

So, any bets on when spring will really get here? I'm not betting on 20 Mar, but that's what the calendar says... I've been wrong before.

Anyone out there ever hear of Operation Ripper? It was about 57 years ago during the Korean War and it began on 7 March 1951. Within a few days, the US Army had liberated Seoul (the fourth and last time the capital changed hands since June 1950). We lost a lot of good Americans in that war, from 36,000-42,000, depending on which sources you want to use. Next time you run into any Korean War veterans, thank them for their service; its one thing to fight for your own freedom, and quite another to fight for someone else's.

Here's a riddle: Do you know what the Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) program is? If not, stay with me. The TED program provides telephone equipment to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf and blind, speech impaired, or have a physical disability and need adaptive equipment in order to use the phone. The equipment is loaned out at no cost as a long-term loan. Available equipment includes Captel phones, light flashing ring signalers, TTYs, amplified telephones, loud ringers, hands-free speakerphones and more. To qualify you need to:

1. Live in Minnesota
2. Have a hearing loss, speech or physical disability that limits your use of a standard telephone
3. Have a telephone in your home or have applied for telephone service
4. Have a family income equal to or below these guidelines:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Annual Gross Income (adjusted annually)</u>
1	\$40,245.
2	\$52,629.
3	\$65,012.
4	\$77,395.

Listed below are some examples of the type of equipment available through the TED Program. (A program specialist will work with you to determine what equipment will best meet your needs.):

A keyboard device that sends and receives typed messages through regular telephone lines.

A telephone that uses speech recognition to caption the caller's words on a display screen. This is designed to be used by someone who is severely hard of hearing or deaf, but their speech is intelligible.

A telephone with an amplifier and voice carry over (VCO) capabilities. This is designed for someone who is severely hard of hearing or deaf. By calling

through the relay service, the user is able to read the callers words on a screen and to respond by using their own voice. An accessory available with this telephone is a Large Visual Display for someone with poor vision.

Light flashing ring signalers are devices that connect to a telephone line and have a lamp that flashes to signal an incoming call

A telephone with a built-in adjustable amplifier so the voice you hear is louder and clearer.

A cordless telephone with a built-in adjustable amplifier so the voice you hear is louder and clearer. This device is for someone with a hearing loss and has difficulty getting to the phone on time.

If you have a need for any of these devices or this help, or know of anyone who could use this help, veteran or not, contact Karen Harrom at **800-456-7589**. She is the program specialist for our area and she can help you.

Over and Out!