COPY

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKET NO. 910163-TL CERTIFIED In re: Petition on behalf of CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA to initiate investigation into integrity of SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S repair service activities and reports. DEPOSITION OF JAMES BRYANT, TAKEN AT THE INSTANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL. Lake Worth, Florida June 14, 1993 3:13 p.m. - 4:32 p.m.

1	APPEARANCES:
2	STATE OF FLORIDA OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL
3	c/o The Florida Legislature 111 West Madison Street
4	Room 812
5	Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400 (904) 488-9330
6	BY: JANIS S. RICHARDSON, ESQUIRE
7	FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 101 East Gaines Street, Room G-28 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0866
8	(904) 488-1280 BY: STAN L. GREER
9	ROBERT J. PIERSON, ESQUIRE
10	SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY
11	Museum Tower Building 150 W. Flagler Street, Suite 1910
12	Miami, Florida 33130 (305) 530-5561
13	BY: ROBERT G. BEATTY, ESQUIRE
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STIPULATION

It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and between counsel for the respective parties that:

MR. BEATTY: I am going to make one statement, and that is the company has represented to each and every employee in this city and in every city that with regard to the depositions in this proceeding that no employee will be disciplined based upon their testimony in this proceeding, provided they have testified truthfully.

The deposition of JAMES BRYANT was taken before me, KIMBERLY C. AYERS, Professional Reporter and Notary Public, State of Florida at Large, at 120 North K Street, City of Lake Worth, County of Palm Beach, State of Florida, beginning at the hour of 3:13 p.m. on June 14, 1993, pursuant to Notice filed herein, at the instance of the Office of the Public Counsel, in the above-titled cause.

THEREUPON,

JAMES BRYANT,

Being by me first duly sworn to testify the whole truth as hereinafter certified, testifies as follows:

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION 2 BY MS. RICHARDSON: 3 Mr. Bryant, would you please state your name and Q. spell it for the court reporter? 4 5 Α. James Bryant, B-r-y-a-n-t. And your address, please? 6 Q. 7 Α. And your phone number? 8 0. 9 A. 10 Q. And what is your present position with the company? 11 I'm assistant manager in the maintenance center. 12 Α. And what pay rate is that? Are you first level, 13 0. second level? 14 15 Α. I'm first level. Have you talked with anyone about your deposition 16 0. here today, other than Southern Bell's attorney? 17 My wife knows that I'm having a deposition, stuff 18 like that. But basically that's it. She doesn't know 19 20 what's going to be asked or what I'm going to respond. Have you discussed any possible questions or 21 ο. answers with anybody else other than the attorneys? 22 Not really. 23 A.

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Has anyone given you any assurances that you

would not be disciplined based upon your answers here today?

Who's your present -- who's the manager one level

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1	A. No.
2	Q. Has anyone discussed with you the possible
3	criminal penalties if you perjure your testimony here today?
4	A. No, they have not.
5	Q. I guess this is a good time. If at any point I
6	ask you a question that you don't understand, that you want
7	some clarification on, I want you to feel free to stop me
8	and ask whatever you need to ask. Or if you need to ask
9	Mr. Beatty a question and you want it off the record, we can
10	go off the record and you can do that. How long have you
11	been an assistant manager?
12	A. About 20 years.
13	Q. Has all of that time been in the West Palm Beach
14	area?
15	A. No, it has not.
16	Q. How long have you been an assistant manager in
17	this area?
18	A. Approximately eight years.
19	Q. Where were you before West Palm?
20	A. Pompano. Before that Margate, and before that
21	Ft. Lauderdale.
22	Q. Is Margate a Broward county?
23	A. It's North Broward now. It's been consolidated.

Q.

above you?

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ı	A. Paul White.
2	Q. Can you spell his last name?
3	A. W-h-i-t-e.
4	Q. Tom?
5	A. Paul White.
6	Q. I'm sorry. Paul instead of Tom. Paul White.
7	And how long has Mr. White been your manager, your
8	supervisor?
9	A. Since March.
10	Q. Who was it before Mr. White?
11	A. I was over in engineering for about a year and it
12	was I had about four different second levels in about a
13	years time.
14	Q. Can you tell me how many you can recall?
15	A. The last one I had was Jose Lopez.
16	Q. And do you remember?
17	A. Before that Val, V-a-l, that's his first name,
18	Bormanis, B-o-r-m-a-n-i-s. And before that Steve Miller.
19	Q. And how long were you in engineering?
20	A. This last time one year.
21	Q. And was that 1989, '90?
22	A. I just came back in March of this year. So, it
23	was like '92 from March of '92 to March of '93.
24	Q. And what were your duties in engineering; what
25	did they involve?

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A. I was assigned the responsibility of maintaining circuits once they were installed. And if the customer was to move out of those facilities, replan so the next customer that moves — in the service would be available in just a very short time after the request was made. It was a position called CT administrator.

- Q. Was there ever any problem in maintaining -- having enough circuits to meet the requests for service?
- A. It would depend on how many circuits a particular customer is going to need. But with the growth of faxing and computers, sometimes there's been delays in providing services. We'll have two lines and they'll need three.
- Q. Were there ever any delays because outside plant was not properly maintained?
 - A. I couldn't say that would ever be a case.
 - Q. What did you do before 1992?
 - A. I was in the maintenance center here.
- Q. Back here. And briefly then, outside of Lake
 Worth between Pompano, Margate and Ft. Lauderdale, in those
 particular maintenance centers did you deal with handling
 customer trouble records?
 - A. Yes.
 - O. In all three?
 - A. Right.
 - Q. Have you always been an assistant manager for the

1 company?

A. No. I used to work for the company three different times. The first time I worked for them I was a verbal office installer for Western Electric. I worked there for four years. I quit and went to work the following week as a frame man -- frame attendant. It was in 1968.

And I worked for about six months, then I quit and went to college for a couple of years and came back to Southern Bell and was hired on as an outside repairman.

- Q. When you were an outside service technician, did you do installation and repair?
- A. Yes, I did. It was '69 and '70. Part of '69, '70, '71.
- Q. Mr. Bryant, I think what I'm going to do is to show you a document. Let me see if I can find it. This is Southern Bells response to preliminary order PSC-93-0263-PCO-TL entered on February 19, 1993. It was filed by the company in the consolidated rate case docket on April 1st, 1993. And on page five at number 64 there is a James Bryant. And I would like you to look at that and tell me is that you?
 - A. Yes, it is.
 - Q. Have you seen this document?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Are you prepared to answer questions that I may

have?

- A. Sure.
- Q. On this particular document there's a list of numbers following your name that correspond to a list of items about information or about items that you may have some information on. And the first one is a number one, I believe. That indicates backing up clearing and closing times. And I'd like to know what information you have about backing up clearing and closing times on trouble reports?
- A. The way you ask that it kind of opens the door for discourse. My people --

MR. BEATTY: In that case I'm going to object on the grounds that the question is ambiguous.

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

- Q. All right. Have you ever instructed your employees, people that you supervise, to back up clearing times on trouble reports?
- A. Actually quite the opposite. No, they have never been instructed to do anything above board. The only time we would back something up would be like if a customer would call in late today when our office is not manned, you would call the customer back to see if dispatch is necessary. They say, no, the line is working now. I instruct my people to ask what time the customer's line was working. If they give us a time, we would back it up to that time.

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1	Q. Are you aware of the company's requirement that
2	out of service reports be cleared within 24 hours?
3	A. Oh, yes.
4	Q. Are you aware that that should be done at least
5	95% of the time?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. And has that always been the case?
8	A. It seems like that's been the number that I
9	remember for years.
10	Q. Do you know of anyone who has backed up clearing
11	times in order to meet that out of service over 24 hour
12	requirement?
13	A. The only people I would have any knowledge of
14	would be the people who report directly to me. I also have
15	the evaluations for the MAs, going back to see what they
16	did. I'd have to say no to that. I might see an error and
17	I would come back and retrain that person. The way you ask
18	it, no, not with that intent.
19	Q. Have you ever heard of anyone doing that within
20	the company?
21	A. I have, but it's all hearsay. Nothing that I
22	would put any validity to because of it being hearsay.
23	Q. These rumors that you've heard, have they been in
24	the West Palm Beach area that you've heard of these people
25	backing up clearing times to meet the 24 hour index?

- A. I really don't -- it's been like more than one place I've heard of it being done. But again, it's hearsay. Whether it has been done or not, I really couldn't attest to.
- Q. And the hearsay that you've heard, has that been among managers, or among maintenance administrators, or among whom?
 - A. I would say probably managers.
- Q. Managers that you have worked with talking about these matters?
- A. It was more or less like this bureau is doing this, this bureau is doing that. And that's really all I know.
- Q. Did you hear of a particular bureau, then, backing up times in this hearsay, in this rumor?
- A. Yeah. But again, like I say it's -- since there is a competitive type environment, each one wants to do as well as they can. One bureau when they don't do well sometimes they might say, well, so and so is doing this or that. Then again you have that coming from the loser. How much credibility are you going to give their testimony. It's just rumor. It's not something I would bank on.
- Q. All right. I'm still going to ask you one more time. Which bureau have you heard the rumor that they were backing up the time?

1	A. Bouch broward, North Broward, this baread.
2	Q. Number two is by your name. Number two indicates
3	that you may have some information about using cause codes.
4	What's a cause code?
5	A. That would be the condition that actually caused
6	a particular which caused the customer to be out of
7	service or have the service less than normal.
8	Q. For example, would a customer action be a cause
9	code?
10	A. Sure.
11	Q. What about weather. Is weather a cause code?
12	A. Yes.
L3	Q. Lightening, for instance?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. Moisture?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. Is there a cause code for unknown conditions?
18	A. Yes, there is.
19	Q. Are certain cause codes or do certain cause
20	codes, when used for out of service reports, take that
21	report out of the index? In other words, that report would
22	not count as a miss because it was closed to moisture, for
23	instance, on that 24 hour index; do you know?
24	A. As far as the PSC report as far as the company
25	report, I don't think so.

- A

- Q. Well, let's talk about the PSC report then. Is moisture one of those codes that would exclude an out of service report from the PSC index?
- A. I'm not sure that moisture is. I really don't remember. Part of the reason I'm not up on this is if you cover your people and have your people do everything like it should be, then you really don't need to know what counts and what doesn't count. Because whether it counts is really irrelevant as to what the trouble caused was. My people have been instructed to put that cause down, not to find a cause that's going to make a result.
- Q. All right. Do you know of any managers who used, for instance, lightening codes in order to exclude out of service over 24 hour reports when lightening was not prone?
 - A. I can't say I do.
- Q. Moisture is a pretty broad code, isn't it? It covers a lot of different kinds of problems?
 - A. I would think so.
- Q. Do you have or have you ever had STs or MAs question you about using the moisture code when for instance the sheath had broken, either it was just defective or a squirrel bit through it, or there was some problem, but the moisture code was used instead of say a squirrel bite or defective cable; has that ever been a question that's come up for you to deal with?

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- A. Not that, but I have actually discussed that with my employees. Like I would ask them where the moisture was at. If it's in the splice case, maybe the splice case wasn't sealed properly and not to use that code. Why did it get wet. Was it due to the weather, was it because we didn't close up the terminal. That's not moisture.
- Q. Do you know of other managers who instructed their people to close out those type of reports to moisture?
 - A. I can't say that I do.
- Q. Have you had an MA or ST come to you and say, well, my other manager said I'm supposed to close it out to moisture; those kind of instances you just told me about?
- A. If I have what I've done -- I'm not saying that I do. I can't recall anything right now. But I know in any kind of situation similar to that would be to override the other supervisor. Because I was in charge of the evaluations, and I would tell them the way it should be and insist they close it out that way.
- Q. Have you ever heard of rumors -- let me rephrase that. Have you ever heard of other managers deliberately using these excludable cause codes in order to affect their index, PSC index?
- A. Not by name. Again, there was like this bureau is doing that, or that bureau is doing that. That's how they're making the results, that type of stuff.

1	Q. Did you ever have trouble making your results?
2	A. The results were I would say probably most of
3	the time you do. And you should, in a way. Because
4	otherwise maybe the results aren't where they should be. If
5	everybody can attain them, they're probably too low.
6	Q. Okay. Have you ever had a second level manager
7	counsel you or reprimand you for not meeting results, the
8	PSC index results?
9	A. Formal counseling, no.
10	Q. How about informal warnings about you're not
11	meeting
12	A. Informal warnings, no.
13	Q. Have you ever had a manager come to you and
14	express problems with the way you handled your people in
15	meeting the PSC index results?
16	A. The way my people handle it?
17	Q. The way you've instructed your people to handle
18	it, yes.
19	A. Sometimes there were questions that come up as
20	far as gray area, and how wide a gray area we should
21	consider.
22	Q. Would gray area be something like using a
23	moisture code and you using it more tightly than other
24	people, for instance?
25	A. (Witness modding head.)

1	Q. Who's your operations manager?
2	A. Right now it's George Lewis.
3	Q. Who was it before Mr. Lewis?
4	A. Jean Davis.
5	Q. Have you ever seen memos from either Mr. Lewis or
6	Mr. Davis stating that you have missed the PSC index and why
7	have you done so?
8	A. No.
9	Q. Have you ever seen memos from Mr. Lewis or
LO	Mr. Davis saying don't miss the PSC index, this is very
11	important, you need to make it every time, something of that
12	nature?
L 3	MR. BEATTY: I object to form of the
L 4	question. It's ambiguous. You may answer.
L 5	THE WITNESS: I've seen results come out
16	showing what our results were, but nothing
17	like maybe sometimes there will be a note at
18	the top keep an eye on that bureau or
19	something like that. Very informal. Just
20	something to say, hey team, let's do what we can.
21	BY MS. RICHARDSON:
22	Q. Have you ever seen memos from Mr. Lewis or
23	Mr. Davis where they say you've missed this by only three
24	minutes, why?
25	A. Not a formal memo. Sometimes we'll see a copy of

a customer trouble report that was missed by two or three minutes. What happened, or something like that. Not by Mr. Lewis and usually -- well, sometimes by Mr. Davis, but not that often. Because generally he has other work to do rather be then be involved with day-to-day operations. In that part of it, anyway.

- Q. Did you ever infer from these memos where an indication of only missing it by five minutes or less was an indication that you should back up the clearing time if it was only five minutes?
- A. I never took it that way. How it was intended -the way I took it was we were just sloppy in the way we
 closed it out or was it cleared earlier. That's the way I
 passed it on to my people.
- Q. I believe number three is by your name also, and that indicates that you may have some information about rebates for out of service over 24. Do you know if a customer is due a rebate if they're out of service more than 24 hours?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Have you always known that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know of any customer that was denied a rebate because their trouble report was mishandled?
 - A. Not any customer in particular, but that has

19 I know it has happened. happened. 1 2 0. Is there a way to identify those individuals, those customers, and make sure that they get a rebate later 3 on? 5 How far back are you talking about? Are we talking about something that happened last week? 6 7 Q. For instance. A. Sure. We can run reports that will tell us how 8 the trouble was closed out, and if it was closed out 9 10 improperly we can go back. But then it will have to be done 11 manually. 12 Do you know if a large number of historical 13 rebates were processed for the West Palm Beach area in 14 January of '92? 15 I'm not aware of that. Unless it had something 16 to do with one of the settlements. I know there was 17 different times the company did issue rebates. I'm not 18 familiar with that particular one. 19 Do you know whether any customers were denied 20 rebates because of falsification of trouble reports? 21 Α. Yeah. 22 Can you tell me --Q. 23 A. No customer in particular. I know that this 24 happened.

Tell me what happened.

25

Q.

1	A. Well, sometimes trouble reports would be excluded
2	once it went over 24 hours, and that a new report would be
3	made up to start the clock again.
4	Q. And when you say excluded, I've had MAs tell me
5	that means putting an "X" in the final status screen; is
6	that what we're talking about?
7	A. Right.
8	Q. Were those out of service reports them?
9	A. Some of them were, some of them could have been
10	excluded for other reasons.
11	Q. And who was doing this?
12	A. I don't know everybody who was doing it. I know
13	two cases where it was done by management.
14	Q. And which management
15	A. Two manager's in the West Palm Center.
16	Q. And that occurred in the last eight years then?
17	A. Right.
18	Q. Which you've been here?
19	A. Right.
20	Q. And you have named for me Mr. Paul White. Was he
21	one of the managers doing this?
22	A. Oh, I said managers. I mean assistant managers,
23	first level people.
24	Q. All right. Which first level managers were doing
25	that?

1	A. The two that I know about are and
2	
3	Q
4	A. Right.
5	Q. Are they still doing this, excluding out of
6	service reports?
7	A. I wouldn't think so. And I don't know that it
8	was a normal operation for them. In doing evaluations and
9	analyzations I ran across two cases. One involving sixteen
10	reports and one involving one report. And that's all I
11	know. If they did it any other times I have no knowledge.
12	Q. When you were doing analyzation, what year was
13	this; when did this occur?
14	A. Basically they were doing it the whole time I was
15	in the maintenance center at West Palm.
16	Q. Can you give me a month and a year for the
17	sixteen reports that you found that were excluded, out of
18	service reports that were excluded?
19	A. Not really. I just remember because of the
20	circumstances.
21	Q. Would that have been late 80's, early 90's
22	timeframe?
23	A. It would have been late 80's. It wouldn't have
24	been in the 90's.
25	Q. And on the instance of the one report, the one

approximate year or approximate date when that occurred? 2 It was over here, so it was after they had moved 3 into this building. Probably a year after they had moved into this building. I'm not sure of the dates. 5 Q. 187, 188? б No, it would have been later than that. Because 7 there was no elevator for the building. It was about a year 8 later that I came over. 9 189, 190? 0. 10 I don't know the date. 11 12 Q. Okay. In your opinion, was excluding the out of service 13 Q. 14 reports proper? 15 Α. No. 16 Did you form an opinion as to why that was being 0. 17 done? 18 I'm sorry. Α. 19 Did you form an opinion as to why Q. and 20 were closing out of service reports? 21 Α. Yes. 22 Q. What was your opinion? 23 Well, I asked them directly and the reason they 24 were doing it was because they had gone over -- well, the 25 one was a special circuit because it had gone over four

out of service that was excluded, can you give me an

1	hours. And the other was they had gone over 24 hours.
2	Q. So the one report was a special circuit?
3	A. Now, all of the sixteen may not have been out of
4	service. They could have been excluded for other reasons. I
5	remember the fact they were excluded and they shouldn't have
6	been.
7	Q. Were they excluding the out of service reports in
8	order to affect the PSC index?
9	MR. BEATTY: If you know. Well, I would
10	object to the form of the question.
11	THE WITNESS: That's intent. I don't know.
12	I can't tell what somebody's intent is.
13	BY MS. RICHARDSON:
14	Q. Did you ask them if they were excluding these
15	reports in order to affect the PSC index?
16	A. No.
17	Q. Would the exclusion of out of service reports
18	affect the PSC index?
19	A. (Witness nodding head.)
20	Q. And that's a yes?
21	A. Yes, I'm sorry.
22	Q. Now, by your name is also number four, use of CON
23	codes. What is a CON code; what does that do?
24	A. It's a time we were using when a customer called
25	in and requested a future due date. In other words, we were
	· ·

offering tomorrow and they said, well, I'm not going to be 1 home until Friday. We shouldn't be penalized because we do not have access to that customer's premises. If it was out 3 of service and they request a future due date, we could put it as a CON and it would be removed from the report. 5 So it was an excludable PSC code from the index? Α. Right. 7 Do you know of anyone who has used that CON code Q. other than the way you explained? 10 Α. No. Q. Is the CON code still used today? 11 12 Α. No. Do you know why the company stopped using it? 13 Q. My understanding was that it was part of the 14 Α. settlement that was recently reached. To just totally 15 remove it so that CONs were not there. 16 And what did the company replace the CON code 17 with? 18 Nothing. We just -- my understanding is just 19 bite the bullet and just pay rebates to those customers if 20 21 they're out of service. Did you ever hear of the CON code being misused 22

in any other IMC in Florida?

Yes.

A.

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1	A. Again, it's just rumors. No names, just this
2	bureau is doing it or that bureau is doing it.
3	Q. Did you hear which bureau was doing it?
4	A. I heard North Broward and South Broward. Again,
5	these are going to be the names that come up because they're
6	the ones that are in our same division. Not the division,
7	the same area.
8	Q. These are the bureaus that you're in competition
9	with?
10	A. Basically, right.
11	Q. By your name is also number six, and that
12	indicates building a base of out of service troubles. What
13	is building the base of OOS?
14	A. Well, building the base it seems like it has a
15	connotation of taking of doing something wrong, but it's
16	really not. There is nothing wrong with that as long as you
17	do it in all cases, over 24 and under 24.
18	Q. Have you ever heard it being done with those
19	under 24?
20	A. Yeah, hearsay. But again, nothing that I could
21	attest to.
22	Q. Have you ever heard of an employee building the
23	base of out of services by creating fictitious reports?
24	A. Just hearsay. Cases in South Miami, one in the
25	Miami bureau that I wouldn't put any validity to because it

was hearsay.

- Q. Do you know of anyone who has built the base of out of service reports in Palm Beach or in the Palm area in order to meet the PSC index for out service?
 - A. I can't say that I do.
 - Q. Have you ever been --
- A. It's more work to do something like that then to do the job right the first time.
- Q. Have you seen a particular report, a daily report on out of services that indicates the number of total out of service reports for each IMC in this particular area and the number of additional out of service reports required to meet 95%? Have you seen a report like that?
- A. I can't say I have, not in recent years. If I had in the past it would not be a formal report, it would be a note on the side, we missed it had by two percent or we missed it by this much. So nothing with an intent, hey, let's add to it.
- Q. By your name is also number eight. Instructions not to status out service or not statusing out of service or both.

MR. BEATTY: Object to the form of the question. It's ambiguous

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry?

MR. BEATTY: You can respond.

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THE WITNESS: Oh. I can't recall being told 1 to do anything like that myself. 2 BY MS. RICHARDSON: 3 Have you ever heard of a manager instructing 0. their MAs not to status any out of service reports today? 5 I don't think so. Α. Have you ever heard of managers instructing their 7 Q. MAs to hold off statusing out of services until close out of the report? 9 10 Α. Again, the same thing with the question just 11 before that. It seems like vaguely I've heard something 12 like this, but I can't tell you any detail. So, I know it wasn't said to me or in front of me or anything like that. 13 Do you know of any managers in this area that 14 Q. 15 you've worked with that have instructed their MAs not to status out of service until close out? 16 17 Nothing that I could attest to. 18 Do you know of any managers who have instructed 19 their people to contact them before closing out an out of 20 service that was about to go over 24? 21 A. I don't think so. 22 0. By your name is also number twelve. And number 23 twelve says something about statusing troubles generally, 24 including criteria for statusing out of service. 25 I'm sorry. We were flipping this. What was the

question again?

Q. By your name is also number twelve, statusting troubles generally? Do you know of any instances where trouble reports have been improperly statused in order to affect the PSC index?

MR. BEATTY: Other than what he may have already testified to?

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

- Q. Other than what you've testified to.
- A. No, I don't think so. Most of what I was involved with the out of service statusing, again, was to make sure the MAs were picking them up. I'd have like certain conditions, like the test or if the disposition code indicated that they were out of service and if the MA felt it wasn't, I would pull those. I have a report that I pulled each morning. I could see how many they had out of service and how many not out of service, and I could see what percent. And if something looked out of line, I would put that pull that persons total work and actually read each line to see what happened. And then if it should have been stroked out of service, I would go back and talk to that person.
- Q. When you were doing this analysis, did you do an analysis on other manager's MAs also?
 - A. I did it for the whole center, yes.

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- Q. Did you ever find instances of activities in handling customer trouble reports that you felt indicated an intentional mishandling of reports in order to affect the PSC index or some other result?
- A. Just like I was saying before, I just reviewed the close out work by each individual MA and I would bring it back to them to provide whatever training that I might feel is necessary or ask them additional questions. And I don't think I ever saw an intent on any of the MAs. I don't think they were concerned with making reports, they were just concerned with making a pay check.
- Q. And when you talked to the MAs, did any of them tell you, well, my manager told me to do it that way?
- A. Sometimes I get questions like that. It's not anything where I could say, okay, this is what this person is trying to cover. It could be a misunderstanding.
- Q. In these discussions with the MAs that you had on the problems that you've had, did you ever form an opinion that managers were giving incorrect or improper instructions to the MAs on handling reports?
- A. Again, it's a call. It's like that gray area. You know, how tight you want to run the ship. I might have had a small area, but that doesn't give you any intent on somebody's part to do anything wrong. They see it in a different light. I would try to get the MA to run a small

gray area as possible, because I think it's in the best interest of the business.

- Q. Are you aware of the hotline number that the company has for reporting unethical conduct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Have you ever had occasion to use it?
 - A. No.
- Q. Well, what information did you get from the company in terms of ethics and handling customer trouble reports when the company published that hotline?
- A. Well, the same thing that's always been there. The company has always put a high value on individuals, and also doing a job with a lot of integrity. So, I didn't see anything new there. Just the fact that, okay, here is an 800 number to call if we have something to report.
- Q. In terms of the analysis you were doing, were there any occasions where you found problems that had a hotline number been available in those days that you would have called the hotline number for those problems?

MR. BEATTY: Objection, calls for speculation. You can respond, if you can.

THE WITNESS: Normally -- this is just my own personal opinion -- if I refer something to my immediate supervisor and I can't get it handled, generally it doesn't pay to go any higher. I

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probably wouldn't have taken it any higher. long as you're not talking moral or unethical type things.

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

- Okay. By your name is also number fourteen, use of an employee's codes by another employee or an employee's use of AIRO code. Do you know of anyone who has used someone else's employee code?
 - Yes.
 - And can you explain that situation to me?
- Those two cases I gave you there. The ones that I provided you. The close out of sixteen reports used my code and the other instance the code was one of my
 - And was that proper to do that?
 - No, it was not.
- And how did you find out that they were using someone elses -had used --
- In pulling the trouble reports to analyze the Α. post-inspection analysis these came out. And I could see it shouldn't have been handled that way. Then I went back to the employees that handled them and found out they didn't close them out. The one with my number I knew I didn't close out because I was on vacation.
 - Q. Have you heard of any other managers using other

believe. 3 By your name also appears number fifteen, Q. exclusion or elimination of trouble reports. Is there 5 anything you can add that you have not told me about with 6 about improper exclusion of trouble 7 8 reports? Those are the only two instances that really 9 Α. 10 stand out that I can remember. 11 By your name is also number sixteen, customer 12 direct reports reported as employee originated reports. What 13 can you tell me about that? 14 MR. BEATTY: Object to the form of the 15 question. It's ambiguous. 16 BY MS. RICHARDSON: 17 Do you need me to rephrase? Q. 18 A. I'd prefer if you would. 19 At any time that that arises where you feel like 20 my question is not specific enough or you would like to 21 request me to rephrase it or ask it again, I'll be happy to 22 try to do that. What is a customer direct report? 23 It's a report that's initiated by the customer. 24 Coul an employee who finds a problem on his own 25 create a trouble report for a customer as an employee

employee's codes to status reports?

Not -- I can't say that I have. Not that I would

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originated report?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Is it proper to take a customer report and make it an employee originated report?
 - A. No.
- Q. Do you know of any instances when that has been done?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Can you tell me about those, please?
- A. Again -- I guess I would be more comfortable with the question if you could narrow it down so I don't go into a discourse.
- Q. All right. Well, that may be difficult at this time because I've asked you a specific question and you told me you knew of instances. I don't know of the instances, you do. What instance were you thinking of when I asked my question?
- A. One of the jobs I had when I was in the test center was to answer the customer line. The outside installer would have business cards they would give to the customer on repeat trouble reports where it seemed like the customer is reporting a trouble and it's taking us too long and we get out there and trouble is gone. So in an effort to try to capture the trouble at the time it's on the line, guys would give them this card with a special number on it,

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which I would answer. And I was taking those reports as customer direct, and I was ordered to take them as employee reports.

- Q. And in your opinion, should they have been customer direct reports?
 - A. I took them as customer direct reports.
- Q. Were you disciplined for taking them as customer direct instead of employee reports?
 - A. Not directly, indirectly.
- Q. And which manager gave you those instructions to take them as EO reports?

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- Q. And did you, after talked to you, begin taking them as EO reports?
- A. No. I told him he was wrong. He told me the other bureaus were doing it so we should do it too. I called the area staff and asked them to check on the other bureaus. So rather then us do the same thing, we should do what's right. And he called and asked him what was going on, and asked me who told him. I told him I did. He said, I'll fix his ass, and that's as far as it went. He never came back again to tell me again. I kept taking them the same way.
- Q. Who did you say you talked to in checking on the other bureaus?

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1	A. Area staff.
2	Q. Area staff. Who was that?
3	A. Bob Fecht.
4	Q. F-e-c-h-t?
5	A. I believe so.
6	Q. And Mr. Fecht's handled operation reviews, didn't
7	he?
8	A. That's correct.
9	Q. When you talked to Mr. Fechts did he indicate to
10	you that he had found other bureaus doing taking customer
11	direct reports and making them
12	A. Just the opposite. He said he made many reviews
13	on those two bureaus and that he did not find that to be a
14	problem.
15	Q. Do you know if had given those
16	directions to any other managers besides you?
17	A. The supervisor that had the job before me.
18	Q. And who was that?
19	A.
20	Q. Can you spell his last name?
21	A.
22	Q. Now, I want to be very clear.
23	received directions from to take customer
24	direct reports and take them as EO reports?
25	A. He told me he was when I took over the job he

explained what he was doing. He told me how he was 1 instructed to do them. I don't recall who he told me 2 instructed him to do them. 3 All right. 0. I just made up my mind, because I knew it wasn't 5 right. If you got that instruction today, would you call 0. the hotline on that? 8 MR. BEATTY: Objection, speculative. You can 9 respond to that, if you can. 10 THE WITNESS: No, if you object I'd prefer to 11 have it reasked a different way or whatever. 12 13 BY MS. RICHARDSON: You need to let me know. I thought you were 0. 14 15 pausing to think. 16 Α. I'm sorry. That's fine. It does call for speculation. 17 0. today your manager came to you and told you specifically to 18 take these repeat reports that were being called in by the 19 20 customer and open them as employee originated reports, would you yourself feel that you should call the hotline on that 21 instruction? 22 23 MR. BEATTY: Objection. The question calls for speculation, first. And secondly it's not 24 25 relevant what this particular witness would

choose to do on a speculative event. What is 1 critical is that he knows what the hotline is and he can use it if he so likes. So I would object on those two bases. THE WITNESS: I'd do the same thing. I would 5 go ahead and try to resolve it. Make them aware 6 of it and hope that he would want to do something different. 8 BY MS. RICHARDSON: Have you ever felt pressured or intimidated by 10 0. 11 upper level managers when you have gone head to head with them on instructions? 12 13 A. 14

- Intimidation and pressure has been there, but not to the extent that I would knuckle under and do something I shouldn't do.
- Do you know if the managers that gave you those instructions also pressured or intimidated other individuals?
 - A. I can't say that I do.

MR. BEATTY: I object to the form of the question. Supports facts not to evidence.

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

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- Let's go to number twenty-one, Mr. Bryant, wet Q. and dry rules. Can you tell me what a wet and dry rules is?
 - Α. This is for the automated handling of customer

trouble reports where it's screened by auto screener, by the test equipment prior to being handled by a human. And we have parameters set within the rules. If a customer reports a no dial phone, then the machine is told process that trouble, or to dispatch out on it, or send to central office, or whatever.

- Q. Does the company still use wet and dry rules?
- A. I don't believe so.
- Q. Do you know when they stopped using wet and dry rules?
 - A. Just recent.
- Q. Do you know of anyone who has misused the wet and dry rules in order to avoid statusing out of service reports?
 - A. I don't think so.
- Q. Do know of anyone who has -- let me stop and ask it this way. Is there a certain set of conditions or codes, test codes, that are considered by the company automatically to be out of service?
- A. There was, now there is not. Now it's strictly customer prompted. I don't remember exactly.
- Q. Do you know of any managers who deliberately changed those rules to avoid statusing out of services?
- A. I'm almost sure that was done, because I handled the screening rules when I was here. And the intent of the

wet and dry rules was really to determine how critical a service is. It didn't have anything to do with out of service or as far as internal or external. So we went on the most important troubles first.

- Q. Did you keep copies of your auto screening rules?
- A. I did, back initially when I took over the job.

 Once I saw a reason to make changes for them, I would keep a copy of the new changes and write the reason for it and just handwrite notes in case I was questioned by my boss as to why I changed it.
 - Q. Do you still have all of those old copies?
- A. Oh, no. It's about four or five weeks ago since I was doing that job. Mostly what I found was nothing that would fall in your line of questioning. It was mostly determining whether we should have gone out on the trouble. So the trouble -- the expense of doing something we shouldn't do. That's the type of trouble I handled.
- Q. Have you ever heard of managers misusing the auto screener rules to affect the PSC index?
- A. I can't say I have. If I did, it would be just a bureau type thing. Well, so and so is doing that.
- Q. All right. Number twenty-four is by your name also. Special services or special circuits. What's a special service?
 - A. The special service is something that falls --

1 because of the nature of the service, how important it is. A special handling procedure would be a MAC account. 2 M-A-C? 3 Q. Yes. That is a type of special -- 911 is another A. type. Police, fire stations, anything of that nature. 5 And those have special requirements in terms of Q. 6 7 clearing time? Α. That's correct. 8 And those are much shorter? 9 0. Much. 10 A. Is that the four hour period you spoke of 11 O. 12 earlier? 13 Α. Right. And what's a special circuits? 14 0. 15 A. It could be by the importance of the circuit or 16 by the design of the circuit. 17 Q. Special circuits always designate special services? 18 19 I don't think all of them are. 20 Q. Do you know of any instances of improper handling 21 of special services or special circuits? 22 Α. That's the only one I can recall. 23 That one report with 0. 24 Anything else I might have gotten involved in 25 would have been we should have handled it this way, training

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and retraining type cases. Once it's handled, I don't remember because it's not like something that was wrong. If it's an honest mistake you don't remember stuff like that.

You correct it and you move on.

- Q. Did you participate in any of the operational reviews for your maintenance center, Fort Lauderdale, Margate, Pompano; did you participate in the any of the operation reviews for any of those centers?
- A. I had like many reviews I would do myself to make sure that everything is in line or something of that nature.

MR. BEATTY: Listen to the question.

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

- Q. What about area staff, for instance. Like
 Mr. Fecht or any of the other people that did operation
 reviews by area staff, did you participate in any of those?
 - A. No.
- Q. Did you get feedback on any of the operation reviews that were done on any of the centers you worked in?
- A. Same feedback was given to me, like in a group meeting. This is errors that were found, stuff of that nature.
- Q. When you were receiving feedback in any of those operational reviews, did you form an opinion at that time that anyone was abusing the customer trouble report process?

MR. BEATTY: Object to the form of the

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question, to the words abusing. It's ambiguous. You can respond to that.

THE WITNESS: I don't think so. Generally the feedback was with a staff person giving the feedback. It's just pointing out errors and things of this nature. So, no, I didn't form any opinion.

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

- Q. When the errors were pointed out, did any of them seem to be large enough to be considered wrong? For instance, you gave me the exclude type that you found yourself. Were any errors pointed out that you felt that there seems to be a problem here?
- A. I'd have to say -- I couldn't say yes to that because again, they're just looking at numbers. Where those I pulled out and I looked at every status and that trouble report as it was handled.
- Q. Also by name is employee originated reports generally. Do you have anything else to add to this other than what you told me about employee reports that may have been handled improperly?
- A. Again, I'd have to say anything that I ran across I would have went back and talked to the MA and it didn't happen again. Just training and retraining type circumstances. But not as an ongoing plan of attack, so to

1 speak. Have you ever been disciplined for not following 2 0. instructions from a manager? No. As a craft person, not as management. But 4 it had nothing to do with statusing reports. 5 Do you know any manager who has been disciplined Q. б by the company in relation to handling the customer trouble 7 reports? 8 9 Α. No. Have you ever had occasion when you have -- you 10 Q. have been a craft person? 11 Α. Yes. 12 While you were a craft person, were you ever part 13 Q. 14 of the union? 15 Α. Yes. Did you ever file a grievance, a work-related 16 Q. 17 grievance in regard to how you were being given instructions for handling customer troubles? 18 Α. 19 No. 20 Q. Did you ever participate in sales for the 21 company? 22 MR. BEATTY: Object to the form of the 23 question. It's ambiguous. Participate as a

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supervisor or what?

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

1	Q. In any position that you've held as an employee
2	with Southern Bell, have you ever helped sell services or
3	products for the company?
4	A. We've had like a sales program. Like when I was
5	outside as a craft person, it was like, would it be better
6	for that customer to have an extension or something like
7	that. You might have an elderly person that has to get from
8	this end to that end, would he be better off with two
9	phones. We were encouraged to sell in situations like that.
10	Q. Did you ever participate in any sales promotional
11	campaigns for the company in the late 80's, early 90's?
12	A. I didn't.
13	Q. Were you ever asked to help participate in sales
14	programs?
15	A. I was asked to give up an employee one time.
16	Q. And did you
17	MR. BEATTY: Listen to the question.
18	BY MS. RICHARDSON:
19	Q. Did you give up the employee
20	A. Yeah.
21	Q for sales? Which employee of yours helped
22	sell?
23	A. One of the clerical, Pearl Smith.
24	Q. Pearl Smith. And was Ms. Smith taken
25	specifically to do sales, or was she just selling as part of

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her work with customers on out of service troubles or in troubles generally?

- A. She was taken to do sales.
- Q. Did she participate in a boiler room?

 MR. BEATTY: If you know.

THE WITNESS: She was over in the operation room, which was referred to as a boiler room. I don't know if it was a boiler room.

BY MS. RICHARDSON:

- Q. How long did she work on sales?
- A. I really don't know. At least three or four months. I believe I left the center and she was still over there.
- Q. Were you still her supervisor while she was performing sales?
- A. No, I did none of the supervisory duties as far as verifying time sheets, attendance, or anything else.
 - Q. Who was her supervisor while she was doing sales?
 - A. Cliff Olson.
- Q. Did you ever have occasion to talk to Ms. Smith about her sales work?
- A. Yes. Just as to what she was doing, find out when I was going to bring her back, because I didn't really have people to spare. As to what she was doing, things of that nature.

1	Q. Do you know whether or not she was recording time
2	spent as a maintenance administrator or as a sales rep?
3	A. That I don't know. I didn't sign her time
4	sheets.
5	Q. Do you know of anyone who reported a sale of a
6	service or product to a customer without contacting that
7	customer?
8	A. I'd have to say I don't know of any person
9	that I could name.
LO	Q. And in your conversations with Ms. Smith, did she
11	ever indicate to you that she was aware of employees who
L2	were falsifying sales records?
L3	A. Yes.
L4	Q. All right. And what did she say to you about the
15	falsification of sales records?
16	A. She mentioned the fact that the computer,
17	basically, was inaccurate and she arranged to send me the
18	records that were wrong. And I had the input/output
19	operation telephone records, and I had those changed so that
20	they did reflect the same records that the business office
21	did have.
22	Q. And was this dealing with wire maintenance
23	records?
24	A. Yes. For the most part. There were other things
25	too.

1	Q. So, it also reflected some inaccuracies in the
2	features; special custom calling features?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. I want to make sure. So she was working from
5	business office record files or which files was she working
6	from?
7	A. Repair.
8	Q. Repair records. And the repair records were not
9	consistent with business office records?
10	A. That's correct.
11	Q. And then what you did was to take the repair
12	records that she had and update them according to the
13	business office?
14	A. Correct.
15	Q. Now, can you explain to me how using the repair
16	records ended up in falsified sales records?
17	MR. BEATTY: Object to the form of the
18	question. Assumes facts not in evidence.
19	MS. RICHARDSON: I had ask asked him
20	questions of falsifying sales records. Let me go
21	back.
22	THE WITNESS: I don't know.
23	MR. BEATTY: He's already answered it.
24	BY MS. RICHARDSON:
25	O. Did Ms. Smith report any other employees to you

2	A. If she mentioned a name or two or whatever I
3	don't remember.
4	Q. Do you know if Ms. Smith received any training to
5	do this sales work?
6	A. She didn't need it. It was just a matter of
7	MR. BEATTY: Listen to the question. Do you
8	* know whether she received any training?
9	THE WITNESS: Okay. No, that I don't know.
10	She could have, I don't know any.
11	BY MS. RICHARDSON:
12	Q. I think you were starting to say she didn't need
13	any. Why do you think she didn't need any?
14	A. Well, I spent a lot of time I believe first
15	level you have people you're supposed to spend a lot of
16	time with getting them trained and things like that. She
17	knew quite a bit as far as any information she might need to
18	sell. But it's possible they could have trained her on
19	something else, given her some guidelines.
20	Q. Do you know of any customers that had been
21	reported as having ordered services at that time who later
22	received rebates in the company for those sales activities?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. You do. Do you know of any customers who
25	reported that they had seen new services added to their

who were using inaccurate records in order to do sales?

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1	bills that they never ordered?
2	A. That's the same thing, yes.
3	Q. I want to make sure that I'm clear on that. Do
4	you know of any instances other than what you've talked to
5	me about today about any employee falsifying a customer
6	trouble record?
7	A. I'd have to say anything that I could possibly -
8	I had one fellow that did something once. Because of the
9	nature, I think I skipped the counseling and went to a
10	warning. It was something some way or another I went
11	back to problem, back to the employee and we checked it. I
12	wasn't something that was allowed to go on if it was
13	discovered.
14	Q. Do you know of anyone who has taken a group of
15	Test-OK reports and closed them out as out of service to
16	affect the PSC index?
17	MR. BEATTY: Objection, it's been asked and
18	answered.
19	MS. RICHARDSON: I don't see it, Robert. We
20	talked about exclude reports, but I don't see it
21	on the company list. I may be wrong. And I've
22	been pretty much following the
23	MR. BEATTY: I think I'm wrong. I retract.
24	BY MS. RICHARDSON:
25	Q. Let me rephrase the question and repeat it. Do
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 you know of anyone who has taken a group of Test-OK reports and closed them out as out of service in order to affect the PSC index?

- A. No. The only thing I can say on that would be like if I had somebody working for me, we were going through the Test-OKs, subsequently we would make a contact with the customer and find out we didn't need to dispatch. We would ask them what time was the phone on and was it in fact out of service, or something like that. And we would mark them.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. But not for a goal, you know, affecting our reports.
- Q. Do you know whether or not the no access code stops the repair clock, that 24 hour repair clock on an out of service report?
- A. My understanding was -- and, you know, it may have changed two or three times plus. Things have changed over the years. The last thing I recall is if we dispatched on it prior to the appointment, it wasn't scored against us. And so it's not so much the no access, but it was the dispatch time that was more of a trigger.
- Q. Do you know of anyone who has no accessed a group of out of service reports without dispatch?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Do you know of anyone who no accessed an out of

service report when they actually did have access?

- A. Not individual cases. It may be a case where the customer says, I was there all day, I never left. If he would have knocked, I would have heard. The subsequent repairman guess out there, you think maybe the first guy didn't want to do the job. That may or may not have been the case.
- Q. Do you know of anyone who has taken out of service reports and deliberately no accessed them in order to affect the PSC index?
- A. (Witness nodding head.) I'm sorry, I keep shaking my head. I should be saying no.

MS. RICHARDSON: Okay. Mr. Bryant, I want to thank you for being here. There may be one or two questions from someone at the end of the table. And unless somebody jogs my memory, I may not ask you anything else. I want to thank you and I appreciate you coming.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

MR. GREER: I have a couple.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. GREER:

Q. You were talking about exclude codes or excluding trouble reports, excuse me. How exactly do you go about excluding a trouble report?

1	A. On the final line of status there is a box. You
2	throw and "X" in there. It's not actually doing anything
3	more than that.
4	Q. And when you were doing your analysis for the
5	trouble reports and you noticed sixteen reports that were
6	excluded, how did you do that analysis; what did you look a
7	to determine that it had been excluded and opened as another
8	report?
9	A. Well, I was just looking at all of the excludes.
10	That particular batch had my number on it, I knew I didn't
11	do it.
12	Q. Does it show an exclude category on it?
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. Has that always been the case?
15	A. As far as I know. Usually the final line of
16	status shows it.
17	Q. When Ms. Smith went to do sales, can you give me
18	a time frame of when that was; '90, '91?
19	A. It wasn't I believe '87 or '88. I'm not
20	sure. It was probably like August or September. Something
21	like that. I'm not sure of the date.
22	MR. GREER: That's all I have.
23	MR. BEATTY: Okay, that's it.
24	(Whereupon the deposition was concluded at
25	4:29 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF PALM BEACH

I, Kimberly C. Ayers, Court Reporter and Notary

Public, State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify that I

reported the deposition of JAMES BRYANT stenographically,

and that the foregoing transcript is of a true and correct

transcript of my shorthand notes.

I further certify that the deposition was taken at the time, place shown hereon, and that all counsel, persons as hereinabove shown were present.

I further certify that I am not an attorney, counsel, relative or employed be either party or attorney.

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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 297th day of June, 1993, at West Palm Beach, County of Palm Beach, State of Florida.

KIMBERLY C. AYERS, Court Reporter