

PHONE PATRONS TO FIGHT BELL RATE INCREASE

Union of Users May Go as Far as to Order Out Company's Lines.

The Telephone Patrons' Union will fight to the last ditch the new telephone rates proposed by the Indiana Bell Telephone Company in their petition filed with the public service commission. T. Ernest Maholm, president of the union, announced today.

A mass meeting has been called, the time and place to be announced later, of Indianapolis citizens, at which efforts to induce patrons of the company to have their phones removed will be made.

Induction proceedings pending before Marion circuit court against the present rates, granted by the public service commission on Feb. 9, will not be heard in time to prevent the granting of the new increases. It is declared, and for this reason the mass meeting has been called, to outline some plan of action against the increase.

"It is obvious that the public service commission is in sympathy with the phone company," said Mr. Maholm, "and it is just as obvious that the rates asked for now will be granted, in order to cover up the void increases allowed last February.

The only way the people of Indianapolis can handle the situation is to order their phones removed, as the people have done in other cities, and thus force the company to return to their old rates.

The mass meeting will be held as quickly as possible, and definite action will be outlined, which will be directed against this latest gouge of the phone company."

The increased rates asked by the petition would affect thirty-five cities of the state, including Indianapolis, and granted would include business phones in this city from the present rates of \$7 per month to \$10, and residence phones on individual lines would be raised to \$1.50 instead of the prevailing price of \$2.25.

Cities affected by the proposed boost are Alexandria, Anderson, Auburn, Bloomington, Bremen, Bedford, Brooklyn, Bunker Hill, Crawfordsville, Culver, Cumberland, Elwood, Fairland, Frankfort, French Lick, Gas City, Granville, Greenwood, Indianapolis, Kendallville, Lewisville, Manilla, Mishawaka, Munroe, New Carlisle, Newcastle, Ossceola, Peru, Rockville, Shelbyville, Smith Valley, West Bend, Vincennes, Washington and Yorktown.

By the terms of the petition, should the proposed rates be granted by the commission, individual business phones, unlimited, would cost \$10 per month, an increase of \$3, with \$1.50 per month charge for extension line.

An individual business line, measured, thirty or less messages per month, would cost under the new rate, \$5. with a charge of \$1 for extension station.

The petition asks for authority to reduce the commission on local message receipts, in excess of guarantee, to the business call collectors from forty per cent to twenty-five per cent.

Unlimited residence phones under the new rates would cost \$45. instead of the present rate of \$25, with a charge of \$3.50 for a two party line, an increase of \$12.50 over the present party line rate.

Private residence extension stations would be charged at \$1, an increase of 25 cents.

In the measured residence service individual lines would cost \$3, with a charge of 4 cents each for the next twenty messages after the first sixty, and 3 cents charge for all messages over eighty.

Two party lines in this service would, under the new rate, cost \$2.50, with a charge of 4 cents each for all over fifty messages.

Individual business phones would cost \$2.75, as at present, and rural residence phones, under the new rate, would be \$3 instead of \$2.

It is suggested in the petition that the commission fix the date of effect of a continuation of the new rates asked.

Officials of the company state the new rates are necessary in order that the utility may be able to meet present conditions.

6 Sentences Passed on 5 Defendants

Six sentences were passed on five defendants today in the criminal court.

Those sentenced were Herbert White-side, 22, burglary and vehicle taking, six months to five years at the Indiana reformatory.

John Kennedy, 20, forgery, one year on state farm.

Ollie Tate, 27, from one to eight years at the reformatory for petit larceny and six months to five years to the reformatory for vehicle taking.

Walter Welch, 16, grand larceny, from one to four years, suspended.

Frank Gootz, 28, vehicle taking, from six months to five years, Indiana state reformatory.

The grand jury has adjourned until next Tuesday morning, when several matters are scheduled to be referred to that body, Ralph Jones, deputy prosecutor, stated.

Seven Men, 1 Woman Rounded Up in Raids

Seven men and one woman are under arrest as a result of two raids by Serst. Russell and the morals squad last night.

James Deming, 30, 123 North Liberty street, is charged with gaming and keeping a gambling house and five other men caught in a raid on the North Liberty street house are charged with gaming and visiting a gambling house.

A man and a woman were arrested in a raid on a room at 215 South Illinois street and are held on statutory charges.

They gave their names as Morris Leslie, 32, of 425 South West street, and Mary Smith, 25, of 1528 South Meridian street.

Ruthie and Zella Robinson, 1499 Cornell avenue, girl.

Ruskie and Zella Robinson, city hospital, 1000 N. Meridian, girl.

John Paul and Mary Louise Ragsdale, St. Vincent's hospital, boy.

Manola Manly and Caroline Dunn, Pines Hotel, 20th street, boy.

Lawrence Allen and Katherine Underhill, St. Vincent's hospital, girl.

Earl Harold and Teresia Irene Garrison, St. Vincent's hospital, girl.

Herbert Little and Golda May Mathews, St. Vincent's hospital, boy.

George F. and Elizabeth M. Mock, 23, West Pershing, girl.

John and Anna Crane, 749 King avenue, girl.

Charles F. and Mary Edna Darringer, Methodist hospital, girl.

Middleton and Janet Williams, 1550 Culver Avenue, girl.

William M. and Xenia Perry, 2348 North Pennsylvania street, boy.

William M. and Martha Louise Evans, 1644 North Arsenal avenue, girl.

Henry A. and Olga Sager, 1499 Cornell avenue, girl.

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