

Decision No. 24144

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
ASSOCIATED TELEPHONE COMPANY, LTD., a
corporation, for an Order authorizing
it to file and make effective a rate
for installation of keys in lieu of
instruments in certain exchanges, also
to revise its rates and charges for
jack and plug installations.

Application No. 24144

Ernest Irwin, for Applicant
E. P. Mulholland, in propria persona
S. E. Vickers, for the City of Long Beach

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this application Associated Telephone Company, Ltd., operating a general telephone business in the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Santa Barbara, herein requests authority to file and make effective rates and charges for two certain services, namely: service with the use of a key in place of a telephone instrument, and service with jack and plug installations.

In many instances Applicant's subscribers have desired, as a convenience, that a single telephone be installed with a key which would allow incoming calls on each of two or more lines to be answered by means of one telephone instrument and allow outgoing calls to be made over each of two or more lines by means of the one telephone instrument.

Applicant desires authority to file and make effective in eight of its exchanges named in "Exhibit No. 1" filed at the hearing, a rate for a key installed in lieu of a telephone station which is the regular wall set monthly rate and service connection charge applicable to such station. This plan of service is a

substitute for an arrangement with two or more telephone instruments so connected as to give similar service, but the charge is less, due to the use of the wall telephone rate (which is twenty-five cents per month less than the desk and hand set rate). Similar rates are on file with the Railroad Commission and are in effect in fifteen other of Applicant's exchanges. Notice is taken that the Commission after a hearing in a formal proceeding ordered similar "key in lieu of instrument" rates and charges made effective in the Pomona exchange, one of these fifteen exchanges. We also note that this practice of making a service connection charge and monthly charge for service with "key in lieu of instrument" is effective in the large majority of the telephone exchanges in California. As Applicant desires to apply its lowest telephone instrument charge, which is the wall set charge, no objection is found to the level of the monthly rate.

It is apparent that subscribers to this "key in lieu of instrument" service have not had similar treatment in the two groups of exchanges named in "Exhibit No. 1" and this should be corrected. In "Exhibit No. 4," Mr. Russell T. Grout, Assistant General Commercial Engineer of Associated Telephone Company, Ltd., submitted tables showing the names of subscribers with "key in lieu of instrument" service together with present and proposed charges for such service and the net increase in each subscriber's bill. It was developed that some of the proposed increases shown were incorrect as they apply to certain mileage charges not authorized or on file with the Commission. Other items showing unauthorized charges were to that extent incorrect. However, it is evident that the result of authorizing the "key in lieu of instrument" charges would be an increase in revenue. It was explained that past and contemplated modifications of Applicant's other schedules more than compensated for such increase. In view of the fact that this schedule has been in effect in fifteen of Applicant's exchanges for a number of years

and, as noted, is effective in the large majority of telephone exchanges in California, and no sufficient reason for rejecting the same appears, we believe that said schedule should be filed and made the legal rates and charges for "key in lieu of instrument" service in all of Applicant's exchanges name in "Exhibit No. 1."

Associated Telephone Company, Ltd. and other telephone utilities furnish a telephone equipment arrangement whereby an extension telephone circuit is extended from the primary telephone to various locations on the premises, at which locations telephone jacks are installed. The jack and plug installation includes one or more portable telephones whose cords terminate on plugs designed to fit these jacks. When one of these portable telephones is plugged in one of the jacks, calls may be originated and received by means of the portable telephone. Applicant has various types of schedules for this service in effect in its various exchanges. In general these schedules include installation charges and monthly charges.

Mr. E. W. Watson, General Commercial and Traffic Superintendent of Associated Telephone Company, Ltd., testified that Applicant on various occasions has found that subscribers object to the monthly charges and generally prefer to have the full charges covered by the installation charges which are paid but once. The schedule proposed in "Exhibit No. 3" contains no monthly charges for two-contact, three-contact, or four-contact jacks which are the types in general use. Applicant desires to continue the monthly charge for eight-contact jacks, a type of equipment infrequently used, which is at present included in the schedules. The result of the proposed jack and plug installation schedule would be an estimated decrease in monthly charges to present subscribers of more than \$3,500 per year.

Mr. E. P. Mulholland appearing for himself, and Mr. S. E. Vickers for the city of Long Beach, objected to the granting of that part of the application which would result in an increase in charges to those subscribers who have "key in lieu of instrument" service.

Mr. Mulholland requested a continuance of the hearing in this matter. Decision by the Commission has been held in abeyance in order that reasons for a reopening of the matter could be submitted. It appears that no additional evidence is to be presented and that the decision should be made.

The Commission has given very careful consideration to the uniform filing of schedules for the two types of services described herein. We believe that this utility, which is a consolidation of several Independent telephone companies with many types of rate treatments and practices, should energetically endeavor to secure more uniformity in its rate schedules and administration practices. It is our conclusion that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

Associated Telephone Company, Ltd. having made request for authority to file and make effective certain rates and charges for telephone service, a hearing in the matter having been held before Examiner Fry in Los Angeles on May 28, 1941, and the Commission being fully informed in the matter,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA hereby finds as a fact that the filing and making effective of the rates and charges herein authorized is justified, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Associated Telephone Company, Ltd. shall file with the Railroad Commission on or before August 15, 1941, in accordance with General Order No. 68, the rates and charges for "key in lieu of instrument" service set forth in "Exhibit No. 1" filed at the hearing and the rates and charges for "jack and plug

installations" set forth in "Exhibit No. 3" filed at the hearing herein, and shall make the same effective fifteen (15) days after the date of filing.

For all other purposes the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 1st day of

July, 1941.

[Signature]
[Signature]
Justus P. Caswell
Francis D. Havens
[Signature]
 Commissioners

CORRECTION

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installations" set forth in "Exhibit No. 3" filed at the hearing herein, and shall make the same effective fifteen (15) days after the date of filing.

For all other purposes the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 1st day of July, 1941.

[Signature]
[Signature]
Justus P. Caenen
Francis D. Havener
[Signature]
Commissioners