BROADCASTERS' NEWS BULLETIN

Reporting accurately and promptly current happenings of special interest to Broadcashing Stations in the Commercial, Regulatory, Legislative and Judicial Fields

Issued by

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LEGISLATIVE CHISELING

When the Seventy-second Congress convenes next December a large number of bills affecting broadcasting will be introduced. The crop will be larger than usual and few will be designed to aid American broadcasting. It is no idle prediction that these measures will propose everything from Government ownership of the entire broadcasting industry to the parcelling out of single channels to organized and powerful groups.

While the Government ownership proposal is dangerous enough, the most important danger lies in legislative chiseling. By legislative chiseling is meant the parcelling out of a channel here and a channel there until the whole structure as it exists today falls into complete disintegration.

Once let Congress embark upon a policy of granting facilities by legislative fiat and the whole groundwork upon which the American broadcasting structure has been built will soon collapse.

Active and well-financed lobbies have been at work for months and it is only natural that newspapers, fearing radio competition, should lend encouragement to their efforts.

And it is a sad commentary upon the power and influence of broadcasting that such a condition is permitted to exist. Standing on the very threshold of destruction, it is appalling that some broadcasters continue to close their eyes to the facts and because they cannot see the danger, solemnly believe no danger exists.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS VITAL FORCE

"The trade associations of the country are the shock troops in the struggle which confronts us for the stabilization of our economic structure through long range planning." Frederick M. Feiker, director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, declared in announcing the cooperation of representatives of the Department of Commerce in the conduct of the National Institute for Commercial and Trade Association Executives. "Economic planning, as we hear it discussed nowadays, is not a new thing. It has been done and is being done by individuals and trades every day. We have been planning and putting plans into operation in this country for years. Economic planning has proved its place not only in its social objectives and attainments, but in its immediate commercial values to American business and industry. In the continuance and development of this work lies the great value of the trade association in the future."

THE DAVIS AMENDMENT

The Davis Amendment received severe criticism in an article prepared by M. J. Herring and published in the July issue of the Harvard Business Review. The article, after reviewing the development of broadcasting regulation in the United States, points out the inherent difficulties in the application of the equalization amendment.

"In the first place," says the author, "it is unscientific. * * * In the second place, the distribution of radio facilities on the basis of population results in the wastage of facilities. * * * In the third place, the population basis tends to emphasize equality of transmission rather than equality of reception. * * In the fourth place, the population basis is too inflexible to admit of proper freedom in the development of broadcasting."

"The Davis Amendment has been attacked by engineers generally, the National Association of Broadcasters, the Committee on Communications of the American Ber Association, and by various other organizations," the article states.

"The Davis Amendment should be repealed, and Congress should return to its original declaration in the Radio Act of 1927," is the conclusion of the author. "The regulation of broadcasting is an administrative matter and it is essentially national in character. The hands of the Commission should not be tied by needless legislative restrictions based upon the desires of the several states to have their pro-rate shares of broadcasting facilities, especially since the interests of the listening public lie primarily in equality of reception."

K L R A MAKES IMPROVEMENTS

It was announced this week by the President's Emergency Committee for Employment in Washington that Station KLRA of Little Rock, Arkansas, is to spend \$70,000. for improvements at the station. Ray Steuber, president of KLRA, was a visitor at the NAB headquarters recently.

NBC ACQUIRES NORTHWEST STATIONS

Acquisition of control of Stations KJR, Seattle, Wash. KGA, Spokane, Wash. and KEX, Portland, Oregon, owned by the Northwest Broadcasting System, by the National Broadcasting Company through stock ownership, was announced on the Pacific Coast last week. At the same time it was announced that the National Broadcasting Company also had acquired control of KYA, San Francisco, Calif. owned by the Pacific Broadcasting Corporation. The Northwest and Pacific Companies are affiliated, it is reported. Financial difficulties of the Northwest company precipitated the sale, according to reports here.

It is understood that only preliminary negotiations have been completed by the NBC and that it will be sometime before the ultimate purchase price can be determined. The preliminary negotiations were concluded by Don E. Gilman, Pacific Coast representative of the NBC after solicitation by numerous leaders both in and out of the radio industry.

COMMISSIONER LAFOUNT RETURNS

Commissioner Harold A. Lafount has just completed a seven weeks! tour of this country visiting Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah; Salem and Portland, Oregon; Seattle and Tacoma, Washington; San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles, California; Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso, San Antonio, Houston and Galveston, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Lafount, while on the Pacific Coast, delivered the principal address at the first Regional Meeting of the National Association of Broadcasters. He volunteered the statement that the meeting, from his point of view, was a complete success and was enthusiastic over the splendid attendance.

While on this trip Mr. Lafount conferred with the owners or managers of 141 radio broadcasting stations, managers and operators of 5 radio communication stations, managers and operators of 11 aeronautical radio stations, inspected 4 police radio installations and five ship transmitters.

He addressed 17 Radio Dealers and Broadcasters Associations with an aggregate attendance of 538, and 3 Amateur Organizations attended by 107 amateurs.

Mr. Lafount visited the transmitting and receiving stations operated by the R.C.A. Communications, Mackay Radio and Tropical Radio in the West and South. He also met over 200 listeners and witnessed five experiments made by those granted experimental licenses. He met and talked with 31 individuals who anticipate making applications for new broadcasting stations.

Commissioner Lafount reports increased listener interest, improved reception conditions, improved programs. He was well pleased with trip and feels that he better understands the viewpoint of the listener and broadcaster.

NEA DETERMINED TO FIGHT

During the recent annual meeting of the National Educational Association at Los Angeles, Calif. the following resolution was adopted:

"Education by Radio: The National Educational Association believes that legislation should be enacted which will safeguard, for the uses of education and government, a reasonable share of the radio broadcasting channels of the United States."

HOW GOVERNMENT CONTROL WORKS

Following the refusal of the British Broadcasting Corporation to permit him to deliver an address on the Indian situation over its network, Winston Churchill sent a protest to Hon. John Whitley, chairman of the B.B.C. charging the broadcasting corporation with "sterilizing or unevenly applying this new and valuable facility given by science," The British Broadcasting Corporation is a government-owned broadcasting monopoly.

EDUCATOR GOES ABROAD

Strong in the belief that European broadcasting methods should be applied in the United States, Armstrong Perry, director of the National Committee on Education by Radio, has sailed for Europe. Before sailing Mr. Perry told newspapermen that he has spoken with a number of delegates to the National Educational Association and the World Federation of Educational Associations and "not one of them expressed a preference for the American programs." All of them were opposed, he said, "to opening the air in their respective countries to commercial advertising."

CHAIRMAN SALTZMAN BACK

Major General Charles McK. Saltzman, chairman of the Federal Radio Commission, will return to his desk Monday after spending a vacation at Lake George.

GENERAL ORDERS CODIFIED

The Commission will have available, shortly after it convenes in September, a draft of Rules and Regulations designed to take the place of existing General Orders governing the operation of all radio stations. A large number of the existing general orders have been repealed in whole or in part or amended with the result that much of their content is of no value.

The new rules and regulations will be issued in book form with an adequate index with the view of making it a useful handbook for all persons engaged in the management and operation of radio stations.

MANAGING DIRECTOR RETURNS

The Managing Director returned to his desk this week after a trip to the West Coast where he attended the Regional Meeting at San Francisco, Calif. During a stop-over in Denver, Director Gene O'Fallon, KFEL, arranged a luncheon which was attended by Colorado broadcasters from all parts of the state. Those who attended the luncheon were: Dr. William D. Reynolds, KLZ; T. C. Ekrem, KFXF; Frank Bishop, KFEL; Charles F. Valentine, KFKA; Freman Talbot, KOA; Lynn Craig, KFKA; Glen Earnhart, U. S. Radio Inspector; Mr. Wolfgang, KPOF; Rev. Ray B. White, KPOF; C. P. Ritchie, KGHF; F. W. Meyer, KLZ; Gene O'Fallon, KFEL; George Flangan, Radio Trades Association; Ed. Franklin, KFEL; William Bryan, KOA; Ralph Faxon, Denver Chamber of Commerce; Don Chatfield, Rocky Mountain News; Lou Keplinger, KFXF; and the Managing Director.

COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE SEPTEMBER 15

Attention of Committee Chairmen is called to the fact that all committee reports must be in the hands of the Managing Director on or before September 15. It is planned to have Committee reports printed in advance of the Detroit meeting this year. Chairmen should give consideration now to fixing time and place for final meetings of their committees.

JOLLIFFE WARNS AGAINST TELEVISION OPTIMISM

Admitting that substantial progress had been made in the art of television during the past six months, Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, chief engineer of the Commission, stated during the current week that engineers at this time cannot safely say when visual broadcasting will become practical from the standpoint of public entertainment.

"It cannot be denied that forward strides have been made in visual broadcasting," Dr. Jolliffe said, "but whether it will arrive next month, next year, or in five years cannot be foretold. The most promising experimentation now is going forward in the ultra-high frequencies, in which hitherto it has been regarded as the 'No Man's Land' of radio, but much yet remains to be accomplished." Dr. Jolliffe stated the Commission is doing everything possible to further television development, but it still holds to the view that it is 'highly experimental' and cannot be commercialized until substantial advances have been made.

"A concensus of opinion in the industry would seem to indicate that television will become suitable for public entertainment within a year. Some interests content that it is sufficiently good now to warrant acceptance by the public, while there are still others who say that five years, at least, will elapse before television can be made available to homes generally. The engineers of the Commission will not guess as to how much time will be required and feel that so much remains to be done that the entire character of visual broadcasting might change. While later developments may overcome the present obstacle of lack of space on the radio spectrum for purposes of television, nevertheless at the present time one of the paramount problems to be considered is the lack of room to accommodate anything like television on a national scale.

CBS INAUGURATES NEW CHURCH PROGRAM

A "Church of the Air" over a country-wide network in which the three great classifications of religious belief in America -- Protestant, Catholic and Jewish - will each find generous representation is embraced in the religious program of the Columbia Broadcasting System for the coming autumn, winter and spring.

Two half-hour periods each Sunday are contemplated in the plan which is not yet completely matured. Each period will be a complete service so far as the customs of the church in charge permit, with scriptural reading, prayer, singing, liturgy and a sermon of about fifteen minutes.

In announcing the abolition of religious broadcasting on a commercial basis and the placing of it in the category of Columbia's services to the public, William S. Paley, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, said:

"In adopting the new plan of religious broadcasting, we have uppermost in mind freeing ourselves from the responsibility which we are not qualified to assume of allotting time on a commercial basis to different religions and different preachers. So long as we view this question solely in the light of business practice, we are likely to fail to give to the radio audience the balanced religious broadcasting it is entitled to. We feel that religious broadcasting is a public service which should be administered as far as possible under the guidance of persons closely associated with religious endeavor and definitely capable of handling such broadcasting in the public interest."

IS THIS A NEW STATION?

Reports have been received that a broadcasting station with the call letters KMRS has been in operation for some time at or near Ashland, Nebraska. A search of the official licensing lists fails to reveal a station with such call letters. Neither the quota for the Fourth Zone nor the State of Nebraska contains an allotment to such station. The station is presumed to be operating on a frequency of 1490 kc with 25 watts power.

RADIO DISTRIBUTION SURVEYED

Operations of radio dealers during 1928 and 1930 are being surveyed by the Electrical Division of the Department of Commerce, it was announced this week by Marshall T. Jones, chief of the division. Among the queries in the questionnaire which has been sent to dealers are questions dealing with store expenses, who influences sales, what sales methods are used, the amount of actual sales which are made, the popularity of the various types of sets and what priced sets seem to sell best, what periods of the year bring the most and the least business, and many other matters relative to the business. The results of the survey will not be announced for at least three months.

KGEF LICENSE RENEWAL RECOMMENDED

In a 24-page report, the most lengthy report yet issued in a single case, Chief Examiner Yost has recommended to the Commission that the broadcasting license of Station KGEF owned and operated by Trinity Methodist Church South at Los Angeles, Calif. be renewed. The utterances of Rev. R. P. Shuler over the station constituted the principal issue in the case which has attracted wide attention on the Pacific Coast.

The following conclusions were drawn by the Chief Examiner from the 2,300-page record of testimony:

- "l. A radio broadcasting license confers an unusual privilege upon the licensee and a corresponding obligation to render a true public service in the exercise of such privilege.
- "2. No one has the right, under the guise of free speech, to use the privileges conferred by a radio broadcasting license in such a way as to injure his fellow citizens.
- "3. A radio broadcasting license does not confer upon any one the right or privilege to broadcast any false, slanderous or libelous matter. Any abuse of the privileges conferred by a radio broadcasting license or a failure to rightly exercise such privileges should weigh heavily against the licensee upon the question of the renewal of such license.
- "4. The Examiner is of the opinion that Dr. Shuler has been extremely indiscreet in some of his broadcasts. Evidently broadcasts were made by him before investigation and inquiry to determine the correctness of such broadcasts. The practice of reflecting upon the character of a citizen, based solely on rumors and unverified reports, resulting in injury both to the business and reputation of such citizens, is indefensible. Injury or injustice by reason of a radio broadcast may be irreparable. Unjust attacks upon religious denominations increase religious prejudice and arouse community strife and antagonisms; unwarranted criticisms of the courts and public officials tend to destroy confidence of the people in free government, and are against public interest.
- "5. Since the facilities available for radio broadcasting are so extremely limited, it is incumbent upon every holder of a radio broadcasting license to render the highest possible public service in exercising the privileges conferred by such license.
- "6. After reviewing the entire record in this case and considering the public service rendered by the organizations and institutions broadcasting regularly over Station KGEF, together with the broadcasts of Dr. Shuler over this station, the Examiner has reached the conclusion that public interest would be served by granting this application."

NEW BI-CENTENNIAL SONG

"Father of the Land We Love," a new song written for the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission by George M. Cohan, famous song writer, will be released for broadcasting purposes in the near future. Members of the NAB desiring copies of the song with orchestrations suitable for broadcasting purposes should write to the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, Washington, D. C. and copies will be furnished free of charge. No copyright difficulties will be encountered in the use of the song after it is made available for broadcasting.

APPLICATIONS SHOW INCREASE

The records of the Federal Radio Commission show an increase in the number of applications received, according to a statement made public this week. In the year 1931 the Commission received 10,030 applications as compared with 8,543 during the year 1930; and there were 8,628 instruments of authorization issued as compared with 7,655 issued during the previous year.

In addition to the above the Commission received 20,609 applications for amateur radio stations of which 20,204 were granted during 1931.

The figures also show a reduction in the number of radio broadcasting stations. Twenty radio broadcasting stations were deleted, five of which were consolidated with other licensed stations, and two of which were consolidated into one station. Eleven new radio broadcasting stations were authorized to be constructed, making a total of 612 authorized stations as compared with 621 at the end of 1930.

STATION LIST CHANGES

Changes and corrections to the current list of Broadcasting Stations, edition of February 2, 1931, were issued this week at the Commission. The changed status of twenty four stations has been outlined. One third of this number, or eight stations, have been authorized to be operated by new licensees since July 1st, the date of the previous list of corrections. Copies of this latest addenda sheet may be secured from NAB headquarters, National Press Building, Washington, D. C. as long as the supply lasts.

OHIO SET CENSUS HIGH

The radio receiving set census figures for Ohio, the first given out for the more densely populated states, were released by the Bureau of Census this week. Out of 1,700,877 families in the state, 810,767 homes, or 47.7 per cent are radio equipped. The number of persons per family is 3.9. By this announcement Ohio takes it place in total number of sets at the head of the 38 states and the District of Columbia for which figures have already been made public.

COMMISSION RETURNS APPLICATIONS

The application of Virgil V. Evans, doing business as Greenville Broadcasting Company requesting authority to erect a new station at Greenville, S. C. on 1310 kc with 100 watts power to operate unlimited day hours and share with station WROL at night, and the application of Neely and Franks Radio Company, requesting permission to erect a new station at Charleston, Miss. on 1500 kc with 15 watts power, unlimited time, were returned by the Commission because they did not conform to details of certain general orders.

BAKER LOSES COURT FIGHT

The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia this week denied the application of Norman Baker owner of KTNT, Muscatine, Iowa, broadcasting station, for a preliminary injunction restraining the Commission from making effective its order under which his station was closed down. The Commission, after hearing, denied renewal of Baker's license and an appeal was taken to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. This court granted a stay order which was later dissolved upon motion of the Commission. Baker, finding himself off the air, later filed a suit in equity in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. The court, in addition to denying the preliminary injunction, dismissed Baker's suit. Baker's attorneys carefully preserved their rights to appeal.

TEMPORARY LICENSES ISSUED

During the current week the Commission granted temporary licenses to the following stations, designating for hearing the applications for renewal of license: KFMX, Northfield, Minn.; KGBZ, York, Nebraska; KGMP, Elk City, Okla.; WAWZ, Kerephath, N. J.; WCAD, Canton, N. Y.; WCAL, Northfield, Minn.; WNBO, Silver Heven, Pa.; WOOD, Grand Rapids, Mich. Previously the Commission had requested the stations to file renewal applications for the proper conduct of hearings under G. O. 114, Section 2.

Failing to comply with G. O. 105, the following stations were granted temporary licenses and the renewal applications were set for hearing: WEAO, Columbus, Ohio; WCBN, Youngstown, Ohio; WCAC. Storrs, Conn.; WICC, Bridgeport, Conn.; WCOC, Meridian, Miss.

APPLICATIONS DENIED

At its sessions during the current week the Commission denied applications from the following stations:

WLBL State of Wisconsin Dept of
Agriculture & Markets
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Denied request for authority to withhold the installation of crystal control auth. June 24, to substitute 50 watt oscillator instead, pending Ct. of Appeals decision on merger of WHA & WLBL.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED

At its sessions during the current week the Commission granted the follow-ing applications:

CALL	NAME OF APPLICANT	NATURE OF GRANT			
WCAJ	Nebraska Wesleyan Univ. Lincoln, Nebraska	Granted authority suspend operation until September 6 to make changes in equipment authorized by previously granted C.P.			
WLAP	American Broadcasting Corp. Louisville, Kentucky	Granted extension temporary experimental operation on 1010 kc with 250 watts until November 25.			
WGBS	General Broadcasting System New York, N. Y.	Granted authority extend completion date on C. P. expiring 8/15/31.			
K L O	Perry Building Co. Ogden, Utah.	Granted authority extend completion date on C. P. expiring 8/15/31.			
WKZO	WKZO, Inc. Kalamazoo, Michigan	Granted mod. C.P. extend completion date to September 15, 1931.			
WKBS	Permil N. Nelson Galesburg, Illinois	Granted Mod. C. P. extend completion date to November 11, 1931.			
KDB	Dwight Faulding Santa Barbara, Calif.	Granted license cover C. P.			
KUSD	Univ. of South Dakota Vermillion, South Dakota	Granted license cover C. P.			
KLX	The Tribune Publishing Co. Oakland, Calif.	Granted license cover C. P.			

APPLICATIONS SET FOR HEARING

The following applications were designated for hearing by the Commission at its sessions during the current week:

WKBH	WKBH, Inc. La Crosse, Wisconsin	Mod. of lic. change time from sharing with KSO to simultaneous operation with KSO until 6 p.m. and divide thereafter.
KFJI	KFJI Broadcasters, Inc. Astoria, Oregon	C. P. move transmitter and studio to Klam- ath Falls and change frequency to 1210 kc.
WLOE	Boston Broadcasting Co. Boston, Massachusetts	Involuntary assignment to Wm S. Pote.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

During the current week the following applications were received at the Commission:

CALL	NAME OF APILICANT	PRESENT FREQUENCY	FREQUENC SOUGHT	
WMCA	Knickerbocker Brdcstg. New York, N. Y.	570	0-3 dam can think 5:78	Move transmitter to College Pt. Causeway, Flushing, N. Y.
WFIW	WFIW, Incorporated, Hopkinsville, Ky.	940	quals drawn (many	C. F. to rebuild sta. destroyed by fire.
WDRO .	Orlando Brdcstg. Co., Orlando, Fla.	1130	600 ton 440	Dir. measurement antenna input.
Van A	W. G. Jasper, Muskogee, Okla.		1310	C. P. erect new station. 50 watts share KFXR.
NEW	Stewart A. Heigold, Yuma, Ariz.	direll sense good	1420	C. P. amended 100 W. Unlimited time, facil-ities of KFXY.
KVOR	The Reynolds Radio Co., Colorado Springs, Colo.	1270	Since made States	Lic. cover C.F. chge. in eqpt.
KJBS	Julius Brunton & Sons Co San Francisco, Calif.	. 1070	find our cop win	Mod. of lic. to chge. hrs. of operation to limited time.
WIBR	George W. Robinson, Steubenville, Ohio	1420		C.P. move transmitter locally. Increase power to 100 watts.
WGST	Georgia School of Techno Atlanta, Ga.	logy 890	divid (one pade)	C.F. move transmitter locally make chges in equipment.
WCLS	WCLS, Inc., Joliet, Ill.	1310	and ting one	Mod. of lic. use WKBB's transmitter and move studio locally.
WAAF	Drovers Journal Publ. Co Chicago, Ill.	., 920		Lic. cover C.F. chge. in eqpt.
KGEK	Beehler Elec. Equipment, Yuma, Colorado	Co. 1200	para diriti gara	C.P. make chges. in eqpt. increase power 100 watts.

AFFLICATIONS RECEIVED (Continued)

CALL	MAME OF APILICANT	PRESENT FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY SOUGHT	NATURE OF APPLICATION	
WJZ	National Brdcstg., New York, N. Y.	760	ent ent em	Lic. cover C. P. for chge in equipment.	
WJBK	James F. Hopkins, Inc. Detroit, Mich.	, 1370		C. F. make chges. in eqpt. increase power to 100 watts.	
NEW	Lorain County Radio Co Lorain, Ohio	rp.,	1200	C. P. erect new station. 100 watts. Unlimited.	
KGHI	Berean Bible Class, Little Rock, Ark.	1200	are (80) 849	Vol. assign. lic. to O. A. Cook.	
NEW	K. C. Mathis & J.E. Smi Montezuma, Ga.	th,	1310	C. F. amended 1310 kc, $12\frac{1}{2}$ watts.	
WTAD	Illinois Stock Medicin Brdcstg. Corp. Quincy, Ill.	e 1440	(Did yes) gard	Mod. of lic. chge. name The Broadcasting Corp.	
WTAD	Illinois Stock Medicin Brdcstg. Corp. Quincy, Ill.	e 1 440	gere med Strik	C. P. move transmitter and studio. East St. Louis, Ill.	
WKBY	Knox Battery & Electri Connersville, Ind.	c Co.1550	could gardy stop	Vol. assign. of lic. Eastern Indiana Brdcstg. Corp.	
TELEVISION APPLICATION RECEIVED					
	Don Lee, Inc., Los Angeles, Californ	nia		New construction permit for 43000-46000,48500-50300, 60000-80000, kc. 150 watts Visual service.	

RENEWALS GRANTED

At its sessions during the current week the Commission granted renewal of license applications for the regular six month period, beginning Sept. 1, 1931 and ending March 1, 1932 to the following stations: WAAF, Chicago, Ill; WIBW, Topeka, Kans.; WKRC, Cincinnati, Ohio; WOBU, Charleston, West Va.; KOMO, Seattle, Wash.; WBEN, Buffalo, N. Y.; WILL, Urbana, Ill.; WKZO, Berrien Springs, Mich.; WOS, Jefferson City, Mo.; KUSD, Vermillion, S. Dak.; KPOF, Denver, Colo.; KSAC, Manhattan, Kans.; WCAJ, Lincoln, Nebr.; WEAN, Providence, R. I.; WEEI, Boston, Mass.; WNOX, Knoxville, Tenn.; WFI, Philadelphia, Pa.; WMMN, Fairmont, West, Va.; and KFNF, Shenandoah, Iowa.