

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
February 16, 1977

The regularly scheduled meeting of the House Judiciary Committee was held at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 16, 1977 in Room 436 of the Capitol Building, Helena, Montana. Chairman Scully presided. All members were present with the exception of Representatives Dussault, Hand, Kennerly and McLane.

Scheduled for hearing was HOUSE BILL #497:

REPRESENTATIVE RAMIREZ, DISTRICT #64:

This bill is aimed at those people who use the telephone by fraudulent means and thus avoid paying for the use. There is a new offense listed in section 2. He mentioned some of the methods used to outwit the company, such as whistling in the same pitch as the touch-tone telephone, electronic devices, etc.

PROPONENT, JIM HUGHES, MOUNTAIN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY:

We are in complete support of this bill. The problem of fraudulent use of the phone system has been getting steadily worse and more ingenious all the time.

PROPONENT, GEORGE T. BENNETT, MOUNTAIN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY:

I am an attorney for the phone company and this part of the criminal statute made a crime of obtaining telephone services by fraudulent means. One of the elements of the crime was obtaining the services. This has been a problem for quite some time. He mentioned other ways that have been used to obtain service without paying for it.

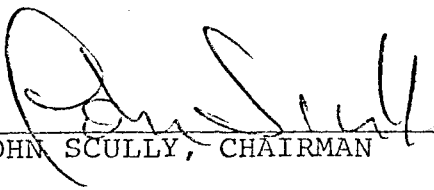
PROPONENT, PETER PAULEY, GENERAL TELEPHONE COMPANY:

We support House Bill #497.

A short discussion followed about an incident in Great Falls in which an electronic device had been used, and calls had been made all over the world.

THE HEARING CLOSED ON HOUSE BILL #497.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.


JOHN SCULLY, CHAIRMAN


Mary Ellen Connelly, Secretary