



**CENTER for UNITED LABOR ACTION**

167 W. 21 st. NEW YORK, N.Y., 10011 PHONE: 212-741-0633

*from June 16 72  
Motion to Compel Discovery  
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opening statement*

CENTER FOR UNITED LABOR ACTION

STATEMENT OF INTENT TO INDICT AT&T at FCC HEARINGS MAY 8, 1972

Today, tomorrow and throughout the week - right here in this room - New York Telephone and its parent AT&T are on trial. AT&T, the largest and wealthiest corporation in the world, is on trial for its conscious and systematic policies of racism and discrimination against women workers.

The Center for United Labor Action, which is a national organization of rank and file workers - Black and white, women and men, trade unionists and the not yet organized - has filed for these hearings, fought for them and won them in order to bring AT&T to trial by the very people who suffer the most from its degrading and grinding policies - the operators and clerks. This is the women's day in court. Their lives and interests are controlled by AT&T 24 hours a day, 364 days a year - and today is their day to make the supervisors sit still and listen!

We achieved success in bringing hearings to New York City through the tireless efforts of telephone operators who are members and friends of the Center for United Labor Action. These operators faced tremendous odds. They had to learn and carry out all the necessary legal procedures by themselves. And they were fought at every turn by this 50 billion dollar corporation.

Learning of the Center for United Labor Action's petition for field hearings, AT&T immediately contacted its vast and well-trained legal department and set them to work to try and stop the New York hearings. AT&T claimed that if local hearings were granted, it would become the basis for local hearings of grievances across the country. This would cost them a lot of money.

Well, we say that the grievances of the operators and the women who work in clerical jobs for AT&T are many across the country, are serious across the country and that the operators have a right to raise them all across the country.

We are a party of interest to the hearings. We wanted this status so we could call operators and clerks to testify and so we could subpoena Supervisor Quigley and Personnel Vice President Easlick for cross-examination.

We want not only to cross-examine AT&T management, we want to bring their cruel and degrading harassment to an end. AT&T has more supervisors per worker than the U.S. Army has per G.I.

(more)

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These supervisors maintain a stranglehold on the women's personal dignity -- racist arrogance in remarks and attitude to Black and Latin workers, not allowing sick women to go home, timing women while they go to the bathroom and listening in on their every word on the telephone.

AT&T also maintains a stranglehold on the women's paycheck. They do not pay fair wages for the skill required to perform an operators or clerical woman's job -- and they bar the women from the higher paying craft jobs.

Operators have the lowest maximum pay in the entire corporation. Out of this incredibly low pay -- lowest nationwide in the entire communications industry -- AT&T reaps millions in profits. For what the workers don't take home in their pay-checks, the bosses take home in their pocket.

AT&T is a racist monopoly. Nationwide, it keeps Black and Latin people in the lowest paying job classifications. Fully 92% of all Black and Latin people hired on are women -- and hired on as operators.

In this effort to bring these conditions of harassment, discrimination, low-pay and racism to the public and to an end, we will not be turned around. We will not be in the least intimidated by the slick mellowmouthed AT&T Wall Street lawyers. We will not be fooled either, by a whitewash report concocted in a hurry by a 50,000 dollar a year personnel man -- for its not worth the paper its written on.

We will not be stopped from going ahead with these hearings, in spite of the fact that AT&T has tried very hard to stop them. And AT&T continues to put pressure on operators and clerks who want to testify. We have learned of a suspension for a supposed infraction. And we have learned of a warning letter AT&T sent to a woman planning to film the hearings -- warning her it is a crime to bring in her equipment.

Well, we say to AT&T that you're the one who commits the crimes and that we're going to oppose you at every turn. And we demand that no operator who has had the courage to come here today to testify about AT&T shall be fired, harassed or receive recrimination of any kind.

And now, at these hearings, we will listen to the testimony of many women who have been harassed and degraded by AT&T. This testimony will support our indictment of this company on charges of racism and degradation against women -- policies carried on every day, hour by hour.

Through the subpoenas we issued, operators will be able to cross-examine management, so that management's blatant and vicious campaigns of racism against Black and Latin workers will be exposed and their brutal discrimination against women will be made crystal clear.

Further AT&T's campaign against the poor communities, especially Black and Latin communities where people are poorer, will be exposed -  
- high deposits for telephones, being sold the most expensive equipment, and receiving the worst service.

We, the Center for United Labor Action, in solid support of 30,000 operators and clerks at New York Telephone indict AT&T and demand immediate relief of their grievances.