

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

INSURANCE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

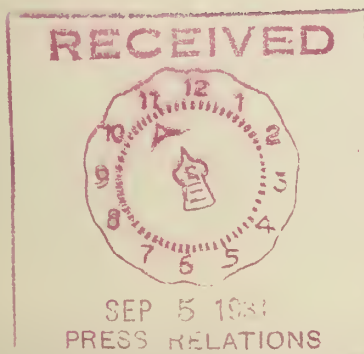
ISSUED TWICE A WEEK AND CONTAINING THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING THE RULINGS OF THE FEDERAL RADIO COMMISSION, RADIO LEGISLATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REGULATIONS, CHANGES IN WAVELENGTH, CALL LETTERS AND POWER, PATENTS, EXPORTS, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION RULINGS AND OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO BROADCASTERS AND MANUFACTURERS. :: :: **CONFIDENTIAL—NOT FOR PUBLICATION.** :: ::

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No. 467



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REALLOCATION OF COMMERCIAL WAVES ORDERED.

On account of developments in the technique of radio communication, the Federal Radio Commission has just issued an order doubling the number of commercial frequencies by cutting in half the separation between channels and thereby necessitating a general reallocation of wave lengths assigned to commercial and experimental stations.

The order, which was issued upon recommendation of the engineering division, is the outgrowth of an exhaustive study and follows proposals made at the recent conference of the International Technical Consulting Committee on Radio Communications, which met at The Hague last fall.

Operators of radio communication stations are given until February 1, 1932, to prepare for the change, which is based on a reduction of separation from two-tenths to one-tenth per cent between frequencies above 1,500 kilocycles--the upper extremity of the broadcast band.

This increases the number of channels available for allocation between 10 kilocycles and 28,000 kilocycles from 1,814 to 3,025.

The broadcast band, which ranges from 550 to 1,500 kilocycles, is not affected by the reallocations. Provision is made, however, to care for the prospective needs of experimental visual broadcasting in so far as sound accompaniment is concerned.

The new allocations were worked out under the supervision of Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, Chief Engineer of the Commission, by engineers of the commercial and international communications sections.

A significant change reflected in the new alignment is that showing that the short-wave band considered available for commercial operations has been extended from 23,000 to 28,000 kilocycles, making available 175 additional frequencies on the one-tenth separation basis. Heretofore 23,000 kilocycles has been recognized as the commercial outpost for radio, under international treaty agreed to at the Radiotelegraph Conference held at Washington in 1927 under the chairmanship of Herbert Hoover as Secretary of Commerce.

The allocation establishes the channel of 1,550 kilocycles, just outside the broadcast band, as the "visual broadcasting sound track". Heretofore the channel of 1,604 kilocycles was so assigned, but was outside the reach of the ordinary broadcast receiving set.

With the new frequency, however, it is expected that the ordinary broadcast receiver will pick up voice broadcasts on it, and thus will obviate the need for a special short-wave receiver to pick up voice accompaniment to television sent in the short-wave band. Moreover, the location of this channel, just 50 kilocycles above the extremity of the broadcast band, also allows the 50-kilocycle separation deemed necessary between broadcast channels in the same locality to avoid cross-talk interference with stations on adjacent wave lengths.

The assignment of frequencies for television transmissions on an experimental basis was changed only in one respect. To bring one band for visual broadcasting into closer proximity with the broadcast band. The Commission exchanged the band from 2,850 to 2,950 kilocycles for the band to 1,600 to 1,700 kilocycles, the former band being assigned to aviation. Thus, it was explained, the new sound track channel of 1,550 kilocycles is adjacent to the new television channel, with the 1,550 kilocycle channel itself being next to the broadcast band.

Television stations use channels 100 kilocycles in width in the continental short wave band (1,500 to 6,000 kilocycles), to obtain the necessary clarity for the omitted pictures. Broadcasting stations use channels 10 kilocycles in width.

In the frequency range from 10 to 1,500 kilocycles, covering fixed, government, maritime, state police, aircraft and broadcast services, the number of channels, under the new allocations, is increased from 561 to 674. In the bands from 1,500 to 6,000 kilocycles, relating to fixed, government, maritime, municipal police, television, experimental, amateur, aviation, general communication, and other miscellaneous services, the number of frequencies is increased from 639 to 974 under the 1/10 per cent separation.

The largest increase, however, is in the high frequency range from 6,000 to 28,000 kilocycles, covering the trans-oceanic services, ship telegraph and telephone, government, aviation, amateur, experimental relay broadcasting and unreserved facilities. This increase is from 624 channels on the 2/10 per cent separation, to 1,377 on the 1/10 per cent separation, taking into consideration also the increased range of the band from 23,000 to 28,000 kilocycles.

Assignments, tolerances and widths of frequencies below 550 kilocycles, known as the low wave band, have been designated in the new order from the operations standpoint. Band widths required in the different ranges have been selected and a channeling system worked out to meet these requirements. Differences in the characteristics of the frequencies are responsible for this arrangement.

The order sets out in detail the communications band widths required for the various types of emissions, such as Morse telegraphy, telephony, automatic radio printers; facsimiles, picture transmissions, television and the like.

The importance of frequency stability or minimum wave-wobbling is emphasized in the order, which details a comprehensive list of requirements as to tolerances for the different classes of stations, all representing a tightening-up of requirements as contained in existing regulations.

The system has been so devised as to make it extremely flexible, so that a greater number of stations may be accommodated as the art progresses, and upon substantial proof that no interference will be caused by such augmentations.

The rigid channeling system heretofore observed, in effect, is discarded, but the set-up is always protected by the requirement that a proper showing of technical advancement must be made before any changes are to be permitted.

The new order, which replaces General Order 88 covering the allocations of facilities and services, covers 39 pages, and may be procured from the Federal Radio Commission. A minute, accompanying the order, adopted by the Commission, follows in full text:

The Commission ordered: That all licenses for the following services which are in full force and effect on the effective date of this order, but which expire on or prior to 3 a.m., E.S.T. Feb. 1, 1932, be and the same are hereby extended until said date:

Point to point, coastal; marine relay; ships above the 1,500 kilocycles; aeronautical, and aeronautical point to point; aircraft; police; mobile press; fire (marine); experimental, visual broadcasting; experimental relay broadcasting; general experimental; geophysical.

That subsequent to the effective date of this order no instrument of authorization for services other than broadcasting (550-1,500 kilocycles) will be granted and issued so as to expire at a later date than 3 a.m. E.S.T., Feb. 1, 1932, unless such instrument of authorization conforms to the requirements of General Order No. 119.

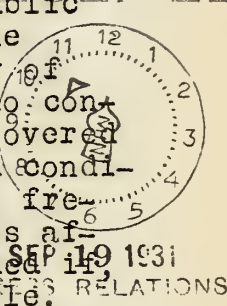
That all applications for renewal of licenses, including those which are already on file, be acknowledged by the Secretary for subsequent action; provided, however, that the applications will be considered as modified to conform with the terms of General Order No. 119 unless prior to Dec. 1, 1931, objection to such modification is filed in which

case the application will be designated for hearing.

That when acknowledging the receipt of applications the Secretary shall advise the applicant of the frequency or frequencies for which the renewal application will be considered as modified.

That any application for renewal of license may be acted upon on or prior to Feb. 1, 1932, provided no interference will result from such action.

This order, however, is subject to the conditions that it shall not be deemed or construed as a finding or decision by the Commission, or as any evidence whatsoever, that the continued use or operation of any said stations service, or will serve, public interest, convenience or necessity, beyond the express terms of this order, or that public interest, convenience or necessity would be served by the granting of any pending application for a renewal of any of said licenses; and any licensee subject to this order who continues to use or operate his station during the period covered by this order, shall be deemed to have consented to said conditions. The Commission reserves the right to change the frequency assignment of any station, the license of which is affected by this order, during the extension herein provided if, in the opinion of the Commission, such change is advisable.



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ASSOCIATED BROADCASTERS PROTEST "BOOSTER" STATIONS.

The following protest has been filed with the Federal Radio Commission by the Associated Broadcasters of America, of which Thomas Stevenson, Barr Building, Washington, D.C., formerly of the Stevenson Radio Syndicate, is secretary:

"The Associated Broadcasters of America herewith formally protest the granting of the application, by the Federal Radio Commission, for the erection by the Columbia Broadcasting System of a new broadcasting station in Washington to operate on 860 kilocycles, synchronizing with WABC, of New York. The Associated Broadcasters respectfully request that this application be designated for hearing and that all parties interested be permitted to appear and present arguments showing that the granting of said application would be contrary to public interest, convenience and/or necessity.

"The adoption of a policy, as represented by this application, by the Federal Radio Commission, would inevitably result in a monopoly of broadcast communications. A very large number of stations, now considered among the best in the country, would be forced out of existence.

"Up to the present time the broadcast chains have functioned along lines similar to the press associations"; the protest goes on. "The press associations furnish their dispatches to newspapers throughout the country as do the chains furnish programs to stations throughout the country.

"Almost all of the newspapers are independently owned as are most of the broadcast stations. The Press Associations have no control over the editorial policies of the newspapers, nor do the chains have control of the editorial policies of most of the broadcast stations.

"If the Press Associations were to embark on a policy of owning or controlling all newspapers using their dispatches, it would produce a situation too serious to contemplate. For the chains to attempt to own or control all stations using their programs would result in a situation even more dangerous. Yet, this is the sum and substance of the proposal of the Columbia Broadcasting System to erect a new station in Washington.

"Up to the present, the Columbia chain programs have been broadcast in Washington by Station WMAL. It can be said that WMAL has not refused to continue broadcasting Columbia chain programs.

"Yet, the Columbia Broadcasting System has applied to the Radio Commission to erect a new station in Washington through which to supply the people of Washington with Columbia programs.

"This new station would operate on the same frequency with WABC, of New York (owned by the Columbia Broadcasting System). The two stations would synchronize and broadcast identically the same programs.

"If the Columbia Broadcasting System is permitted to do this in Washington, it is reasonable to suppose that the same thing would be attempted in all other cities of the United States. It is no secret, in fact, that this is exactly what is contemplated and that the erection of the station in Washington is the first step in such a program.

"It would mean the withdrawal of Columbia programs from all existing stations not owned or controlled by Columbia Broadcasting System. It would mean that the Columbia Broadcasting System would have absolute control of the editorial policies of all stations broadcasting Columbia programs throughout the country.

"The Columbia Broadcasting System owes its present position, its present affluence, to the stations broadcasting Columbia programs.

"The Columbia Broadcasting System sells the time of individual stations to advertisers for rates up to \$300 an hour, or more. In most cases, Columbia pays only \$50 per hour to stations for the time sold. Moreover, the stations are required to give to Columbia from two to five hours per week of the time sold to advertisers.

"Obviously, such an arrangement is of financial advantage only to the Columbia Broadcasting System. However, most stations have submitted to such an arrangement in order to render what they considered the best possible service to their listeners.

"Now, the Columbia Broadcasting System would cast them off in favor of a plan under which Columbia would own and control all the stations using its programs.

"Many of the stations now using Columbia programs would be forced to close down were they deprived of the Columbia programs.

"In Washington there are four stations competing for local advertising.

"To WRC, local advertising is incidental, because a large part of its time is taken up with National Broadcasting Company chain programs.

"To WMAL, local advertising is incidental, because a large part of the time of the station is taken up with Columbia chain programs.

"To WOL, local advertising is paramount. This is also true of WJSV, of Mt. Vernon Hills, Va., which because of Washington coverage, also undertakes to broadcast local advertising.

"If WMAL is forced to depend almost entirely on local advertising for support, it will work an extreme hardship on WMAL, WOL and WJSV.

"If WMAL is forced to compete with WOL and WJSV for local talent for all of its programs, it will work an extreme hardship on all three stations.

"The same condition would be true of other sections of the country. Many stations now broadcasting Columbia programs are located in sections where it would be extremely difficult for them to produce a full time local service. If they were forced to depend entirely on local advertising and local talent, many of them would go out of existence.

This would be despite their long record of service and operation at financial loss.

"The granting of the Columbia application would result in no increase of service to the people of Washington. The people of Washington are already receiving Columbia programs through WMAL and will continue to receive Columbia programs through WMAL, provided the new station is not authorized.

"The Associated Broadcasters therefore respectfully submit that the granting of the Columbia application would not only serve public interest, necessity and/or convenience, but would be contrary to public interest, necessity and/or convenience."

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WOMAN STATION MANAGER SEEKS POSITION

Having had three years experience as manager of a 100-watt local station, a young woman is desirous of making a connection in the capacity of manager or program director of a larger station.

She is an experienced conductor of a household hour also, having a good microphone voice. Would be interested in doing work of this type exclusively in a metropolitan station. Her past three years has included experience in every phase of station management-- programs, continuity, personnel, broadcasting, etc.

For further information address HEINL
RADIO BUSINESS LETTER, 405 Insurance Building.

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