

California ordered to stop sales of free call device

An electronics expert whose machine enables the user to make free long-distance telephone calls is under court order never to advertise the device or tell people about it again.

California Superior Court Judge Harold W. Schweitzer issued a permanent injunction Dec. 3 against Donald D. Britton and his Los Angeles firm, Don Britton Enterprises.

Britton's attorneys consented to the injunction, which contained no admission of wrongdoing by their client.

The injunction resulted from a suit against Britton by Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., which contended Britton sold

plans from which the device could be built.

The device, known as a multi-frequency signal generator, was described by the company as enabling the user to make calls that could not be recorded for billing through the telephone company's equipment.

Britton's instructions for use of the device contained a warning that it could not be used legally without the telephone company's permission.

Pacific Telephone's suit contended a customer would have no reason to buy one of Britton's devices unless he intended to cheat the company on long-distance calls.

The injunction is valid in the United States and Canada. Britton agreed also to furnish the telephone company with a list of all persons to whom he had sold plans for the devices.

FBI arrests 2 in Ohio for interstate gambling

FBI agents went to a Youngstown, Ohio, gas station on Nov. 26 to arrest a man suspected of using its pay telephone for his half-million-dollar yearly bookie business.

Pizza parlor owner James V. D'Amato was picked up—while on the telephone—at Cheff's Sunoco Service Station.

Personally supervised by Cleveland FBI chief Charles G. Cusick, the arrest was the first move in a federal investigation of a three-state betting network that possibly handles several million dollars in gambling action.

Arrested at his Dearborn, Mich., home was John Matigian, a D'Amato associate who was said to book up to \$4,000 a day in bets, laying most of it off to an unknown individual out of state.

(A bookie "lays off" bets that he feels are too big for him to handle by re-betting them with a larger operator).

Investigation was continuing,

meantime, into the role played by a member of an exclusive Pittsburgh sports club who was described as "the biggest bookie in his part of the country."

"You might say D'Amato was running his own version of the 'Sunny Dollars' game or something, and all very unauthorized," said Asst. U.S. Atty. Robert J. Rotatori.

The federal prosecutor said D'Amato, who has been under surveillance since February, spent most of his afternoons at the gas station and booked up to \$10,000 weekly in bets on football, baseball and horse racing.

Rotatori said there was no evidence that the gas station operators were even aware of D'Amato's thriving business, which involved both receiving and making calls on the pay telephone.

FBI agents traced some of the calls to the Pittsburgh sports club and others to the home of Matigian.

D'Amato and Matigian were charged with interstate travel and use of interstate telephone lines for gambling.