



Exploding The Phone

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Abstract "A 23-year-old blind man described by a phone company executive as being nearly 'a genius in telephone technology' yesterday was placed under \$1 bond on charges he made long distance calls by whistling into his telephone." Mentions that he has a math degree from USF

Keywords Josef C. Engressia; Joe Engressia

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'Fascinated' with phones

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — A 23-year-old blind man described by a phone company executive as being nearly "a genius in telephonic technology" yesterday was

placed under \$1 bond on charges he made long-distance calls free by whistling into his telephone.

Josef C. Engressia, 23, said in city court he made worldwide calls free by using his own whistles and a tiny electronic box he invented.

Engressia, who holds a mathematics degree from Florida University, was caught making similar calls in Florida in 1968 and was warned by the telephone company to halt the practice.

He has been living here on a \$97 a month aid-to-the-blind cheque and a small allowance from his parents in Miami.

"I've done wrong and the phone company has every right to prosecute me," Engressia told Judge Ray Churchill. "I'm just fascinated with phones.

The hearing was adjourned to next Tuesday.

Engressia was charged with two counts of fraud on a complaint by the telephone company. Police said they seized complex telephone equipment built by Engressia at his tiny apartment.

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