



**CORBETT IN COURT**—Joseph Corbett Jr., center, accused kidnaper-murderer of Colorado brewer Adolph Coors III, stands passively in District Court at Golden, Colo., as his court appointed attorney, Malcolm McKay, right, and District Attorney-elect Ron Hardesty, left, discuss a trial date. The date of Corbett's trial has been set for March 13, 1961, and Hardesty estimates it would take a month to complete. (UPI Telephoto)

### Independent Telephone Firms Serve Over Half of Country

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD  
UPI Financial Editor

New York — (UPI) — Mention a telephone and most people immediately think of the Bell system.

But the Bell system with its 23 operating subsidiaries is responsible for only six out of every seven phones in the United States.

The other 11 million phones provide a thriving business for more than 3,500 independent phone companies.

Although most of these independents are small, providing only local service, they serve more than half the geographical area of this country.

And because they do not have many long distance toll lines, and serve predominantly rural areas rather than major metropolitan business centers, the independents receive only about 10 per cent

of the industry's gross revenues.

The independents, most of which are privately-held, have managed to keep pace relatively with the larger Bell system both in growth and improvement facilities.

**Grow by Acquisition**  
There is one great advantage the independents have over Bell — they can grow by acquisition, a route closed to American Telephone and Telegraph because of its already dominant position.

The Value Line Investment Survey said the current trend is for the independents to merge into larger units better able to cope with rising wages scales and the initial costs of modern direct dialing and electronic equipment.

It looks for this trend to alter the structure of the industry in the sixties, with fewer and fewer companies remaining.

General Telephone and Electronics Corp. has acquired a number of other independents in recent years, and now is the leading independent with some four million telephones. Last year it reported new highs in most phases of its operations, including the number of phones in service.

**Other Major Firms**  
Other independents gaining in stature are: Rochester Telephone with about 300,000 phones; Central Telephone, 250,000; and West Coast Telephone, 170,000.

Growth in revenues for the entire industry is virtually assured by a growing population and higher standards of living. Advanced technical know-how is turning out more and more cost saving devices.

A principal factor is the operating efficiency is the rapid growth of direct dialing which should be available to 30 million customers by the end of 1960.

**LARGEST ISLAND**  
Manila—Luzon is the largest and richest island in the Philippines chain.

They suggested a study of mosquito-infested areas to identify species and their areas of concentration. Proper identification would have to be made by the local health department since the state health department could not help the county, they explained. Average cost of a fair quality microscope would be about \$450, the mosquito experts said.

Meeting with the county court Tuesday, LaVerne Miller, vector control specialist with the state health department, and Robert McHugh, aquatic biologist with the U.S. public health service, said probably most of the logging pond mosquitoes are of the non-bite species. The biting mosquitoes breed on the ground, in irrigated pastures and along reservoir margins, they pointed out.

The Jackson county court Tuesday discussed the possibility of purchasing microscopes for county sanitarians to approach the mosquito control problem in a more scientific manner.

With telephone saturation heavy, increases are being sought by expanding the use of extension phones and color instruments, and by a variety of new type installations such as a compact phone, a miniature portable phone, an instrument for "hands free" conversation, and interphone systems for home and farm.

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### Western Pacific Offers Petitions On Acquisition

San Francisco — (UPI) — The Western Pacific Railroad laid down a barrage of petitions Tuesday in the formal opening of its battle to prevent acquisition of WP by the Southern Pacific.

Formal declarations of opposition to Southern Pacific were spelled out in petitions filed by mail Monday with the Interstate Commerce Commission, which will have to approve any acquisition.

Western Pacific supported a proposal of the Santa Fe railroad to secure control of WP.

Western Pacific said that Southern Pacific was buying up stock in the open market in preparation for a possible proxy fight.

**Might Influence Investors**  
F. B. Whitman, WP president, said SP might influence investors sympathetic to its cause to purchase stock.

"Two of our shareholders have had offers for large quantities at prices substantially over the market," he said.

In a complaint filed with the ICC, Whitman asked for an order forcing SP to desist from further purchase of stock and to desist from encouraging outsiders sympathetic to SP's cause to buy WP stock.

**Illegal Actions Charged**  
Southern Pacific was also accused in the complaint of "illegal and harmful actions" in buying 10 per cent of WP's stock before announcing its acquisition plan. Under the law, Whitman said, a railroad is permitted to buy stock in another only for investment purposes and not in an attempt to acquire control.

In another petition, WP asked the ICC to order SP President Donald J. Russell to appear at a deposition hearing Dec. 14 to answer questions about fluctuations in WP's stock.

The petition asked that Russell be required to answer questions about SP plans for elimination of track and other facilities in the event it gains control of WP.

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