

AT&T Issues Report in Braille For Sightless Stockholders

By **ELMER C. WALZER**
UPI Financial Editor
New York (UPI)—American Telephone & Telegraph Co. has published its full 1959 report in Braille for its blind stockholders. It also has produced a 12-inch record of report with its president, Frederick R. Kappel, discussing the highlights of the year, Alexander L. Stott, comptroller, the financial statements, and Alexander Scourby, a professional reader, the narrative.

Either or both of these is available to blind stockholders of the company. So far 350 of the records and 270 of the Braille reports have been distributed.

Ample Mailing List
The company believes it is the first in American corporate history to issue its full report in Braille. The Braille version contains 60 pages 11 inches by 11 1/2 inches in size, bound in a blue heavy paper cover. Copies have been sent to blind students and others who

might have use for such items, including schools for the blind, and the Division of the Blind of the Library of Congress, which cooperated in production of the material. The company is informed there has been a lack of financial literature in libraries for the blind. This report adds to the supply.

The Braille report was printed and the reports made by Printing House for the Blind, a non-profit organization in Louisville, Ky. Distribution is handled through the telephone company's "Telephone Pioneers of America," an organization of about 200,000 telephone employees with 21 or more years of service in the industry. This group has a long record of service for the blind.

Many members of the pioneers have been certified by the Library of Congress to transcribe books and other material into Braille.

One obtains a copy of the report—Braille or record or both—by writing to S. Whitney Landon, Secretary, American Telephone & Telegraph Co., 195 Broadway, New York 7, New York.

Requests then are turned over to the pioneers who ar-

range for personal delivery by a member in a local chapter. Publication of the special reports came as a result of a suggestion from Miss Louise Chase of Providence, R.I., a shareholder, who has been blind for several years.

Scourby in his modulated voice tells the blind stockholders about the progress of American Telephone through 1959. His voice is well-known to blind and he has read them many books—long ones too, including the Bible.

Comptroller Stott recites the financial items of the report which includes the biggest figures in any corporation report of a privately owned company.

American Telephone's assets of nearly \$21 billion top all other business units in the United Press International annual survey of billion dollar organizations. The company with its 1,750,000 stockholders tops the list in that category too. Last year it had a total revenue of more than \$7 billion, paid taxes of about \$1.7 billion, and had left after taxes net income of \$1,148,769,000.

The corporation's tax bill worked out at \$7.66 a share on the outstanding 215 million

10 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
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shares while net income amounted to \$5.23 a share. Stott noted that the tax bill worked out to \$3.39 for each employee the company has in service.

American Telephone issued its regular 1959 report earlier in the year. It was illustrated in color on high-grade bond paper. The Braille report brings out charts carried in the regular report and narrator Scourby describes the pictures.

In the current issue of the Bell Telephone Magazine, a company publication, the tax bite is illustrated with a big pie chart under the heading, "The tax slice is getting bigger." The "slice" is more than one-quarter of the pie, which represents total operating expenses.

Stott pointed out to the blind stockholders that in addition to the \$1,108,000,000 paid in federal taxes and the \$582 million in state and local taxes, telephone users paid some \$800 million in federal excise taxes and \$34 million in state and local taxes on telephone service last year.

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