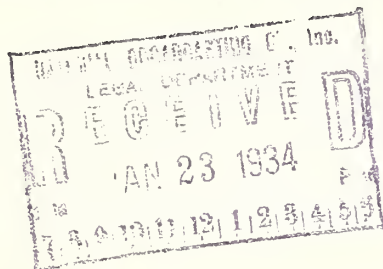


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No. 690

January 19, 1934.

DOWLING'S CODE APPOINTMENT STARTS COMMISSIONER TALK

The appointing of Eddie Dowling, musical comedy and motion picture star, by Gen. Hugh S. Johnson to be an Administration member of the Radio Industry Code Authority started the gossip that the comedian was thus being groomed for the position of Radio Commissioner W. D. L. Starbuck, Democrat, of New York, whose term expires February 23rd, which is only about a month away.

Dowling, who is a personal friend of President Roosevelt, and who is supposed to have furnished the showmanship of the Roosevelt campaign, had previously been mentioned for Radio Commissioner but perhaps due to the fact that he is a professional funny man, his candidacy was referred to more or less facetiously. One commentator said the Administration instead of putting Eddie on the Radio Commission should put him on the radio.

Nevertheless, the actor's appointment to be a member of the Code Authority, a position for which Judge E. O. Sykes, Chairman of the Federal Radio Commission had been urged, definitely revealed the fact that the comedian was being seriously considered by the Administration, at least.

It is pointed to as a significant fact that there is no representative of the Federal Radio Commission on the Code Authority, as it had been fully anticipated there would be. The dopesters immediately jumped to the conclusion that in reality Dowling would turn out to be the Commission's representative and as a part of this plan he would be appointed by President Roosevelt to succeed Commissioner Starbuck next month.

Offsetting this is a remark Gen. Hugh Johnson made to someone which was: "If you think I appointed Eddie Dowling Code Authority because President Roosevelt requested it, you are mistaken."

Another viewpoint was that Dowling's Code/appointment Authority would be the fulfillment of the Administration's obligation to him and that would be as far as he would get.

Still another theory was that Dowling was appointed a member of the Code Authority because he is an actor and because the Code Authority will have to wrestle with the problem of station talent; such things as whether or not the radio actors will have to give their services free for auditions and rehearsals, the minimum rates of paying for broadcast performances, the classification of these rates according to whether these appearances are on commercial or sustaining programs, different rates for different classes of stations, and so on.

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Among the others who have been mentioned for Starbuck's place are James Killeen, of New York City, said to have the endorsement of Senator Robert Wagner, of New York. Killeen, who is about 40 years old, was very active in the Roosevelt campaign and formerly the publisher of a newspaper in the Bronx. His technical radio background is understood to be the fact that he once worked for the General Electric Company. Another candidate is James L. Lamb, of Hartford, Conn., technical editor of Q.S.T., official publication of the American Amateur Relay League.

Quite another is Herbert L. Pettey, Radio Commission secretary, who also was secretary of the Interdepartmental Commission which drew up the recommendations which are serving as the basis of the new Communications Bill which Senator Dill is now drafting. Pettey, who seems to be the Administration's "fair haired boy" in radio, apparently has his eye on a bigger job, such as maybe general radio co-ordinator or some new position which may be created by the Communications bill, which it is believed may call for an entirely new governmental radio control personnel.

All of the conjectures with regard to candidates are based upon what seems to be a foregone conclusion that Commissioner Starbuck is definitely out of the picture. It was said by one of his associates that Mr. Starbuck seemed so certain that he would not be re-appointed that he was now looking for another job.

At the same time, General Johnson appointed Eddie Dowling, to be a member of the Code Authority, he also named Marion K. Hedges, well-known labor statistician, to serve as a member of the Authority to represent those employees in the Industry designated as "Broadcast Technicians." Harry Shaw, of WMT, Waterloo, Ia., was the first Administration member of the Code Authority to be appointed.

The Code Authority, in a session which lasted three days, considered numerous problems arising out of the administration of the Code and the drafting of suitable explanations of the various provisions of the Code with the view to making them more clearly understood by the broadcasters. It is hoped by James W. Baldwin, Code executive officer, that such explanations can be furnished to all broadcasters at an early date after they have been taken up with the NRA.

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MEXICO CREDITED WITH WORLD'S HIGHEST POWERED STATION

Station XER, Villa Acuna, Coahuilla, Mexico, operating on 500,000 watts, is the highest powered station shown among the approximately 878 stations included in a list of the world's radio stations compiled by the Commerce Department. The list was made up before WLW, at Cincinnati, completed erecting its 500,000 watt transmitter.

A station in Leipzig, Germany, is recorded as using 150,000 watts. Station OKP, Prague, Czechoslovakia, is shown by the compilation to be operating on 120,000 watts.

Two stations in Moscow and one in Leningrad, Russia, are recorded as using 100,000 watts power for broadcasting. Nothing is said about the station recently reported here to be operating on 500,000 watts in Russia.

Short wave and television stations located throughout the world and numbering 136 are included in the list just made public.

Records of the Federal Radio Commission show that there are 585 radio broadcasting stations operated in the United States.

Russia, with 73 stations, is first-ranking among foreign countries in the number of radio stations on record, according to the list just made public.

China ranks next to Russia in the number of stations operated with 72 and is followed in order by Canada with 64; Australia, 61; Cub, 57; Mexico, 54; Chile, 46; Argentina, 35; Uruguay, 33; New Zealand, 33; Japan, 30; France, 29; Germany, 26; Brazil, 19; and the United Kingdom, 17.

Copies of the list may be had at 25 cents a copy from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

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GERMANY AND AUSTRIA IN ACOUSTIC WAR

The acoustic war between Germany and Austria is going on merrily and with undiminished vigor on the part of the Germans, James McMullin writes in the McClure Newspaper Syndicate bulletin. Berliners returning from the holidays in the Bavarian mountains report that shortly before Christmas entire batteries of giant loudspeakers were installed on German territory along the Austrian border wherever it crosses a highway or touches on any settlements.

Not only are German radio addresses attacking the Austrian government reproduced day and night, but also phonograph records of anti-Dollfuss speeches by German Nazi leaders. The loud speakers can be heard for almost a mile.

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SARNOFF ELECTED TO OPERA BOARD

The election of David Sarnoff a Director of the Metropolitan Opera Company is believed to be another step in the direction of a closer alignment between the Metropolitan and Rockefeller Center. Because of the depression, which has necessitated the curtailing of the Metropolitan season from twenty-four to fourteen weeks, the possibility of New York's ranking opera company going to Rockefeller Center has not been discussed recently.

It is believed, however, that this possibility has not been discarded entirely. More than a year ago Paul D. Cravath, Chairman of the Board, announced that he had consulted with Rockefeller Center officials on architect's plans. Nothing further has been done since that time, but the opera has continued its agreement with the National Broadcasting Company, a subsidiary of Mr. Sarnoff's corporation, for the transmission of opera over the radio.

Mr. Sarnoff has been interested in opera and the Metropolitan for a long time. He has been a subscriber to the Monday night series for many years.

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CLAIM BABE RUTH'S RADIO OFFERS VIOLATE CODE

The Federal Government filed suit in District Supreme Court against the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey charging violation of the Oil Code and asking an injunction against the company to prevent it from giving premiums. Hearing on the suit was set for January 30.

The charge was that the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey and its subsidiaries had inaugurated through newspapers and by radio a so-called "Babe Ruth" prize contest for boys and had refused to accede to a request by the oil administration to discontinue the practice.

The allegations set forth are that on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday since January 3, the company has sponsored a radio program advertising the contest. Among the chain stations listed in the petition as having broadcast the program is WRC, local Washington station of the National Broadcasting Co.

Each week there is distributed through Babe Ruth 200 baseballs and 100 gloves - to the winners. In addition, the 50 biggest winners have been promised a trip with Ruth to his training camp next Spring.

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AUTOMOBILE RADIO SETS PEP UP NEW ZEALAND'S RADIO INDUSTRY

That the introduction of automobile radio sets into New Zealand is opening up a new avenue of activity for New Zealand's entire radio industry is revealed in a report from Vice Consul W. W. Orebaugh, Wellington.

This field, it is pointed out, has as yet scarcely been touched, but it is expected in the local radio trade that in the next twelve months several thousands of these sets will be installed in motor cars throughout the Dominion. In this connection it is significant to note that imports of automobiles into New Zealand are increasing. A high proportion of these have radio installations.

The United States holds a dominant position as a supplier of New Zealand's radio imports. The latest available import figures covering the month of October show that American radios accounted for 1,488 of the 1,628 complete sets in cabinets imported during that month, and 7,235 of the 13,428 unmounted sets.

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N. Y. DOCTORS PLAN HIGH FREQUENCY EMERGENCY SERVICE

The Doctors' Telephone Service, Inc., established in New York City in 1925, as a clearing house for doctors' telephone calls, desiring to add radio to their service, have applied to the Federal Radio Commission for use of the ultra-high frequencies of 31600, 41000, 35600 and 38600 kilocycles with 15 watts power to conduct experiments looking toward rendering service to doctors in transit in automobiles and airplanes.

Another object of the Doctors' ultra high frequency experiment is to provide emergency medical aid for the whole city in time of accident or serious epidemic.

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N. Y. POLICE COMMISSIONER SANCTIONS RADIOS IN TAXICABS

In reversing his predecessor and permitting taxicabs in New York to carry radios, Police Commissioner O.'Ryan said:

"I feel that the use of radios in taxicabs is relatively a novel use. It is not for the Police Commissioner to determine whether prospective passengers will be attracted to employ radio-equipped taxis in preference to non-radio-equipped taxis or whether the investment required for such equipment is, from the business point of view, a sound investment or otherwise.

"Nor do I believe the Police Commissioner has the right to attempt to determine the effect, if any, upon the business of those operators who may not equip their taxis with radios.

"I believe the Commissioner's duty under the law is limited to the effect of the use of radios upon the safety of operation of the vehicles in which they are installed and particularly whether the inclusion of a radio as part of the equipment of a licensed taxi renders such a vehicle unfit or unsuited for public patronage."

This determination, Commissioner O'Ryan continued, would depend upon the character of rules governing the installation and use of radios.

"I believe specifications can be prescribed to render radio-equipped taxis safe, fit and suitable for public patronage", he added.

The regulations governing the use of radios, General O'Ryan said, would be drawn up by Second Deputy Commissioner Harold L. Allen.

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DEMANDS INVESTIGATION OF ADMINISTRATION RADIO MUZZLING

Declaring that the radio facilities of the nation are monopolized by the Administration, Senator Arthur Robinson launched a sharp Republican attack in the Senate and concluded by offering a resolution which would direct the Interstate Commerce Committee "to make an investigation of the control exercised by the Federal Radio Commission over persons broadcasting through licensed broadcasting stations, and the extent to which the freedom of speech of such persons has been restricted."

"There is today a radio censorship as rigid as the censorship practiced in any land ruled by an absolute dictator.

"I have here, as emphasizing this fact, a statement contained in an article appearing in the New York Times of March 19, 1933, which is brief, and I desire to read it because it bears on the subject I am discussing. It is as follows:

"Assurance of full and complete cooperation has been given directly to the President, to all the members of his Cabinet, and to the leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives. Furthermore, as a matter of public policy during the present emergency, we limit broadcasts of public events and discussions of public questions by ascertaining that such programs are not contrary to the policies of the United States Government."

"This statement was incorporated in an article in the New York Times of the date above indicated by its radio editor, Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr., to the effect that 'Radio Looms as President Roosevelt's Modernized Big Stick.'

"In other words, so far as radio is concerned, the people of the United States can only get one side of the question over their broadcasting facilities; that is, the side of the administration. No one over those facilities will dare criticize the administration, according to their own statement."

Senator Robinson then read a letter from Walter E. Meyers, of Station WBZ, Boston, who, he said, was New England manager for the National Broadcasting Company, denying further use of radio facilities to the Massachusetts Department of the American Legion for criticizing President Roosevelt and deviating from manuscripts seen and approved by the station. The letter to the Legion concludes:

"The American Legion in its patriotic support of the United States Government has always had, and shall always continue to have, the privilege of presenting its views over these stations. But we are obliged to impose regulatory and prohibitory 'rules of the game.' These are prescribed by our editorial policy, customary among all broadcasting stations, and have their origin in regulations of the Federal Radio Commission.

"Particularly at a time of national crisis, we believe that any utterance on the radio that tends to disturb the public confidence in its President is a disservice to the people themselves and is hence inimical to the national welfare."

"That is what those radio people believe, though the air belongs to the people. The people ought to have some voice in it, perhaps", Senator Robinson went on.

"The letter continues:

"'Obviously, as a great and powerful agency for the service of the public, these stations cannot become a party to attacks on the national security.'

"When did we get to a point where one does not dare criticize the President? Is he now a dictator to the extent that no one dare criticize him? Apparently he cannot be criticized; no critical word can be uttered against him in connection with the radio facilities of the country. In the case I have just referred to, ~~xxxxxx~~ the speaker did not even criticize the President, according to his own statement, but just the same, the American Legion was denied further use of the facilities, except under certain difficult restrictions with which they were forced to comply.

"In commenting upon this order denying representatives of the American Legion use of the facilities of the National Broadcasting Co. unless they permitted their speeches to be

censored by the National Broadcasting Co., the Springfield Republican closed a lengthy editorial as follows:

"'As for the National Broadcasting Co.'s dictum that there shall be no radio utterance tending to disturb 'the public's confidence in its President' and 'hence inimical to the national welfare', 'particularly at a time of national crisis' - if that is offered as a general principle, there are two objections to its acceptance. First, it attempts to interpret the present national crisis as the equivalent of war, when, in fact, the Nation is not at war.'"

Senator Robinson declared the censorship began immediately with the advent of the present Administration.

"The following is a story appearing in the New York Herald-Tribune of Nov. 2", the Senator continued:

"'Rochester, November 1. - Assemblyman Richard L. Saunders today charged in a statement that he had been given a "raw deal" and had been ruled off the air by the management of station WHAM because of criticism of Postmaster General James A. Farley in a speech prepared for delivery last night in answer to an address Monday night by the Democratic leader.

"'Assemblyman Saunders said he had presented his speech for approval, and had been asked if it could not be "toned down."

"'Assemblyman Saunders said he had presented his speech for approval and had been asked if it could not be "toned down." On his reply that it could not, said Saunders, he was told that he could not make the speech.'

"He was forbidden the air, which belongs to the people, we thought, and not to the Democratic National Chairman", Senator Robinson said, and then concluded reading the clipping.

"'I asked for an explanation, since I had been told by W. Clyde O'Brien, legal counsel for the Stromberg-Carlson Co., owners and operators of the radio station, that the address was not libelous.

"'Mr. O'Brien replied', said Saunders, 'that W. Roy McCanne, president of the concern, had the success of the Republican campaign at heart, and he felt my speech would do it no good.

"'Mr. O'Brien's explanation was obviously a subterfuge. there is no doubt in my mind that the station feared their license might be canceled for criticism of Farley, who is one of the most powerful men in Washington.'

"I have a confidential letter from sources that I do not care to divulge, because it would do them grave injustice if their names were disclosed; they might even lose whatever business they have in these latter days of near-dictatorship", Senator Robinson said. The letter read:

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"I have reason to believe, and I think, following up my tips, can produce concrete evidence, that advertisers generally have been so intimidated that they dare not say anything over the air that might even indirectly be construed as not being in harmony with the present administration. I am told of one broadcaster for a very large food product who said something that was so construed, and he was immediately called down for it. I am further advised that other advertisers have directed those in control of their advertising not to use anything that even indirectly refers to the Government or any governmental affairs. This has gone so far that they dare not say a word concerning taxation."

"In other words, it is apparently a matter of bludgeoning the country into terror of this tremendous bureaucratic machine that has been created during the past 9 or 10 months.

"On the 25th of November the Washington Post of this city carried a story, part of which reads as follows:

"The radio publicity campaign, it was learned, is being carried forward under the direction of William Dolph, director of the N.R.A.'s radio division. He has obtained promises from numerous independent broadcasting stations to broadcast news which he collects daily from all Government departments.

"Herbert L. Pettey, secretary of the Radio Commission, has been directed to coordinate radio speeches of officials, obtain free time on the air for them from the radio stations licensed by his agency, and with the aid of R. Fred Roper, executive secretary of the Democratic National Committee, revise or censor such speeches with the view to making every word count for the administration.

"Pettey was assigned to the job by Postmaster General Farley."

"I will read no more from that, but it simply shows how far this censorship of the air has gone", Senator Robinson concludes.

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SHAW GETS POWER INCREASE WITHOUT HEARING

Station WMT, of Waterloo, Ia., owned by Harry Shaw, was granted a power increase of from 500 to 100 watts. Mr. Shaw, who is an Administration member of the Broadcasters' Code Authority was particularly gleeful because the increase was given to him without the formality of a hearing.

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RCA PLANS INTER-CITY RADIO PHOTOGRAM SERVICE

David Sarnoff, President of the Radio Corporation of America, made the following statement in connection with the new inter-city radio photogram and telegraphic service:

"For several years RCA research engineers have been busily occupied developing multiplex transmission by radio and also high speed facsimile transmission by use of extremely short waves.

"The first development -- that is, multiplex transmission makes possible the simultaneous sending of three different radiograms on one wavelength. Each of the three channels has a capacity of sixty words per minute making the total capacity of one wavelength 180 words per minute.

"The second and perhaps more important development is the practical use of ultra high frequencies or very short waves. These waves are less than five meters in length and are sometimes called 'optical waves'. They carry signals for a distance of about fifty miles and have properties closely analogous to light waves. They do not suffer from static or fading. Because of the comparatively short distance over which they travel, they can be used repeatedly hundreds and perhaps thousands of times all over the country, without creating interference.

"It is in this new and comparatively unexplored portion of the radio spectrum that the RCA proposed to introduce the first domestic facsimile radio communication service between New York and Philadelphia, made possible by the use of two automatic relay stations to be erected at New Brunswick and Trenton, N. J. Over this new circuit, when completed, it is confidently expected that photograms will be transmitted at higher speed and at lower tariffs than is possible with the dot and dash system of the Morse Code. Tariffs on this circuit will not be based upon so much per word but upon so much per square inch.

"Applications for permission to construct these ultra modern radio stations at New York, New Brunswick, Trenton and Philadelphia, and additional radio stations at Chicago, New Orleans, Washington and Boston, have been approved by the Radio Commission. It is expected that the new multiplex radiotelegraph stations at Washington, Boston, Chicago and New Orleans will be completed and open for public use approximately June 1, 1934. The new photogram radio service between New York, New Brunswick, Trenton and Philadelphia will be opened later in the present year.

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COLUMBIA LEASES NEW YORK THEATRE FOR BROADCASTS

The Columbia Broadcasting System has leased what was one of New York's most distinguished theatres, the Hudson, located at 139 West 44th St., and as soon as alterations and technical adaptations have been completed, will operate it as a theatre devoted entirely to broadcasting.

The theatre, which has a seating capacity of 1,087, will be named Columbia Broadcasting System's Radio Playhouse. It will be opened on February 3rd.

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DECISIONS OF THE FEDERAL RADIO COMMISSION

Applications Granted
(Jan. 19, 1934)

WMT, Waterloo Broadcasting Co., Waterloo, Ia., modification of license to increase day power from 500 watts to 1 KW; WMAZ, Southeastern Broadcasting Co., Macon, Ga., authority to operate specified times; WBRC, Receiver of Birmingham Broadcasting Co., Inc., Birmingham, Ala., consent to voluntary assignment of license to Birmingham Broadcasting Co., Inc.; WBRC, same, C.P. to make changes in equipment; WDGY, Dr. George M. Young, Minneapolis, Minn., license covering transmitter move within building, 1180 kc., 1 KW, limited time; KWTO (formerly KGIZ), KGBX, Inc., Springfield, Mo., license covering move of station from Grant City to Springfield, Mo., change in frequency power and hours of operation; 560 kc., 500 watts, daytime; WHDH, Matheson Radio Co., Inc., Boston, Mass., authority to determine operating power by direct measurement of antenna power; KARK, Arkansas Radio & Equipment Co., Little Rock, Ark., modification of C.P. to make changes in equipment and extend commencement date from July 9, 1933 to Jan. 1, 1934, and completion date to March 1, 1934.

Also, WSAZ, WSAZ, Inc., Huntington, W.Va., extension of special experimental authority to use 500 watts power experimentally in addition to regular power of 500 watts to August 1, 1934; WCFL, Chicago Federation of Labor, Chicago, Ill., extension of special experimental authority to operate unlimited time to August 1, 1934 (Normally licensed limited time); KVOR, S. H. Patterson, Colorado Springs, Colo., permission to operate to Feb. 1, without approved frequency monitor, while making repairs; WSUI, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia., special temporary authority to operate from 10 P.M. to 12 Midnight, CST, on Feb. 2 and 16, 1934; KSOO, Sioux Falls Broadcast Association, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., special temporary authority to continue operating daily until 6:30 P.M. CST, and on Sunday nights beginning at 9:30 P.M. CST, with reduction of power to 1 KW.

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