## Southwestern Bell Practices **Urged as Subject of Hearing**

By Tom Curtis Special to The Washington Post

Co. competitor today asked that a Federal Communications Commission hearing look attorney in Washington filed a proved and condoned, extense of the condoned o into whether the Bell subsidi- brief with the FCC's Review pressly or tacitly by top comary illegally tapped phones, contributed to politicians and trative law judge who hears Southwestern Bell has deviolated required accounting which firm gets the set of fre- nied taking part in any illegal practices.

An FCC attorney in Washington said that apparently it ered to hear the charges that high-ranking officials, inwas the first time that the against Bell. charges against Southwestern Bell have been formally raised lates interstate phone service. the company in San Antonio. local law enforcement officers The brief also contains Ash-

Roy M. Teel, doing business but not approved by a court. as a Houston radiophone serv- Ashley said that wiretapping HOUSTON, April 1 — A ice, is competing with South- for law enforcement agents on Southwestern Bell Telephone western Bell to provide newly criminal suspects was a wide-Board asking that the administ pany officials." quencies available for air-to- wiretapping. ground service also be empow-

sworn statement of James H. litical contributions of \$50 per Bell have been formatly laised.

Ashley, former commercial month to a slush fund. The lates interstate phone service, manager for Southwestern company has denied that it The charges stem from allega. Bell and a plaintiff in the San operated a slush fund, but of-Antonio suit. Ashley charges ficials in Texas have admitted that he "personally particiand are part of a \$29 million pated in" at least 15 "illegal" litical contributions that they civil lawsuit pending against wire taps arranged by Bell for said were voluntary.

Ashley's statement also says cluding himself, were given Included with the brief is a \$1,000 raises to cover their po-

ley's charge that the company maintained a leased hunting preserve at Uvalde, in South Texas, where politicians and others were taken as guests of the company. Ashley said the lease was paid for personally by a company official who was reimbursed after he submitted a voucher for "public relations expenses."

The brief asked for inquiry into whether this accounting practice violated the Communications Act of 1934.

A Southwestern Bell spokesman in St. Louis declined to respond to that charge because he said it might be covered by a court order in San Antonio forbidding parties in e the suit there from commenting on depositions in the case.