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ORIGINAL

Decision No. 84974

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HELEN K. DUVALL,

Complainant

vs.

Case No. 9945

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
COMPANY,

Defendant

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Complainant resides in a one bedroom apartment at 911 West Colorado, Monrovia and alleges that from 1969 through February, 1974, she was unlawfully billed and forced to pay, under duress from defendant, for electric energy not consumed by her in the apartment.

Complainant maintains that defendant, after representing in 1969 that no other electrical equipment was connected to the meter serving her apartment, found upon further inspection in 1970 that the electricity to the laundry and outdoor garage lighting area of a nearby six unit apartment complex was connected to her meter and billed to her account.

By letter dated August 4, 1975, the Secretary of the Commission advised complainant that she had not asserted any error on the defendant's part that would bring the matter under Commission jurisdiction and that an amendment to the complaint was necessary if a cause of action were to be stated. No such amendment has been received.

By further letter dated August 14, 1975, the Secretary of the Commission again advised complainant that her claim should

not be against the utility but against the person or persons responsible for using the electric energy.


Complainant was informed that it is the utility's responsibility to maintain and inspect all wiring and equipment from its facilities up to and including the electric meter. The appliances and wiring connected to the customer's side of the meter are the responsibility of the owner of the property or the customer. There is no requirement of the utility to conduct inspections of the customer's wiring and equipment, though they sometimes make these inspections as a courtesy and usually do not charge the customers for this service.

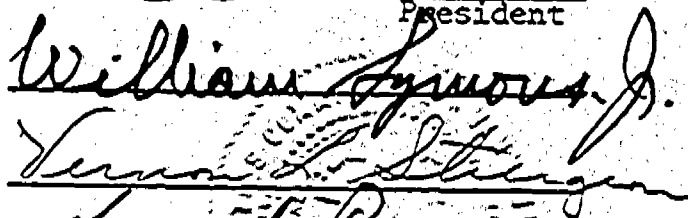
In the absence of amendment, the complaint must be dismissed for failure to state a cause of action. Complainant is advised that her action should be instituted in court against the owner of the laundry and outdoor lighting areas. On the basis of the facts alleged in the complaint, this Commission has no jurisdiction over the matter.


IT IS ORDERED that the complaint herein is dismissed for failure to state a cause of action within the jurisdiction of this Commission to decide.

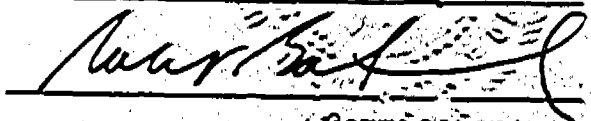
The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 7th day of
OCTOBER, 1975.



President






Commissioners