

"Will You Excuse It, Please---There Is No One on the Line Now"

Mistakes are bound to happen. We all make them. When your telephone bell rings and the operator says, "Will you excuse it please, there is no one on the line now," she is not responsible for your annoyance and inconvenience.

The occasion for the use of the phrase most frequently arises when the called party is slow to answer—the calling subscriber does not wait and hangs up his telephone.

Many times daily telephone users call wrong numbers — use incorrect prefixes, such as "Main" for "Market"—transpose figures, such as 5342 for 5432. Suddenly realizing their mistakes, they hang up their telephone.

Without fault or negligence on her part the telephone operator is left to explain, and the sentence first quoted is that adopted as most briefly and concisely covering the situation.

