



Exploding The Phone

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title	Good Connection
Publication	<i>Sarasota Herald-Tribune</i>
Date	1971-07-14
V/I/P	p. 7A
Abstract	"The case of Josef Carl Engressia Jr., the young blind man who carried direct distance dialing beyond anything the telephone company ever imagined, has come to what we hope will be a happy ending. [...]"
Keywords	Josef C. Engressia; Joe Engressia
Notes	Op-ed piece from another newspaper, the Memphis Commercial Appeal
Source	Google News Archive

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Other Editors Say:

Good Connection

The case of Josef Carl Engressia Jr., the young blind man who carried direct distance dialing beyond anything the telephone company ever imagined, has come to what we hope will be a happy ending.

Not only did Mr. Engressia listen for the dial tone, he and his electronic devices whistled it with perfect pitch. Beeping and chiming at the appropriate times. Mr. Engressia created quite a hang-up for the South Central Bell Telephone Co. by switching his calls to cities around the world past the operators. Feeling shortchanged, the telephone company decided to prosecute even while admiring Mr. Engressia's telephone artistry.

After his arrest June 2 the blind genius disclosed that, despite his obvious electronic skills and the engineering training he had picked up at the University of South Florida, he was unemployed, lonely and subsisting on a \$97-a-month check he receives from the Tennessee Welfare Department. Judge Ray Churchill, recognizing that the prosecution had a wrong number, reduced the charges and let Mr. Engressia off with a light fine.

Now that the Millington telephone company has offered Mr. Engressia a job in which he can put his talents to a legal use, he apparently will have good reason to whistle while he works. — Memphis Commercial Appeal.