Proposal could cause rate hike

Bell fights Congressional bill

United Press International

AUSTIN — Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. officials are urging stockholders and customers to fight a bill now pending in Congress, saying the proposal threatens the future of telecommunications.

The legislation could force Southwestern Bell to raise rates it charges Texas customers for local telephone service, Paul Roth, vice president for revenues and public affairs for Southwestern Bell in Texas, said Monday.

He said Southwestern Bell is urging its stockholders, employees and customers to contact members of Congress to urge defeat of the proposal.

"We're making an all-out effort to kill this piece of legislation," said Roth, who described the telephone company's campaign against the bill as unusual.

"It poses such a threat to the future of telecommunications that we feel it is important that we openly oppose the bill."

Roth said the bill was hastily written and benefits "special interests" at the expense of American Telephone & Telegraph Co. and its subsidiaries.

He said the proposal by Rep. Timothy Worth, D-Colo., would allow unregulated competitors of AT&T — such as MCI — to pay discounted access charges for channeling calls through Southwestern Bell's local organizations, while AT&T would have to pay full charges.

Roth says that means Southwestern Bell would not make enough money from long distance access charges to cover the costs of local telephone service.

"Bluntly put, HR5158 could cause Texas rates to be higher just so there could be long distance service," Roth said.

Southwestern Bell for years has used profits from long distance telephone service to subsidize the cost of local telephone service. Roth said the company has been attempting in recent years to raise local rates to pay their own costs.

"For other reasons not related to this bill, local rates are going to have to rise, but this will hasten the rise," he said.

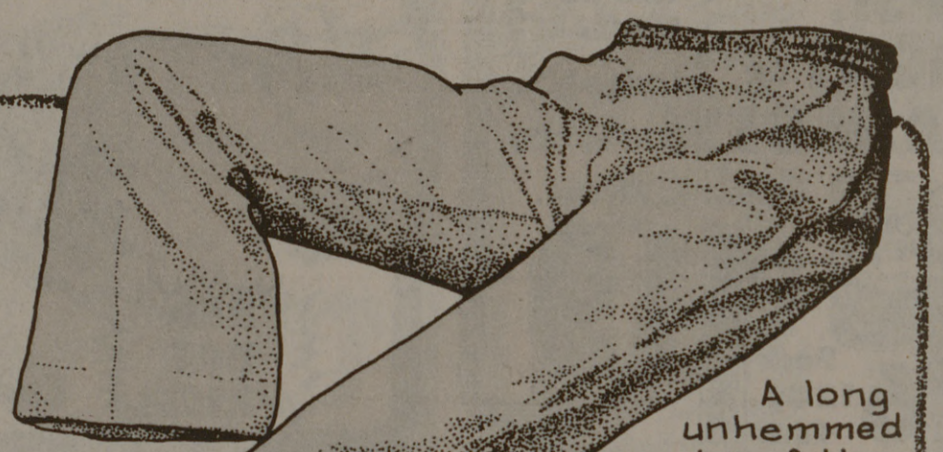
Roth said the pending legislation also would prevent Southwestern Bell from entering such businesses as the burglar alarm business in an effort to raise revenue to offset current losses on local telephone service, and would hamper the company's development of mobile telephone service.

staff photo by Eric M

Balancing act

Loretta Keng, a freshman in general studies, fr Cleveland reads while balanced on the wall next Milner Hall's front steps earlier in the week. T recent unsettled weather in the College Station a has made practice of such routines intermittent best.

Rugby
The long . . .
& the short of it



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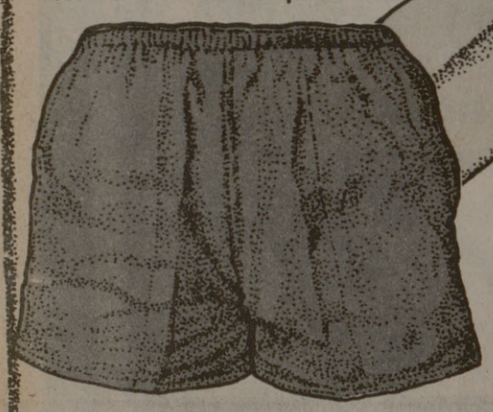

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Jury finds two former cops guilty on narcotics charges

United Press International

SHREVEPORT, La. — Two former state police narcotics officers have been convicted of illegally buying drugs and scheming to resell them.

A six-man, six-woman jury deliberated almost four hours Monday before declaring former troopers David White and David Thompson guilty.

The men were arrested in Bossier Parish Sept. 25 on charges of possession with intent to distribute 5 pounds of marijuana and 1,500 Quaalude tablets, and conspiracy to purchase the drugs.

White and Thompson were nabbed after state police informant Michael Victor Adams told officials the men were planning illegal drug deals.

Adams, a key witness in trial, said he was instructed along with White and Thompson and report details to police officials.

Adams testified he arran for the troopers to illegally the narcotics. He also told court White and Thomp were scheming to transport drugs to Houston and sell the for a profit.

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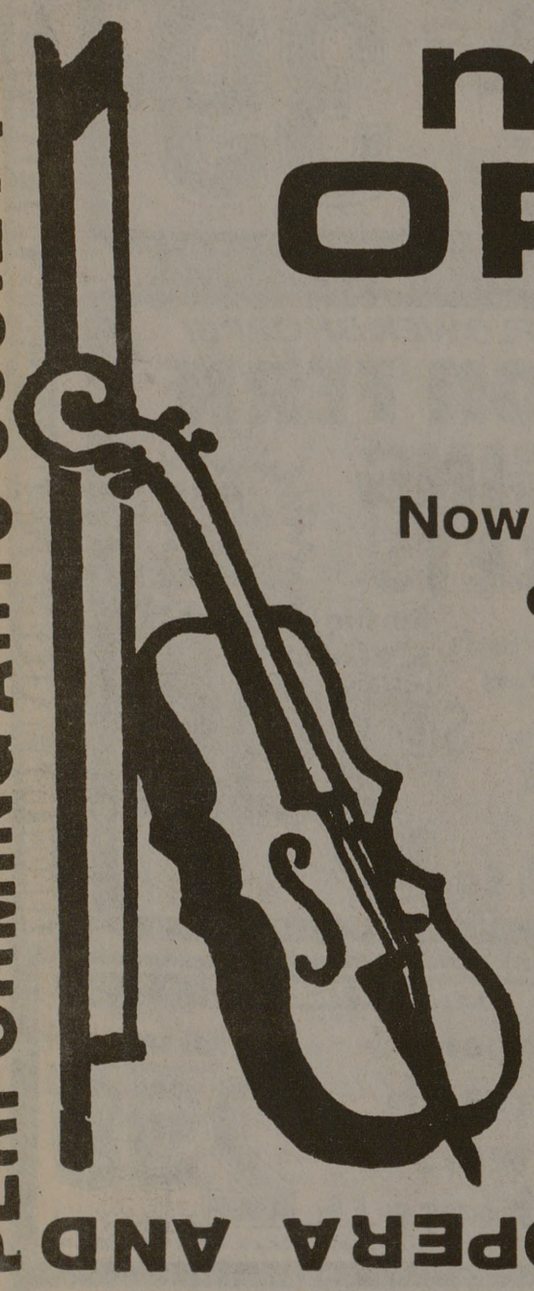

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