

C&P of Virginia Pledges to Maintain Economy Phone Service

By Tom Sherwood
Washington Post Staff Writer

RICHMOND, Jan. 7—The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. of Virginia, backing of its previous record of opposing skeptical legislators, today promised to maintain low, flat-rate economy service at the same time it is promoting its controversial "local long distance" or "measured" service, which would charge residential customers according to when, where, and how long a local call lasts.

The service, which a senior telephone official of C&P's parent Bell Atlantic Co. once said "may be our number one objective," has been sharply criticized in Maryland and the District, as well as in Virginia.

"In D.C., with overwhelming community opposition, it has been turned down three times," said Mark L. Plotkin, a Washington activist and leader in the fight against measured service. "A call from Arlington to Washington would be a long distance call.

All of this is a larger game to make local service a luxury rather than providing universal, affordable service," Plotkin said. "This is a victory for consumers," said State Sen. Clive L. DuVal (D-Fairfax) of C&P's decision today.

"They were [ultimately] going to squeeze everything else [except local long distance rates] out."

DuVal, vice chairman of the legislature's joint study committee on telecommunications, which met here today, said he still

may introduce legislation requiring the company to keep its economy service as an option.

Under a flat-rate system, low-income customers pay a small fee to hook up to a telephone and are charged a specific amount for each use. Another low-cost option allows a certain number of calls for one fee and then charges a specific amount for each additional call.

Under so-called measured local service, approved as an option last year, customers would be billed much as they are for long distance now. Critics say it would hurt consumers because it would be difficult for people to keep track of each call and budget for what are now mostly fixed monthly costs.

C&P plans to introduce measured local

service to residential customers in Arlington and Alexandria in 1986, the first communities in Northern Virginia to receive the service, which would initially be optional. Company officials had indicated that if they received Virginia State Corporation Commission approval they would eventually phase out other economy plans in favor of measured service.

DuVal, a longtime advocate of lower telephone and other utility rates, said that C&P and the nation's other telephone companies have not proven that billing customers for local calls in the same way long distance calls are measured is either necessary or fair. "All that C&P knows is that it will get more money," DuVal said.

A similar measured service is available as

an option in Maryland. A bill to bar measured service died in a Maryland legislative committee last year after strong opposition from C&P officials in that state.

The Virginia State Corporation Commission, which regulates utilities, approved the measured rate service as an option beginning in 1984. So far, of 628,000 residential customers, the service is available to about 100,000 customers in Southwestern Virginia, the Hopewell area and some Eastern Shore communities.

"We've had no complaints from customers," said Sid Phillips, C&P Virginia lobbyist who made the pledge today to maintain the economy flat-rate service. "We are not going to remove the untimed" options.

Hunt Goes On For Escapee

Sex-Crime Suspect Eludes Md. Police

By Tom Vesey
Washington Post Staff Writer

Police continued their hunt yesterday for a 17-year-old charged with five rapes who escaped from custody in Howard County Saturday.

Howard County police said he is also suspected in one rape and several assaults since the escape.

Maryland State Police, who are leading the manhunt, said they have had no confirmed sightings of Daniel Dennis Collins, who they describe as armed and dangerous, since early Sunday morning. Roadblocks in the Jessup area were lifted Sunday night.

State police investigators, joined by detectives from Howard, Prince George's and Anne Arundel county police, spent yesterday following leads without success, state police spokesman Sgt. Tom Moore said.

Collins, who has been imprisoned at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, a high-security state mental hospital, escaped from guards at Howard General Hospital, where he had been taken for an X-ray.

According to police, Collins is a suspect in the abduction of a woman, the rape of another and an assault on an elderly couple who were opening a Jesus church—all after his escape.

Collins was arrested by Prince George's County police on Aug. 6, for a weekend spree of sex crimes and car thefts. He was charged with the first-degree rape of five women, as well as numerous lesser sex offenses, auto thefts, assaults, abductions and kidnapping.

All told, he was indicted on 96 counts, according to his attorney, Jeffrey T. Wenner.

Collins is already serving 15 years' probation for a 1983 street robbery in Arlington, Wenner said. Last Dec. 5, Collins was found incompetent to stand trial in Prince George's Circuit Court.

One court official familiar with Collins' record said the youth had spent most of his time since the age of 10 in psychiatric institutions and schools for the emotionally disturbed. At other times, the official said, he lived with his mother in the District and in Waldorf.

Wenner said psychiatrists at Perkins have diagnosed a "severe personality disorder with marked sociopathic and antisocial elements." He said doctors there "said that they fear for the public safety."

2 Detectives Investigated In Arundel

Skimming of Drugs And Money Alleged

By Kaye Thompson
Special to The Washington Post

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 7—Two unnamed Anne Arundel County narcotics detectives have been put on administrative duty pending the outcome of an investigation by the Maryland State Police and the state attorney general's office to determine if they were skimming money and drugs captured in local investigations, county officials said today.

As a part of the investigation, state police set up a fake drug deal last Friday in an attempt to catch the two. That deal resulted in an armed stand-off between six county narcotics officers, including the two detectives, and undercover state agents, believed by the officers to be drug dealers. The detectives were subsequently taken to a state police barracks nearby Jessup, Md., and questioned, but released without being charged, sources said.

Today, county and state officials declined to comment on the extent

AROUND THE REGION



Residents of Hopewell, Va., wait outside the James E. Maloney Middle School for word on when they can return to their homes. They were evacuated yesterday after the derailment of a train tanker carrying propylene oxide, a flammable substance. Officials said persons living near the site were moved as a precaution.

Ft. Washington Youth Pleads Guilty to 3 Rapes, 2 Assaults

A 17-year-old Fort Washington youth being tried as an adult pleaded guilty yesterday to raping three women and assaulting two others during a crime spree near his home last spring.

According to statements read in court, Paul L. Aytch, of 3208 Marquis Dr., a former Friendly High School student, raped a 51-year-old woman on April 26, 1984, causing her to have a stroke, then on May 4, assaulted two women walking in Henson Valley Park and raped two other women, including one who was pregnant.

Prince George's Circuit Court Judge Audrey Melbourne scheduled sentencing for Feb. 8. Aytch's defense attorney, Elvira White, said that although the youth could receive three life sentences for the rapes, the prosecutor has agreed to ask the judge for one life sentence and a recommendation that Aytch be admitted to Patuxent Institution, a state facility for prisoners with mental problems.

Missing Va. Prisoner Is Sought

Virginia corrections officials searched last night for a convicted murderer missing from the State Penitentiary in Richmond who was serving a life sentence for robbing and stabbing his grandmother 15 times.

Corrections Director Allyn Sleafiff, who took over the escape-plagued corrections department last month, arrived at the sprawling facility near downtown Richmond to supervise the search, which was focused mainly inside the building.

Wayne Farrar, a corrections spokesman, identified the inmate as William Patterson, 42. Patterson was convicted in Norfolk in 1980 and sentenced to death for the slaying of his grandmother on April 15 of that year. Testimony showed he robbed her of \$55, broke a bottle over her head and stabbed her 18 times.

The Virginia Supreme Court overturned the

death penalty the following year, citing judicial error, but ordered him jailed for life.

Farrar said prison officials were unable to confirm the killer was actually outside of the prison.

County Seeks to Bar Tires on Fire Site

Virginia's Frederick County will refile a request for an injunction to bar Paul Rhinehart from stockpiling used tires on the site near Winchester where an estimated nine million tires burned from Halloween 1983 to July 1984, officials said yesterday.

County Administrator John Riley said the county decided to reactivate the suit based on inquiries from the public and research by the county. Riley said Commonwealth's Attorney Lawrence Ambrogio is close to completing the necessary papers, but he was uncertain when the request would be filed.

The renewed request for an injunction stems from reports Rhinehart has been hauling tires onto the site again in violation of a Board of Supervisors order.

Riley said he has been in touch with Rhinehart "almost daily." The county and Rhinehart agree that going to court is probably the only way to settle the matter once and for all, Riley said.

3 Will Split \$1.2 Million Lotto Pot

Three persons, including the Coppin State College basketball coach and a Census Bureau employee, picked all six numbers in Saturday's Maryland Lotto drawing and will split the \$1.2 million jackpot, lottery officials said yesterday.

John Bates, 47, head coach of Baltimore's Coppin State College basketball team since 1974, and Ray Wooten, who works for the U.S. Bureau of Census in Suitland and lives in Forestville, will get an initial check of more than \$16,900 and will receive \$16,533.33 annually for the next 19 years, officials said.

The third person to match Saturday's winning number of 7-8-10-12-23-38 has not come forward yet to claim the prize, lottery officials said. They said the jackpot for this week's game will be worth at least \$1 million.

From news services and staff reports

Wife on Trial in Slaying

Witness Says Defendant Asked His Aid

By Charles Fulman
Washington Post Staff Writer

A former boyfriend of Susan L. Mullis testified yesterday, as Mullis went on trial on a charge of murdering her husband, that she tried several times to get him to arrange her husband's slaying or kill him himself.

"A week after we met... she asked me if I knew anybody who would kill him," Michael S. Young, a 31-year-old auto painter from Alexandria told a Fairfax Circuit Court jury. At another point he said, "She asked me to do it, that's all I know."

Young said he "didn't take [Mullis] seriously" when she spoke of having her husband killed.

Michael R. Mullis, a 29-year-old Woodbridge pharmacist, was shot to death July 23, 1983, in an isolated part of Fairfax County near the town of Clifton where he had driven with his wife.

Susan Mullis, 28, charged with first degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, has maintained her innocence.

She told police the night of the slaying that she had gone into the woods to relieve herself, heard three shots, returned and found her

husband shot and ran to summon help.

According to yesterday's court proceedings, the killing took place a week before the Mullises were to begin a legal separation as a step leading to divorce and Mrs. Mullis was the beneficiary of \$200,000 in insurance on his life at the time.

Police have found no murder weapon and have no witnesses to the killing. Assistant Fairfax County prosecutor Raymond L. Brownelle told the jury yesterday, "This is a classic circumstantial case... but given all the evidence you'll hear, I think the sum of the circumstances will prove it beyond a reasonable doubt."

The defendant's attorney, Steven A. Merril, told the jury, "Susan Mullis did not kill her husband and she doesn't know who did," and she has cooperated completely with police.

He characterized Mullis as a man with "severe mental problems who believed he had worms coming out of his bowels." Merril said Mr. Mullis abused drugs and was "very paranoid."

"They have no evidence to prove Susan Mullis is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Their investigation raises more questions than it answers," Merril said.

Gambling Charge Acquittal

No Evidence Progress Club Member Bet

By Victoria Churchville
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Montgomery County district court judge yesterday acquitted a 62-year-old member of the Progress Club, an all-male social club in Rockville, on a charge of "betting on the result of a poker game."

After a two-hour hearing in which the prosecution called three witnesses and the defense none, Judge Cornelius Vaughney said the state had not proven that Lawrence L. Kasdon of Bethesda bet in a poker game the night of June 5, when Rockville police raided the club and arrested him and 20 other mostly elderly men on charges of illegal gambling.

State's attorney Andrew L. Sommer, said later in a telephone interview that he was "surprised" by the judge's ruling.

"It's no big deal," Sommer said. "I'm everybody conveniently forgot whether he had bet that night."

Of the 21 club members or employees arrested in the raid, only Kasdon pleaded not guilty in order to go to trial. The others, including Washington restaurateur Duke Ziebert and former Washington Bullets part owner Arnold A. Heft, opted for guilty pleas and performed community services.

But the corporation that runs the club went on trial last November on six charges of illegally running a place to gamble. After a four-day trial, a Montgomery jury was unable to reach a verdict and a mistrial was declared. A new trial is scheduled for Feb. 13.

Yesterday, after hearing the testimony of a Rockville policeman, the club's former manager and the maître d' at Ziebert's Connecticut Avenue restaurant, Vaughney listened the state's case to his son's high school football games, where people see the boy dressed to play but cannot remember whether he played or just warmed the bench.

P.G. to Merge 3 Anti-PCP Committees

Drug Analysis Lab Urged for County

By Gwen Hill
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Prince George's County drug abuse task force voted last night to consolidate its efforts to curb abuse and make it easier to prosecute users of phenylcyclidine, the drug commonly known as PCP.

About a dozen members of the Addictions Advisory Task Force also decided during a meeting in Upper Marlboro to urge the county to set up its own drug analysis laboratory, a move the state's attorney's office has said will eliminate a 300-case backlog at the Maryland State Police testing lab in Pikesville.

James Hendricks, the regional director of Social Security drug rehabilitation program, will head the new task force, which will include representatives from law enforcement agencies and citizen groups. It will replace three groups—County Executive Parris Glendening's office, the county Health Department and the addictions task

force—that had been operating separately to address problems arising from a rapid increase in the use of PCP.

"PCP is the most dangerous drug on the market today," Hendricks said. "It does the most damage. Kids come in like zombies. They come in suffering from drug-induced psychosis where you have to baby-sit them for a week before they know where they are."

Earlier yesterday, Glendening announced that the county will fund the hiring of two additional chemists at the Pikesville state police lab to handle Prince George's drug cases exclusively. Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore counties and the municipalities of Baltimore and Ocean City have their own labs.

Glendening's plan will cost the county \$23,000 for the two new temporary jobs. Both positions end when state funding for new permanent chemists comes through May 1, according to state police Maj. Carl R. Harburg.

Assistant State's Attorney Michael P. Whalen said his office supports the establishment of a separate local lab so that prosecutors can retain greater control over their cases.

But Prince George's police Lt. Col. Elmer Thonet said that it is "not our policy to let us be used to do what would be a forceful county

of the investigation or who the detectives were.

County police spokesman V. Richard Molloy said the investigation, which began without the knowledge of county Police Chief William S. Lindsey, was spurred by complaints from "anonymous attorneys" for accused drug dealers who told Attorney General Stephen H. Sachs that the detectives were "skimming money and possibly drugs" from evidence confiscated in county drug investigations.

Anne Arundel County narcotics detectives have been working with state and federal agents to crack down on drug traffic in the county. Last month, a three-county drug raid netted cocaine with an estimated street value of \$20 million, and \$500,000 in cash.

In a prepared statement, Lindsey said, "I feel the integrity of the department and the credibility of our narcotics operation has been undermined. We will now have to defend ourselves against allegations made by drug people and their attorneys."

State police used a woman previously arrested by county detectives to set up Friday's deal. The woman reportedly told the detectives that a man—in reality, a state undercover detective—was coming from Florida with perhaps four pounds of cocaine with a street value of \$500,000, Molloy said.

A detective was recorded on videotape putting money in his pocket, Molloy said; however, the detective called in the bills' serial numbers both to county police and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

School Board Nominee Withdraws

Woman Takes Oath To Fill Fairfax Seat

By Priscilla Painton
Washington Post Staff Writer

Three days after his nomination to the Fairfax County School Board, William W. Delaney turned down the Mount Vernon District seat, saying the demands on his time would prevent him from meeting his family obligations.

Mount Vernon Supervisor T. Farrell Egge, who announced the nomination last Thursday, yesterday appointed Olivia Michener, 43, to fill the vacant seat on the School Board. Michener was sworn in at noon at the school administration headquarters in Fairfax City.

In a letter to Egge, Delaney, 47, an economic consultant, said that "the same parental instincts that led me to seek the position at this critical time for our schools has, upon further consideration, persuaded me that the likely impacts on my family would be unacceptable."

Egge, a Republican whose election gave the Board of Supervisors

its first GOP majority in more than a century, made the appointment to fill the seat vacated by Gerald A. Fill, Fill, who was appointed by former Supervisor Sandra Duckworth, stepped down after Egge's election.

Michener was a member of the citizen task force that studied declining enrollment in the county and produced the guidelines for determining what conditions should be present before a school is targeted for closing. She takes over the job at a time when the School Board must decide whether to close any of the three high schools in the eastern part of her district, where enrollments have declined steadily.

The schools are Groves High, Mount Vernon High and Fort Hunt High. Superintendent William J. Burkholder has recommended closing Groves to a high school and turning it into an intermediate school. A task force of citizens had previously recommended closing nearby Fort Hunt and making it an intermediate school. In each case, the recommendations prompted strong opposition from the communities around the schools.

Michener said yesterday she would try to solve the problem of declining enrollments in a way that preserved all three high schools.

Michener earned a bachelor's degree in education from Goucher College in Towson, Md. She moved to Fairfax County in June 1973. Her husband, Frank, is a psychiatrist specializing in children and adolescents. She has three children.