

(The following information was subsequently submitted by DOD:)

A check of all known incidents of harassment of families of servicemen discloses that in only one case was a suspect apprehended and punished. It did not involve telephonic harassment but was the case referred to above of a man impersonating a sergeant for the purpose of trading on the sympathies of a dead serviceman's family.

Mr. BROYHILL. Thank you.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Mr. Brotzman?

Mr. BROTZMAN. I have no questions of the Colonel. May I direct one question to staff counsel?

Mr. KORNEGAY. Yes.

Mr. BROTZMAN. I notice that everyone has been reflecting that the bill under consideration, S. 375, would apply to calls in, as the colonel just said, interstate or foreign commerce.

Now, my question relates to this. Because of the effect on interstate commerce of this system of communications, would this law apply to an intrastate call of an obscene or harassing nature?

Mr. GUTHRIE. No, sir; it is not intended to. This is intended only to apply to calls within the District of Columbia, or those telephone calls that cross State lines.

Mr. BROTZMAN. That do in fact cross State lines?

Mr. GUTHRIE. Yes, sir. The 50 States have legislation.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Thank you.

Mr. KORNEGAY. To amplify that for the record, counsel, with the enactment of the bills which the subcommittee has before it this morning, the entire scope would be filled so far as protecting persons against telephone calls of an obscene and harassing nature.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. KORNEGAY. In other words, all the States have laws, and this bill covers interstate and foreign calls, together with the District of Columbia, and the entire spectrum of conditions would be covered?

Mr. GUTHRIE. Yes.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Thank you.

Mr. BROTZMAN. I have no further questions.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Colonel, I want to thank you again for coming and presenting the position of the Department of Defense.

I know of nothing at the moment more despicable than some act on the part of an individual to harass the widows and relatives of our servicemen, those who have been killed in Vietnam.

We appreciate very much the attention you take.

Colonel TEMPLE. We quite agree, sir. Thank you.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Our next witness is Mr. H. L. Kertz, with the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

STATEMENT OF HUBERT KERTZ, OPERATING VICE PRESIDENT, AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO., APPEARING ON BEHALF OF BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Mr. KERTZ. Mr. Chairman, my name is Hubert Kertz. I am operating vice president of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., and I appear on behalf of the Bell Telephone System operating companies.

The Bell System is extremely concerned about the problem of abusive calls and we are doing all we can to stop them. We are pleased,