

abusive calling. In addition, telephone company tariffs prohibit obscene language over the telephone or the use of telephone service in such a manner as to harass or frighten others.

The Bell Telephone System has developed improved equipment to determine the source of anonymous abusive calls, and has issued instructions to operating companies for close cooperation with subscribers who complain of obscene or harassing telephone calls. It is to be hoped that such recent publicity given to this matter by the telephone company and the manner in which they will serve customers who receive such calls will have the beneficial effect of reducing such practices.

Although title 18 U.S.C. 875 (c) prohibits interstate communications containing a threat of personal injury, and 18 U.S.C. 837 (d) prohibits use of the telephone to make threats of damage to certain property or threats to persons seeking to make specified uses of such property, no Federal law deals with the many aspects of the problem of abusive calls. S. 375 would apply to all interstate calls and those calls made within the District of Columbia. Its enactment would facilitate prosecutions for interstate calls by permitting prosecution where it may be convenient for the witnesses, since section 3237 of title 18, United States Code, permits prosecution of offenses in any district in which the offense is begun, is continued, or is completed.

Enforcement of a Federal criminal statute dealing with obscene and harassing telephone calls would appropriately be the responsibility of the Department of Justice. From the standpoint of the Federal Communications Commission's general concern in this area, we are fully in accord with the effort to deal with this problem which is embodied in S. 375 and support its enactment.

(Data accompanying Mr. Hyde's statement follow:)

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM SUMMARY OF ABUSIVE CALLING¹

OCTOBER 1967

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>
Abusive	52, 334
Commercial solicitation.....	1, 244
Misdirected	2, 644
Breakdown of abusive:	
Obscene	11, 793
Harassing	35, 655
Threatening	2, 447
Interference	2, 439
Disposition of abusive:	
Closed after initial discussion.....	28, 142
Closed after keeping log.....	13, 670
Number change, no transfer.....	6, 125
Change to nonlisted or nonpublished numbers.....	4, 808
Requests for line identification.....	4, 658
Lines successfully identified.....	943
Cases referred to security.....	1, 140
Cases requiring disconnection by company.....	5
Cases resulting in court convictions.....	78
Cases involving intercity calling.....	1, 189
Cases involving interstate calling.....	24
Total number closed.....	50, 845
Total number pending.....	9, 733

¹ The figures shown represent actual results for October and November 1967 in all Bell Telephone System companies.