

Exploding The Phone

db862

www.explodingthephone.com Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title FBI File 196-ME-286: Unknown Subject; Use of Blue Box

Date 1979-09-11

Author(s) FBI

Abstract Investigation into use of a blue box in Memphis, TN.

Keywords FBI; blue box; Memphis, TN

Notes Originally obtained as part of FOIA 1065071 (phreaks)

Source FBI via FOIA

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| (Title) | b3 F.R.C.P. b6 b7C | Rule | |
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b3 F.R.C.P. Rule 6(e) b6 b7C

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| | (Date) Memphy Tennessee (Hocation) |
| I, | , having been |
| informed of my constitutional | right not to have a search made of |
| the premises hereinafter men | ntioned without a search warrant and |
| of my right to refuse to conse | ent to such a search, hereby authorize |
| | , and |
| | , Special Agents |
| of the Federal Bureau of Inve | estigation, United States Department |
| of Justice, to conduct a comp | lete search of my premises located |
| at | MEMPHIS, TN. |
| These agents are authorized l | by me to take from my premises any |
| etters, papers, materials or | r other property which they may desire. |
| This written permissi | on is being given by me to the above- |
| named Special Agents volunta | rily and without threats or promises |
| of any kind. | |
| | (SIGNED) |
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| ment of Justice, conducted I certify that nothing was | at eral Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Depart- d a search of removed from my custody by Special eau of Investigation, U.S. Department |
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| (SIGNE | ED) |
| Witnessed: | |
| | Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. Department of Justice |
| | Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. Department of Justice |

This is to certify that on 11/19/79 at 7:30PM

Special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,

U.S. Department of Justice, at the time of

Conducting a search of my person a premises

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that was obtained by Special agents of the

Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Defortment

of Justice,

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Special agent, FRI, Memphis 11/19/79

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United States District Court

FOR THE

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| WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEN | INESSEE |
|--|----------------------|
| United States of America | Docket No. |
| | Case No. 79-136M (A) |
| Vs. Memphis, Tennessee, being further identified as the residence of | SEARCH WARRANT |
| To Any Special Agent of the Federal Bureau | of Investigation |
| Affidavit(s) having been made before me by FBI, Memphis, Tennessee | Special Agent, |
| that he has reason to believe that { | в } |

in the Western District of Tennessee

there is now being concealed certain property, namely an electronic device known as a "blue box", which is an instrument for the circumvention of telephone company toll call billing procedures; paraphernalia appurtenant and/or supportive thereof; and lists of telephone numbers (not including published telephone directories), which are evidence of the commission of violations of 18 USC 1343.

and as I am satisfied that there is probable cause to believe that the property so described is being concealed on the person or premises above described and that grounds for application for issuance of the search warrant exist as stated in the supporting affidavit(s).

You are hereby commanded to search within a period of _____3 days (not to exceed 10 days) the person or place named for the property specified, serving this warrant and making the search \(\) in the daytime (6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) \(\) and if the property he found

United States District Court

FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
WESTERN DIVISION

| | Docket No |
|---|--|
| United States of America | Case No.79-136M(A |
| vs. Memphis, Tennessee, Being further described as the residence of | AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT |
| BEFORE James H. Allen, Memphis, Tennesse Management Magistrate The undersigned being duly sworn deposes and says: | ee XXXXXXXXXX or Federal Magistrate b6 b7C |
| That he has reason to believe that (on the premises known Memphis, Tennessee | , |

in the Western

District of Tennessee

there is now being concealed certain property, namely an electronic device known as a "blue box", which is an instrument for the circumvention of telephone company toll call billing procedures; paraphernalia appurtenant and/or supportive thereof; and lists of telephone numbers (not including published telephone directories), which are evidence of the commission of violations of 18 USC 1343;

which are

here give alleged grounds for search and seizure

And that the facts tending to establish the foregoing grounds for issuance of a Search Warrant are as follows:

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT.

| AFFIDAVIT OF |
|--|
| Affiant, Special Agent, Federal Bureau |
| of Investigation, Memphis, Tennessee, deposes and says: |
| There is probable cause to search the above-described |
| premises for the above-described evidence of violations of 18, |
| United States Code, Section 1343, based upon my investigation, |
| as follows: |
| (1) |
| Memphis, Tennessee, is known to |
| me as a reliable source of information regarding violations of |
| the law involving use of telephones. I have worked with |
| previously, and he has proven to be reliable. |
| (2) told me, on this date, that elec- |
| tronic equipment used by the telephone company to detect the use |
| of blue boxes had determined that a "blue box" that being an |
| electronic device or instrument which, when coupled to a telephone |
| line and/or telephone instrument, enables the user to make long |
| distance calls in circumvention of the telephone company's toll |
| billing equipment and in violation of 18, USC, Section 1343 |
| (specifically, the box enables the user, after dialing a |
| toll-free INWATS telephone number or after dialing any long dis- |
| tance number and accessing the toll network, to use certain tones |
| generated by the "blue box" to place long distance calls which are |
| not charged to the user's telephone number) has been in use |
| since August 17, 1979, and last on November 18, 1979, with at least |
| 25 calls made during that time at various times during the day and |
| on various days of the week; and told me |
| that such a "blue box" has been used to make long distance telephone |

"blue box" has been used by the Bell Telephone System for several years and has demonstrated a very high level of reliability in detection (greater than 90 percent reliable in detecting "blue box" signals, as opposed to other irregularities) has advised me that in the past 1½ years he has participated himself in the use of

this equipment, wherein three such "blue boxes" were found

as a result of the use of such equipment. further told me the entire Bell Telephone System, nationwide, has on numerous occasions recovered "blue boxes" by the use of this equipment. stated he was not aware of any occasion

where this equipment misidentified the improper use of such

"blue boxes" or location of the boxes.

Subscribed to and swom before we this 19 m day of

November, 1579

Junes Hollen

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| 11/19/79 | Special agent, FBI, Memphis 11/19/7; Special Agent, FBI, Memphis 11/19/7; |
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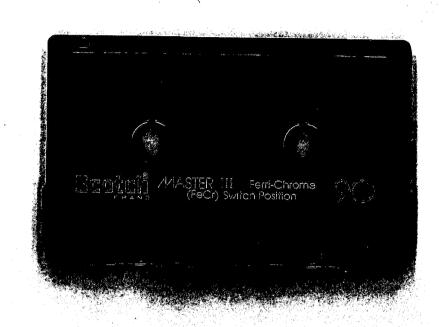
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EVIDENCE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

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| of Criminal Procedure Title: Reference: | Yes □ No (Communication Enclosing Material) |

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| To Be Returned | ☐ Yes | Receipt Given 🗆 Ye |
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| Put your address in the "RETURN TO" space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for service(s) requested. 1. Show to whom, b7C daddress of delivery. 2. Restricted Delivery. 3. Article Addressed to: Article Number | Put your address in the "RETURN TO" space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for service(s) requested. 1. Show to whom, ib7C d address of delivery. 2. Restricted Delivery. 3. Article Addressed to: Registered Insured Certified COD Express Mail Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED. | Put your address in the "RETURN TO" space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for service(s) requested. 6. 1. Show to whom, \(\text{ib} \) 7 C 1 address of delivery. 2. Restricted Delivery. 3. Article Addressed to: 4. Type of Service: Article Number Registered Insured Continued Cont |
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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SENDER INSTRUCTIONS
Print your name, address, and ZiP Code in the space below.
Complete items 1, 2, 3, and 4 on the reverse.
Attach to front of article if space permits, otherwise affit to back of article.
Endorse article "Return Receipt Requested" adjacent to number.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

RETURN TO

SPECIAL AGENT (AM. CHARGE, FRI U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE 341 CLIFFORD DAVIS TEDERAL BIDG.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 88103

196-256-18

FBI - MEMPHIS

FBI/DOJ

Field File # 196 - 386-18

OD. MEMPHIS

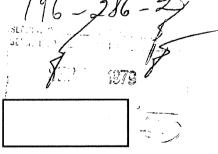
| DATE: | 9/11/79 memorandur |
|----------------------|---|
| REPLY TO ATTN OF: | SA |
| SUBJECT: | UNSUB; USE OF VELUE BOX" ON TELEPHONE NUMBER (C) |
| то: | SAC, MEMPHIS (196-NEW) (P) |
| | |
| , | a "blue box" device had been discovered on telephone Based on instructions from Sunervisor |
| | the writer served a subpoena on as prepared by AUSA JOHN MULROONEY on 9/5/79. Records and documents were obtained based on the Grand Jury subpoena. |

Accordingly, it is recommended a 196-NEW case be opened and

assigned re this matter.

b3 F.R.C.P. Rule 6(e) b6 b7C

CWB/mgv (2)





OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 (REV. 7-76) GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6 5010-112



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

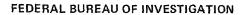
11/29/79

Date of transcription was interviewed and furnished the following signed statement: b6 furnish the b7C following free and voluntary statement to and who identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by displaying their credentials to me. Agent explained to me the purpose of this investigation was to determine the circumstances surrounding the use of certain tones transmitted over my telephone allowing long distance calls to be made without any charge being made to my telephone. "During Mid June of 1979, I resided at had a I knew that device which would produce these tones (used to make long distance calls w/o being charged) (to the phone to which they were made. I read in an underground newspaper that these tones could be recorded & used in the same manner. allowed me to tape tones At my request for the following numbers. ме 196-286 *- З* 11/19/79 Memphis, Tennessee Investigation on

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

b6 "I have voluntarily furnished the tape I made containing the first five numbers to b7C The tape recording Special Agent | of the list number been erased. "I used the tape from my address to test it. I cannot recall the number used. "The only other place from which I have used it is my current address "From Aug 17 I have made approx 2 3 calls a week using tones. "I played the tones thru a set of headphones into the mouthpiece of the telephone. "I have furnished this 2 page statement w/o promise of reward or threat & it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Nov 19, 1979 "WITNESSES: Special Agent, FBI, Memphis 11/19/79 Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, Tn. 11/19779 advised that he would be willing to make restitution to the telephone company for all calls he had made

which circumvented the telephone company's billing system.



Date of transcription 11/29/79

Pursuant to a search warrant, the premises at

Memphis, Tennessee, the residence
of were searched and one Scotch
Brand Master III ninety minute Ferri-Chrome tape cassette
was obtained.

b6 b7C

| Investigation on 11/19/79 | Memphis, Tennessee | ME 196-286 - 4 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| SA SA | CWB/sjp Date dict: | ated 11/21/79 |

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| Date of transcription_ | 11/29/79 |
|---|----------|
| | |
| Pursuant to a consent to search, furnished his residence at Memphis, Tennessee, was searched and one Brand Master III ninety minute Ferri-Chrome tape was obtained. | Scotch |

b6 b7С

| Investigation on 11/ | /19/79 Mer | mphis, | Tennessee | ME 196-286 -5 |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| SA by SA | , C | no CWB/sjp | Date dictated_ | 11/21/79 |

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STATISTICS LETTER

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

Bureau File Number

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS

196 C * 286 F.O. File Number

SUBJECT:

FRAUD BY WIRE (C) 00:MEMPHIS

(**e**)

b6 b7c

Date: 5 / 21 / 80

| A. | PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL PROCESS (No. of Subjects) | D. | ARRESTS / LOCATES / SUMMONS (No. of Subjects) FUGITIVE PRIORITY |
|---|--|----|--|
| | 1 Complaint 2 Information 3 True Bill 4 No Bill | | A B C 1 2 3 FBI Arrests 4 5 6 FBI Locates |
| В. | FINAL JUDICIAL PROCESS (No. of Subjects) | | 7 Criminal Summons |
| 1 Pretrial Diversi 2 Dismissal 3 Acquittal 4 Conviction-Mis | 3 Acquittal 4 Conviction-Misdemeanor 5 No. of Counts | E. | RECOVERY AND LOSS PREVENTED 1. Recovery \$ 2. Potential Economic Loss Prevented \$ |
| | 6 Conviction-Felony 7 No. of Counts | F. | CIVIL MATTERS |
| C. | SENTENCES (No. of Subjects) 1 Confinement | | 1. Amount of Suit \$ 2. Settlement or Award \$ |
| | 2 Probation 3 Suspended | | Government Plaintiff |
| | 4 Fine 5. \$ Amount of Fine | | 3. Amount of Suit \$ 4. Settlement or Award \$ |

REMARKS:

Reflects pretrial diversion for su

2-Bureau

Memphis (1-196-286)
(1-Stats. in process)

* include subclass letter if applicable.

196-286-7

SEARCHED _

SERIALIZED

DEKED

FBI/DC

| To : Pile (196-286) | |
|---|--|
| From : SAC, Nemphis 4/14/86 | |
| *UNSUB, USE OF BLUE BOX, TEL # | |
| DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND RECOVERED PROPERTY | |
| Re memo dated 1/23/86. | |
| Evidence identified on attached green sheet(s) has been retained in the Bulky Exhibit Room in excess of five years. | |
| Since this case has been closed over three years, there appears a good possibility the evidence in question can be disposed of. Any further retention of this evidence will require a memo justifying reasons for same. | |
| Please review this case and handle disposition of property in accordance with MAOP, Part II, Section 2-4.4-1, 2, and 3 (pages 292.01 through 295) within thirty days of the date of assignment of this case. | S |
| If property is not disposed of within thirty days, submit a memo to the file indicating action taken to date, why property has not been returned, and anticipated completion date. | x 'B |
| Any legal questions can be discussed with our Legal Advisers and If any assistance is needed in the actual return or other disposition of evidence, including the drafting of appropriate letters, please contact Forfeiture Analyst Questions may also be directed to your Supervisor, AOSM as well as Property Custodians | |
| As indicated in referenced memo and at recent all Agents' conference, this project will require cooperation of both Agent and Support personnel alike. | |
| JPM:mcp (1) | |
| 1B1 TWO (2) REELS 900' 1 MILE TAPE W/17 APPROX. ONE MINUTE CALLS ACQUIRED 9/5/79 | Charles and the control of the contr |
| c/a CASE CLOSED 8/1/80 | |



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

CENIALIZED *

In Reply, Please Refer to 841 Clifford Davis Federal Building File No. 167 North Main Street Memphis, Tennessee 38103 June 26, 1986 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED b6 b7C Dear The attached material obtained from you in connection with an investigative activity of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is of no further value to this agency or the Department of Justice. The FBI is prohibited from destroying this material; therefore, it is being returned to you for whatever disposition you deem appropriate. Very truly yours, WILLIAM D. FALLIN Special Agent in Charge Bv: Supervisory Special Agent Encl. 1 - Addressee liters returned per AUSA KARRY BROWN 6/27/86,
(2) CB (1)- Memphis (196-286) CWB: mcg STARCHED

Memorandum



b6 b7C

Date 6/30/86

| То | : | SAC, | MEMPHIS | (196-286) (C) |
|---------|------|------------|---------|---------------|
| From | : | SA | | |
| Subject | t :[| | | |
| | | FBW OO: | MEMPHIS | |

On 6/27/86, AUSA LARRY BROWN was contacted concerning the necessity for maintaining the 1B exhibit in this matter, two reels of tape obtained from the telephone company whereon it was discovered the subject had been using a blue box to make telephone calls. AUSA BROWN advised in view of the fact this matter has long been adjudicated, it was his opinion there was no necessity for maintaining this tape in the custody of the FBI and that it could be returned to the telephone company.

vBcwB:cjw
(1) Cyw

SEARCHED MODERED SERIALIZED FUED TO THE SERIALIZED SERIALIZED FUED TO THE SERIALIZED SERIALIZED FUED TO THE SERIALIZED TO THE SERIES T

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