



# ***Exploding The Phone***

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Title           **Bell Arrests Four in Phone Phreak Toll Evasion Ring**

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Abstract       The Bell Telephone Co. has begun a crackdown on the phone phreaks. Having already arrested 4 people, they intend to go after the ring of about 200 to 250 people who have been using a blue box to defraud the company.

Keywords      Bell Telephone Co.; Blue Box; Clark Teets (security manager for Bell)

Source         Newspaper Archive

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## Changes Not Cheap

# Public Apathetic on Pen Reforms

(Last of Three articles)

By ARNOLD B. SAWISLAK

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Just as floods often start a clamor for dams, prison riots usually revive interest in prison reform. But there has been a lot more dam building than prison reforming, and that doesn't show much sign of changing.

One reason often given for the surplus of talk and shortage of action on penal reform is that the country really hasn't decided what it wants from its prisons.

If it wants prisons to punish convicts, the country has what it wants. If it wants them to change criminals into law-abiding citizens, the country has a long way to go. If it wants both—and that seems to be the sum of public attitudes and official policies—it might do better spending the money to send men to the moon or some other project that is known to be possible.

Statistics Show Problem

The problem can be expressed in statistics: There are more than 350,000 inmates in 4,500 federal, state, county, city and assorted other prisons and jails. At least four of every ten prisoners have been in jail before and authorities estimate that eight of every ten serious crimes are committed by repeaters.

The public seems apathetic about those figures, but when rioting prisoners destroy \$2.5 million of property, as at the Oregon Penitentiary in 1968, or 41 inmates and hostages die, as at Attica, N.Y., people start asking questions about the so-called "corrections system" which requires in excess of \$1 billion a year to operate.

These episodes usually lead to cries for prison reform, but in most instances it never happens. That may be because it would cost a lot of money and require some basic changes in the way society thinks about and treats people who break its rules.

There are two kinds of "reform" that could be tried. The first would involve trying to fix the present prison system. The second would involve changing the entire system of criminal justice.

Change is costly. Even the patchup job would be costly. One federal law enforcement official has estimated the cost of simply closing and replacing inadequate prisons and jails at \$15 billion.

President Nixon's 1970 task force on prisoner rehabilitation authorities contend that there will be no real progress until the system of criminal justice—from arrest to final release—is reformed.

**Guards Need Training**  
All prison reformers demand better training for guards, which would include what the correctional association calls a "grounding in the causes of criminal behavior, cultural, racial and ethnic differences among prisoners, and 'thorough understanding' of 'the legitimate rights of inmates.'"

Similarly, they call for employment of enough personnel to give all inmates a chance to rebuild their lives. The parole and probation systems would be improved and expanded, with more "half way houses" for inmates approaching release and work-release programs involving on the job training in private businesses.

There is no guarantee any or all of these reforms would keep a prisons peaceful. In fact, effort to keep "salvageable" prisoners separated from inmates who cannot or will not be rehabilitated, may concentrate the potential for trouble. Some say even the present level of prison reform is having that effect.

The most optimistic prison reform advocates usually concede a need to retain prisoners for individuals who must be restrained for the protection of society. And even if the prisons in which such persons are kept provide decent treatment and facilities, the possibility for revolt behind bars will exist.

There are many more proposals to improve the prison system. In an effort to keep prison-separated families intact and reduce homosexuality, prisons in Mississippi and California are permitting inmates' wives to spend week-ends with them. The practice is widespread in other countries. There are many more proposals to improve the prison system.

## Bell Arrests Four In 'Phone Phreak' Toll Evasion Ring

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)

The Bell Telephone Co. has begun a crackdown on an organization known as the "phone phreaks," which uses a security manager for Bell of \$20 to \$25,

electronic gadget to make free long distance calls.

The firm said four persons, including two company employees here and two persons in Tennessee, were arrested Monday in connection with the crackdown.

Pennsylvania, said the ring, which has about 200 to 250 members nationwide, had cost telephone companies an estimated \$500,000 over the past two years.

Teets said the ring uses a device known as a "blue box," which can be made for about \$25.

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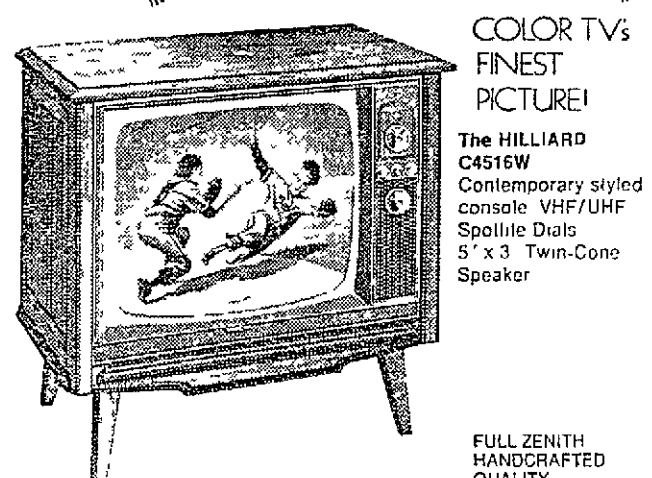
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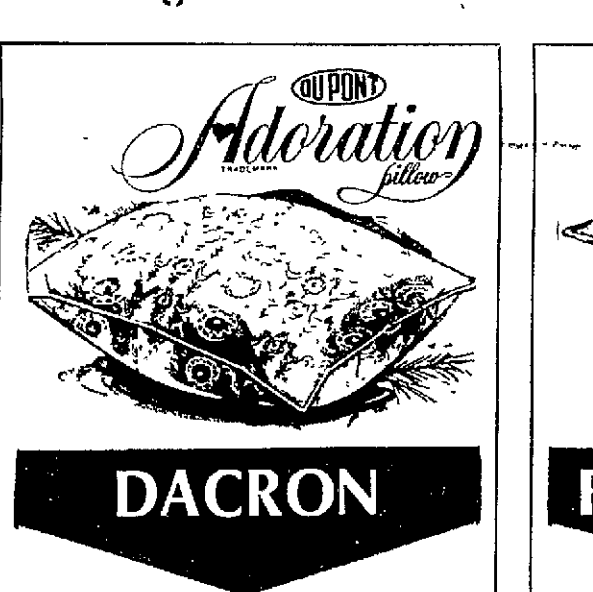
## Oct. 1 National Fetes in China Will Be "Quiet"

HONG KONG (UPI)—Diplomatic reports from Peking said that the Chinese had called off the usual high level banquet held on the eve of the Oct. 1 National Day celebrations, and Peking radio indicated the celebrations would be quiet.

The sources said indications were that the banquet, usually hosted by Premier Chou En-lai, would be replaced by a more subdued lower level reception. Earlier, Chinese officials said the traditional mass rally and parade, the main feature of the National Day celebrations for the past 21 years, had been cancelled and that smaller, scattered gatherings would be held in the capital.

There has been no official word from Peking radio, the People's Daily, the New China News Agency or any of the Chinese propaganda media on cancellation of the traditional rally and parade.

Despite the outward calm in Peking, China analysts in this hearing post still were convinced that the Peking regime has undergone some sort of leadership crisis.



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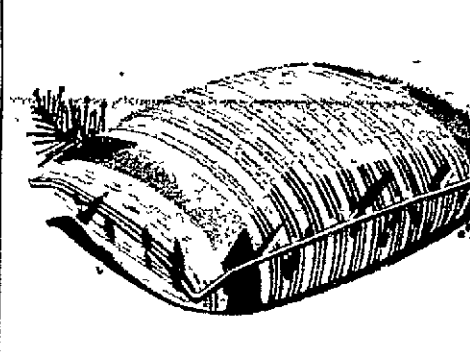
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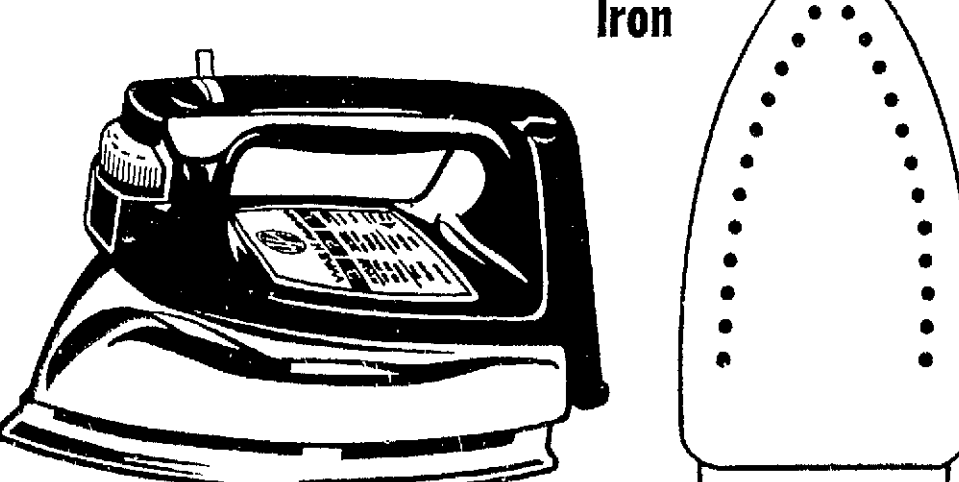
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