



# ***Exploding The Phone***

db947

www.explodingthephone.com

Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title           **FBI File 165-HQ-25, Redacted Subjects, Fraud By Wire**

Date            1961-09-18

Author(s)      FBI

Abstract        FBI file 165-HQ-25 regarding Ralph Barclay's arrest

Keywords       Ralph Barclay; blue box; FBI file 87-SE-7373

Source          FBI via FOIA

*The following pages may contain copyrighted material. We believe that our use of this material for non-commercial educational and research purposes constitutes "fair use" under Section 107 of U.S. Copyright Law. If you wish to use this material for purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner, if any. While it will make us slightly sad to do so, we will nonetheless comply with requests from copyright owners who want their material removed from our web site.*



U.S. Department of Justice

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

*Washington, D.C. 20535*

January 12, 2010

FOIPA Request No.: 1141655- 000  
Subject: BARCLAY, RALPH ROY

The records that you have requested were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act for another requester.

Enclosed are 11 pages of documents pertaining to your request and a copy of the explanation of exemptions.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be identified easily.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", is positioned below the closing.

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.

Attention: [Redacted]

September 18, 1961

Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Stanley
- 1 - Mr. McAndrews
- 1 - Mr. Hogan

b6  
b7C

EX 100

REC-92

165-25-1  
[Redacted]  
COLUMBIA STUDIOS  
EPHRATA, WASHINGTON  
FRAUD BY WIRE - INTERSTATE  
TRANSMISSION OF WAGERING INFORMATION

In accordance with the telephonic request of [Redacted] on September 13, 1961, [Redacted] General Counsel, Northwest Pacific Telephone Company, was interviewed by our Seattle Division.

b6  
b7C

[Redacted] advised that investigation by the Telephone Company reflects that a mechanical device is being used on telephone number Skyline 4-3312, listed to [Redacted]. [Redacted] stated investigation reflects the device is undoubtedly being used by college students for personal calls and there is positively no indication of gambling activities through the use of this device. Conversation over this line has revealed the names of two subjects whom the Telephone Company will attempt to prosecute locally through cooperation of Ephrata authorities, according to [Redacted] indicated [Redacted] is evidently a completely innocent party in this matter.

b6  
b7C

The Telephone Company is continuing its investigation and complete details will be furnished to our Seattle Office. You will be advised of further developments.

AEH:pew  
-9- *Reed*

MAILED #  
SEP 18 1961  
COMM-FBI

DIVISION  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE  
SECTION  
SEP 18 1961  
FBI

NOTE: See C. A. Evans memo to Mr. Belmont, 9-15-61, same caption; AEH:pew.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

266 18  
[Handwritten signatures and initials]  
REC'D  
TELETYPE UNIT

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

SEP 27 1961

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Belmont *aff*

DATE: 9-15-61

FROM : C. A. Evans *[Signature]*

SUBJECT:   
COLUMBIA STUDIOS  
EPHRATA, WASHINGTON  
FRAUD BY WIRE - INTERSTATE  
TRANSMISSION OF WAGERING INFORMATION

*J.M.S.* | 3-1  
 | 7-1

b6  
b7C

On September 13, 1961,  of the Department advised the General Counsel, Northwest Pacific Telephone Company, Seattle Washington, possessed information relative to possible violation of the Fraud by Wire or Interstate Transmission of Wagering Information statutes.

b6  
b7C

The Seattle Office interviewed  General Counsel, Northwest Pacific Telephone Company, who advised investigation by Telephone Company reflected a mechanical device being utilized on telephone listed to   stated device undoubtedly was being used by college students for personal calls and positively no indication of gambling activity through use of this device. According to  conversations over this line have revealed names of two possible subjects whom the Telephone Company will attempt to prosecute locally. Investigation by Telephone Company is continuing and complete details will be furnished Bureau.

b6  
b7C

stated  is evidently a completely innocent party in this matter.

b6  
b7C

ACTION:

It is recommended that the attached letter be forwarded to Assistant Attorney General, Herbert J. Miller, Jr., attention

b6  
b7C

Enclosure

**EX 100**

REC-92

AEH:pew  
 -7- *[Signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten initials]*  
 65-25-1

SEP 21 1961

*[Handwritten initials]*  
 [Stamp]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
SEP 13 1961

TELETYPE

URGENT 9-13-61 5-19 PM PDST MJB

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, SEATTLE 2R 1P

UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
UNSUB, AKA [REDACTED]

DOING BUSINESS AS  
DBA COLUMBIA STUDIOS, EPHRATA, WASHINGTON.

~~RE~~-FRAUD BY WIRE. RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL FROM SA CHARLES  
STANLEY TO SEATTLE TODAY. [REDACTED] GENERAL COUNSEL,  
PACIFIC TELEPHONE NORTHWEST, SEATTLE, ADVISED INVESTIGATION BY

TELEPHONE COMPANY PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS REFLECTS THAT A MECHANICAL  
DEVICE BEING USED ON SKYLINE FOUR THREE THREE ONE TWO, LISTED TO  
CAPTIONED SUBJECT, IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING USED BY COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR  
PERSONAL CALLS. [REDACTED] STATES POSITIVELY NO INDICATION OF GAMBLING

ACTIVITY THROUGH USE OF THIS DEVICE. [REDACTED] FURTHER INDICATES  
CONVERSATIONS OVER THIS LINE HAVE REVEALED NAMES OF TWO POSSIBLE  
SUBJECTS WHO TELEPHONE COMPANY WILL ATTEMPT TO PROSECUTE LOCALLY  
THROUGH COOPERATION OF EPHRATA AUTHORITIES. INVESTIGATION BY

SPECIAL AGENTS OF TELEPHONE COMPANY CONTINUING, AND [REDACTED] SAYS  
COMPLETE DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION WILL BE FURNISHED TO SEATTLE FBI  
OFFICE. ON RECEIPT OF FURTHER DETAILS FROM TELEPHONE COMPANY,  
THE BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE

RECOMMENDATION. [REDACTED] STATES THAT [REDACTED] IS EVIDENTLY COMPLETELY  
INNOCENT PARTY IN THIS MATTER.

END AND ACK PLS

8-31 PM OK FBI WA BH

BY SET 28

REC-35 165-25-2  
SEP 13 8 35 AM '61  
SEP 13 1961

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

b6  
b7c

b6  
b7c

# SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

9/14/61

## BACKGROUND

b6

b7C

On September 13, 1961,  of the Department advised the General Counsel for Northern Pacific Telephone Company, Seattle, Washington, possessed information relating to a possible violation of the Fraud by Wire Statute or the new legislation concerning Interstate Transportation of Wagering Information. The Department desired the Bureau interview the General Counsel.

WA 9/20/61  
R

FBI

Date: 9/18/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, SEATTLE (87-7373)

SUBJECT: CHANGED  
 [Redacted]  
 RALPH R. BARCLAY  
 ITSP (POSSIBLE FRAUD BY WIRE)

Re Seattle teletype to Bureau 9/13/61, captioned, "UNKNOWN SUBJECT, also known as [Redacted], DBA COLUMBIA STUDIOS, EPHRATA, WASHINGTON."

BARCLAY, age 19, student at Washington State College, Pullman, Washington, and [Redacted] Ephrata, Washington, both arrested by Grant County Sheriff's Officers on warrant charging local fraud, a misdemeanor, on September 15, 1961, at Ephrata, Washington. Both pleaded guilty; BARCLAY fined \$100, which fine was suspended, and [Redacted] fined \$25.

[Redacted] admits using instant mechanical device for business purposes in out-of-state calls. BARCLAY admits using the device for out-of-state personal calls. BARCLAY and [Redacted] both co-operating with telephone company authorities as to their knowledge of the use of instant device by others.

Instant case will be presented to the United States Attorney, Eastern District of Washington, for opinion regarding fraud by wire violation, Title 18, Section 1343. For your information, the United States Attorney's office for the

- P -

3 - Bureau  
 2 - Seattle

WJD/jcs

SEP 16 5 06 PM '61

MCT-2

REC-21

SEP 26 1961

RECEIVED  
 SEP 20 11 15 AM '61

RECEIVED  
 DIV 5

Approved: R452  
 Special Agent in Charge

64 OCT 2 1961

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7c

b6  
b7c

b6  
b7c

b6  
b7c



SE 87-7373

Western District of Washington, in a hypothetical opinion regarding the use of such a device, does not believe this type fraud is in the purview of Section 1343 since the telephone company is the party defrauded and the fraud is not perpetrated upon the recipient of the call. The United States Attorney's office for the Western District of Washington in Seattle believes the case is analogous to the use of slugs in a pay telephone to make a long distance call. This type of situation was discussed with the United States Attorney's office, Seattle, for an unofficial opinion inasmuch as the telephone company in Seattle is currently investigating information received from BARCLAY and [redacted] that individuals in Seattle are also using this device.

b6  
b7C

This device, according to telephone company officials, is used to avoid payment of charges in the use of direct dialing equipment and requires a good knowledge of telephone company operations by the party operating it. Photographs of the device and information concerning its operations will be obtained from the telephone company in Seattle and forwarded to the Bureau for its information.

LEAD

SEATTLE DIVISION  
At Spokane, Washington

Will present facts of this case to the United States Attorney's office at Spokane, Washington, as to a possible fraud by wire violation.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
Attention: FBI LABORATORY

DATE: 10/3/61

FROM : *J. M. [unclear]*  
SAC, SEATTLE (87-7373)

SUBJECT:   
RALPH R. BARCLAY  
ITSP (POSSIBLE FRAUD BY WIRE)

*[Handwritten signature]*  
b6  
b7c

Re Seattle airtel to Director dated 9/18/61. *FBAN*

For the information of the Laboratory, there are attached hereto seven (7) 8 x 10 photographs of the device built by RALPH R. BARCLAY, as well as a photostat of the schematic which BARCLAY drew for the benefit of the telephone company officials.

Attached to a telephone line adjacent to a telephone instrument, the user, being in this case at Ephrata, Washington, would first dial 112 to get a trunk line to Yakima, Washington. This would be followed by any area code number, but here the number 206 was used for the western part of Washington State. Next, in order would be dialed 555 followed by 1212 which is the national information code number. The information operator, upon receiving a light on her panel would go in on the line and furnish the information requested by the calling party after first inquiring as to the number from which the call was being made. She then punched this number on the call card. At this point, the user in Ephrata had his connection complete to Seattle. Upon hang-up by the information operator, the connections would normally fall away, but at this point a button on the device is pushed which puts a 2800 cycle tone on the line, thereby locking up the connections to Seattle. The user of the device then tone-dials his distant station by pushing the numbered buttons in the proper sequence. When asked by the information operator as to the station from which the call is being initiated, the user in this case merely gave a Skyline exchange number, any of which with that prefix would be acceptable to the operator since she had gone in on the Skyline jack.

*[Vertical stamp: LOOK UP]*

- P -

③ - Bureau (Enc. 8)  
2 - Seattle  
WJD:kmh:16196  
(5)

*EX 104*

*165-25-4*  
REC-71

ENCLOSURE  
*(Sealed)*

*[Redacted box]*

b6  
b7c

*1cc & enclosure retained in Electronics Section 10/17/61*

SE 87-7373

Tone-dialing by pushbutton is accomplished with seven transistor oscillators and duplicates the tones used by toll operators between toll centers using multifrequency coding. The dial shown on the device is used for single frequency dialing.

BARCLAY told the officials of the telephone company that he built the device after studying company technical journals at Washington State University. The company locally is countering the device by placing decoders designed and built since the recovery of this device on suspect lines, since there is information that similar devices are being used by several of BARCLAY's engineering-student associates.

Attention was attracted to the device during a survey of the tickets being kidded out as non-toll calls; in this instance calls to the information operator; however it was noted that there were many tickets supposedly for the purpose of obtaining information, but which reflected a time duration of many minutes. It was known that no one would have occasion to have the information operator on the line for extended periods, so the presence of a "gimmick" was suspected. The calls were then traced to their source through telephone channels and when arrested the user was at the time talking to Redwood City, California, on a toll call through the device.

A possibility of a Fraud By Wire violation in this matter was discussed with USA at Spokane, Washington, who declined Federal Prosecution in lieu of prosecution by local authorities.

This case is being closed administratively and the USA's opinion will be confirmed by letter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

TO : Mr. Belmont *at Bk*

DATE: September 13, 1961 *at Bk*

FROM : C. A. Evans *Con*

SUBJECT:

b6  
b7C

COLUMBIA STUDIOS  
EPHRATA, WASHINGTON  
FRAUD BY WIRE - INTERSTATE TRANSMISSION OF  
WAGERING INFORMATION

of Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the Department, telephonically advised that information had been received indicating the general counsel for the Northwest Pacific Telephone Company, Seattle, Washington, was in possession of information which might indicate a violation of the fraud by wire statute or the new legislation prohibiting interstate transmission of wagering information. According to  the general counsel, can furnish information regarding the possible use of a device, to circumvent toll charges in connection to long distance telephone calls. This device is possibly being used by one  Columbia Studios, Ephrata, Washington, telephone Skyline 4-3312.

b6  
b7C

requested that  be interviewed by this Bureau concerning the above information.

b6  
b7C

ACTION:

The Seattle Office was telephonically requested to immediately conduct the necessary interview in Seattle, Washington, and furnish the Bureau with the results.

Teletype attached

CHS:bgh *bgh*  
(7)

*at Bk*  
MCT - 43  
REG - 91  
EX-116

165-25-5  
*Earl*  
165-19  
SEP 18 1961  
26 11

*Memorandum to Belmont - 9/13/61  
+ let to H.C. - 9/13/61  
A.E.H. ipew*

67  
SEP 25 1961

SEARCH SLIP

Subj:

Barclay Ralph Roy

R#

217

Date

12/24

Searcher

Number

736

Prod:



DEC 28

b6

b7C

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Ralph R.

I

165-25

(POST)

6/11

DEC 28 1964

MAILED

JAN 6 1965

NAME CHECK

January 5, 1965

RALPH ROY BARCLAY  
Born: March 20, 1942  
Seattle, Washington

The files of this Bureau reveal that Ralph R. Barclay, age 19, a student at Washington State College, Pullman, Washington, and one other individual were arrested by Grant County Sheriff's Office on warrant charging local fraud, a misdemeanor, on September 15, 1961, at Ephrata, Washington. Both individuals pleaded guilty and Barclay was fined \$100, which fine was suspended. Barclay admitted using a mechanical device to circumvent toll charges in connection with long distance or out-of-state personal telephone calls.  
(165-25-3)

Original & 1-ONI  
Request Received-12/23/64

ALF:ded  
(4)

This reply is result of check of FBI  
investigative files. To obtain arrest  
records request must be submitted to  
FBI Identification Division.

REC-43  
GHS  
DRR  
165-25-6  
14 JAN 7 1965

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. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

64 JAN 13 1965 171