

Mr. KERTZ. Well, very few, but there are interstate abusive calls made from pay telephones, and we have—I am quite sure my memory is correct on this—we have a court conviction in this case. We know that there are a few of them, relatively speaking, that are made from coin telephones, comparing the number of coin telephones to total telephones.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Mr. Rooney, do you have any questions?

Mr. ROONEY. No, I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Mr. Kertz, let me again thank you for coming and presenting very interesting and fascinating testimony. You and the company are to be commended for your keen interest in this area, and the cooperation that you have exhibited with all parties interested. Thank you very much.

Mr. KERTZ. Thank you, sir.

Mr. KORNEGAY. The next witness is Mr. Paul Rodgers, of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Mr. Rodgers, would you come around, please. We welcome you before the committee and you may proceed with your statement in the way you choose.

STATEMENT OF PAUL RODGERS, GENERAL COUNSEL, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. RODGERS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Paul Rodgers. I am the general counsel for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), formerly known as the National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners.

The NARUC is a quasi-governmental nonprofit organization founded in 1889. Within its membership are the governmental bodies of the 50 States and of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers. The chief objective of the NARUC is to serve the public interest through the advancement of governmental regulation.

The members of the NARUC appreciate the opportunity you have given me as their spokesman to make their views known on H.R. 611, and similar bills, which propose an amendment to the Communications Act of 1934 to impose criminal penalties on persons making obscene or harassing telephone calls in the District of Columbia or in interstate or foreign commerce.

The NARUC supports the enactment of this proposed law.

We are particularly pleased that the scope of these bills is limited to "telephone communication in the District of Columbia or in interstate or foreign commerce." We believe that this clearcut jurisdictional line shows a wholesome regard for the respective responsibilities of the Federal and State governments in solving this problem.

On February 16th of last year, when we testified before the Subcommittee on Communications of the Senate Commerce Committee on S. 375, one of the bills now under consideration, only 38 of the 50 States had laws imposing penalties on persons making obscene or harassing telephone calls.

The Committee on Communications of this Association on February 28th of last year, after consideration of the abusive calling prob-