



Exploding The Phone

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Abstract Transcript of 11 pm local TV news story on new automated blue box detector.

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RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

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PROGRAM	Action News	STATION	WXYZ-TV
DATE	May 15, 1977 11:00 p.m.	CITY	Detroit

COMPUTER DEvised TO CATCH BLUE BOX CALLS

NEWSCASTER: Well, there's now a better chance than ever of getting caught if you try to make a free long distance telephone call by using those illegal blue boxes. ABC's Evelyn Cantor(?) has this report for Channel Seven Action News.

EVELYN CANTOR: To put a blue box call through, first you dial a toll free number, then connect the illegal device with which you dial the actual number you want. New York Telephone estimates several hundred such illegal calls are made from New York City each day. There is even a network of men, peddling their blue boxes to consumers with relatives overseas. The men charge five or \$25 to place the long distance call with the device. Now, MA BELL has developed circuitry that identifies, immediately, when a blue box is being used. As soon as the device is connected, a computer prints out the phone number making the call and the number being called. The information goes through even if the number you're calling is busy or does not answer. Consumers caught by the computers will be billed for the call, meaning you pay for the call twice, and Ma Bell warns you that if it happens again, your phone service will be disconnected. These so-called blue boxes are highly sophisticated devices, but then, so is the technology that can catch people who are using them. Cheating the phone company out of a long distance phone call is not fun and games. Several people have gone to jail, some people have even been deported for doing it. This is Evelyn Cantor. . .)