettner tipped off the Telephone Company after he was approached by the men, who allegedly offered to sell him one of the devices for \$500 down and \$500 more on delivery.

Cahill, working with police, arranged for Dettner's office to be bugged and for the "demonstration" long distance phone call to be recorded.

Police obtained a search warrant and, they said, seized several of the "black boxes" along with other electronic equipment at 155 Varennes street, the home of Bellenger, who is also a

stockbroker.

Rose, who resides at 2600 Union street, operates a clothing store. He and Bellenger also have pleaded innocent to the charges and free on bail.