Phone monopoly debated

By Paul Yen

There can be only regulated competition instead of real competition in the telecommunications industry," said Peter Manus, Vice President for Revenue Matters of the New England Telephone Company, at a Cambridge Forum on Wednesday.

Speaking against deregulation of the telephone industry, Manus quoted John Stuart Mill's theory of natural monopoly, which says that for some industries the most efficient system is one of regulated monopoly.

"The Federal Communications Commission was accused of thinking about competition not in terms of the benefit to the public but rather with the aim of equalizing competition among the competitors," Manus said.

He added that the objective of equalizing competition is the expense of the public is not the role assigned to the FCC by court decisions, he said.

Stephen Breuer, professor of law at Harvard, questioned a clause of a bill, recently introduced in Congress, which would allow the Western Electric Company to give telephone service in the production of telephones for the Bell System.

Breuer agreed that the size of the phone system could be handled by a company at its own discretion, but said he does not understand why there cannot be more companies for manufacturing the phones.

Manus defended his monopoly by saying that phone calls are more secure and cheaper. He added that there are more companies for manufacturing the phones.

Manus asserted that the telephone service in the US is by far the best and cheapest in the world, noting that in Paris alone there is a waiting list of 400,000 customers for repair service.

He also recalled that in

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