

We normally secure written consent from the customer who is receiving these calls when he asks us to disclose the calling line to a law enforcement agency to which he has reported the facts or with which he plans to file a complaint. In any ensuing prosecution a company representative may be a witness and may be asked to provide a chronological history of the telephone company's role in handling the matter. As I mentioned previously, we attempt to publicize all successful prosecutions since we believe such publicity significantly deters abusive calling.

Where the annoyed customer does not decide to take legal action we still are in a position to take further steps. Bell System tariffs provide for the discontinuance of the telephone service of an offending party in such cases.

In addition to the foregoing courses of action, advertising campaigns were conducted throughout the country on this subject by A.T. & T. and the Bell companies during 1966 and 1967 and they will be continued as necessary. This advertising clearly enunciated our policy, including our pledge of assistance to any member of the general public within our operating areas who is a victim of such calling. Also, Bell System officials discussed this subject on a number of national and local television shows and continue to speak about it before law enforcement and other public groups. The Bell companies have also been conducting an extensive employee information program outlining our policy and procedures.

Let me summarize the Bell System position on the entire matter of abusive calling. We are deeply concerned about this problem. We are doing all in our power to eliminate it. We think there is a need for Federal legislation covering interstate abusive calling, and we endorse S. 375, which was passed by the Senate on April 24, 1967, and its identical counterparts in the House—H.R. 611, H.R. 1422, H.R. 5867, H.R. 6283, H.R. 7830, and H.R. 13323 which we understand are now before you for consideration. We, of course, stand ready to give this committee any assistance it requires.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the end of my statement.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Thank you, Mr. Kertz, for a very fine statement, and certainly for some very interesting and informative demonstrations.

Mr. Broyhill?

Mr. BROYHILL. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Mr. Ottinger?

Mr. OTTINGER. What significance do you think the Federal legislation would have? The figures we have from the FCC indicates that there is a very minimal problem with respect to interstate calls. I suppose those interstate calls would be covered by the State law.

Mr. KERTZ. The facts of the matter are, Mr. Congressman, that, while all of the States have laws that make it illegal to do this in intrastate, there is no comparable Federal law. It is true that there are only about 40 calls a month that we have been able to identify as being interstate. Nevertheless, a Federal law would certainly deter this abusive calling. This is why we endorse these bills.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Mr. Brotzman?

Mr. BROTZMAN. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KORNEGAY. On these interstate calls that you have been able to identify, how many of them, if you know, originated from pay telephones, as opposed to residential phones?