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Abstract       "A young blind man whose ability for placing long-distance telephone calls free of charge earned him a conviction and fine earlier this week has been offered a job -- by a telephone company." Includes quotes from Babe Howard.

Keywords      Joe Engressia; W. S. Howard; Millington Telephone Company

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# Whistler Gets A Job Offer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A young blind man whose ability for placing long-distance telephone calls free of charge earned him a conviction and fine earlier this week has been offered a job — by a telephone company.

Josef Carl Engressia Jr., 22, former University of South Florida student at Tampa, described as a "telephone genius" by a South Central Bell executive, was arrested in Memphis last week on complaints charging him with defrauding the company by whistling into long-distance computers to place toll-free calls.

He was fined \$10 Tuesday on a reduced charge of malicious mischief and said in court he wanted to put his life-long interest in telephones to a legal use.

The opportunity was not long in coming. W. S. Howard, president of the suburban Millington Telephone Co., said yesterday he wants to hire Engressia. "Whatever he thinks he can do, I'll give him a chance to try it," Howard said.

Engressia said he planned to talk with telephone company officials about the job offer today.

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