



ALLEN VINCENT
'It's always busy'

A Recorded Message of Racial Abuse

By Duffy Jennings

A recorded telephone message that excoriates blacks and Jews and solicits membership in a white supremacist group touched off a legal dilemma in San Francisco.

Despite the recording's abusive, racist nature, Pacific Telephone Co. officials said the message is pro-

tected by First Amendment guarantees of free speech and expression.

The two-minute tape was produced and paid for by the National Socialist White People's party and went into operation a week ago from a home in the outer Richmond District.

Party leader Allen Vincent said similar messages are playing "all over the country."

OPERATION

Vincent and his roommate, Alex Vinson, had the recording unit installed in their home at 464 43rd avenue for \$100 and keep it operating on a 24-hour basis at the rate of \$22.50 per month.

"It's always busy," Vincent said. "We're going to have to get a couple more units."

"Some people have tried to jam it by leaving their phone off the hook, but it can't be done. When the message ends, it automatically disconnects the caller."

Pacific Telephone, which has taken a neutral position on the matter, is barred from censoring such messages by a 1968 order of the state Supreme Court.

SUIT

In that case, the American Civil Liberties Union brought suit on behalf of Fred E. Huntley, a conservative who attempted to disseminate his views under

the slogan, "Let Freedom Ring."

The court was asked to nullify a state Public Utilities Commission regulation requiring recorded messages to include the name and address of the person or group responsible for the message and to rule on a utility's right to censor any recorded messages.

The court cited First Amendment rights to anonymity and said there must be a "compelling state interest" to justify censorship.

"... only the gravest abuses, endangering paramount interests, give occasion for permissible limitation," the court said.

"Popularity is not a criterion for determining the boundaries of freedom of speech . . . It must be remembered that the right of freedom of speech is primarily intended to protect minority views."

Vincent said the National Socialist White People's Party has about 200 members in the Bay Area. "Most are working class people", he said, "but we have a few lawyers and teachers, too."