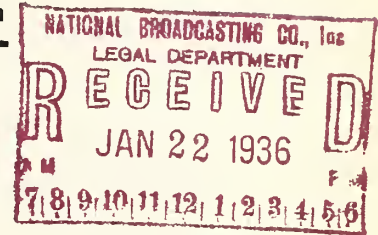


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No. 895

January 21, 1936

U. S. BROADCASTERS WILL WATCH EUROPEAN RADIO PARLEY

Although the United States probably will not be officially represented, American broadcasters and short-wave listeners will watch with interest developments at an inter-continental meeting of broadcasting organizations of Europe in Paris, February 27 to March 7 under sponsorship of the International Broadcasting Union.

The meeting was called by the U.I.R. for the purpose of bringing together experts of the principal broadcasting stations of Europe in anticipation of the international preliminary conference in Bucharest early in 1937 and the general meeting of the radio world in Cairo in February, 1938, at which this country will be represented. The Paris meeting will be similar to a session of the National Association of Broadcasters in the United States.

The European conference is of special interest to this country, however, because of the bearing it may have on the international distribution of short-wave frequencies now greatly in demand. Listeners, as well as broadcasters, are also interested in an effort to clear up certain crowded short-wave bands, notably the 49 and 31 meter waves at night.

Gerald Gross, Short-Wave Engineer for the Federal Communications Commission, has obtained copies of the invitation sent out by the Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union setting forth the agenda for the conference. It is explained that the more controversial topics probably will be assigned to committees for study.

The importance of greater separation on certain of the short-wave bands, if reception is to be satisfactory, was noted by the FCC in its recent annual report to Congress. The report, prepared by the Engineering Department, stated:

"Many of the European and South American stations, as well as those of other nations were received with regularity both day and night subject to wide variations in fading and interference.

"Experience has shown that channel widths of at least 20 kilocycles are required for reasonably good reception and reproduction to be obtained on these frequencies. This is because of the extreme and rapid fading, average weakness of received signals, carrier frequency tolerance required, average receiver characteristics, etc. Even with the directive antenna systems

and diversity reception, a carrier frequency separation of 10 to 20 kilocycles is necessary for high-grade reception in the present state of the art.

"Assignments are now being made, however, by some nations with separations of only 5 kilocycles and other nations are assigning odd channels with separations even less than this. As a result, this international broadcast service is being greatly impaired by reason of mutual interference. It is very important, therefore, that agreements be made between the various participating nations of the world for the shared use of these frequencies during periods of time when interference may be caused. There are times of the day and seasons when relay stations on certain of the frequencies can transmit and be received in one section of the world but during which time it is impracticable or impossible for other sections of the world to employ satisfactorily the same frequencies because the listening public is not available due to the early morning hours, or because of geographical separations, daylight and darkness distributions, and the seasonal and diurnal changes in propagation characteristics.

"The relay broadcast frequencies have been selected as those most suitable for transmission to great distances or international services, but due to these great distances the average signals are always weak and therefore it is quite important that the power assignments be not less than 5 or 10 kilowatts. This is considered the minimum power with which it is possible to make efficient usage of an assignment.

"A sound engineering and economic allocation of the experimental relay or international broadcast frequencies requires close cooperation, mutual agreements, and treaties between the nations of the world engaging in this service."

The Paris meeting agenda is divided into three major sections, dealing with technical, program, and legal and administrative topics.

The first section covers general broadcasting problems and in addition television and "standardization of recording procedures".

Under "programs" the European experts will discuss the hours best suited for short-wave broadcasting to different continents, the composition of programs, and the means of transmission used, including the choice of transcontinental circuits, the use of records, etc.

The copyright problem, which is such a thorn in the flesh of American broadcasters, heads the list of topics under the legal and administrative section. Other major topics are "protection of the right to transmissions" and "reduction of telegraph and telephone rates".

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WARING WINS SUIT AGAINST WDAS; FIGHT ON RECORDS SEEN

Fred Waring, leader of Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians, on January 17 won his suit against WDAS, Philadelphia, over the latter's use of his records and immediately announced he would launch a campaign through the National Association of Performing Artists against the general broadcasting of phonograph records.

The NAPA, of which Waring is president, had previously announced it would sponsor an amendment to the Copyright Act, similar to that in effect in several foreign countries, whereby the interpreter is given protection similar to that provided the copyright owner.

The point at issue in the Waring-WDAS case was whether a radio station might broadcast a phonograph record without specific permission of the performing artists. Thus in the suit, WDAS brought out that it had a license to broadcast the Waring record and that the orchestra leader had been paid for the original performance by the RCA Victor Company.

Testifying before the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia December 12, with Maurice J. Speiser, author of the recent book, "Legal Rights of the Performing Artist", as counsel, abetted by such witnesses as Fritz Reiner, Abe Lyman, producer Max Gordon, and Gene Buck, President of ASCAP, Fred Waring contended that his rights as a unique and interpretive artist were invaded by indiscriminate exploitation of his records, licensed to be used privately for home consumption.

In reaching the decision, Judge Harry S. McDevitt concluded, in part, Fred Waring's compositions are interpretive since they add to the original composition. They are unique and they increase the sale of such compositions.

Said Fred Waring: "This is only the beginning of a campaign to be launched by NAPA against the broadcasting of phonograph records."

Some 500 stations throughout the country use records, replacing thousands of musicians in broadcasting studios, he added.

Mr. Waring has not made records for several years, and is at present conducting the Pennsylvanians exclusively for the Ford shows over the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System.

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CONNERY ASSAILS MAKE-UP OF FCC'S RADIO-EDUCATION GROUP

Following up his resolution calling for an investigation of the Federal Communications Commission, Chairman Connery, of the House Labor Committee, on January 17 assailed the FCC from another angle - for its tardiness in appointing a Radio-Education Committee and for its choice of members.

Connery also called attention to the distribution of clear channels by the Commission as revealed by Chairman Anning S. Prall in answer to an inquiry from Representative Wigglesworth (R.) of Massachusetts.

Referring to Prall's report, he said:

"I have looked up this matter, and from accurate information which I have received, it appears that out of these 40 high-powered clear-channel radio stations, 21 are owned, operated, or affiliated with the National Broadcasting Co.; 14 are owned, operated, or affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting Co.; and 3 of these stations are owned, operated or affiliated with the Mutual Broadcasting Co. These are the three big chains, and there is a great question as to the remaining two stations being independent. Mr. Prall said there were five independent stations having this high power, clear channel. My information is that there are not over two, one at Albuquerque, N. Mex., and one at Los Angeles Calif. and it is a question as to whether these two are independent. So here is another example of inaccurate information given by the Communications Commission to a member of the Appropriations Committee of this House.

"Two years ago the Congress of the United States passed a resolution telling the Radio Commission to make an investigation with reference to the question of allocating 25 percent of all radio time to education, religion, labor, farmers, veterans, and other nonprofit enterprises and calling for a report as to what recommendation the Commission would make on this subject. About 4 weeks ago, after 2 years, the Radio Commission picked 40 men to investigate this question. These 40 men were supposed to be educators. These are the men who are to make an unbiased study of the question as to what should be done about allocating time on the radio to education, labor, religion, veterans, farmers, and other non-profit-making enterprises. Of these 40, please notice, 18 of the men picked by the Radio Commission either own or operate commercial radio stations; 7 are affiliated with people who run the stations; 2 of the 40 belong to the Communications Commission; leaving 13 educators out of the 40 to whom the general public is supposed to look for relief on this question of allocating time. This is another example of the deceit practiced by that Commission on the Congress of the United States.

"Mr. Chairman, first of all, they flouted the request of 16 Members of this House who asked for a hearing on the obscene matter which was broadcast in the Mexican Government program over the National Radio Broadcasting Co. network. Now, they are trying to deceive the Congress again in their answer to the request of the gentlemen from Massachusetts (Mr. Wigglesworth) with reference to the questions which he has propounded."

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PUBLISHERS FOR "FREEDOM OF AIR"; TALMADGE HITS "CENSORS"

In an editorial of the current issue of Editor & Publisher, organ of newspaper publishers, approval was indicated on the stand taken by the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System in the controversy with the Republican National Committee over the broadcasting of President Roosevelt's address to Congress. At the same time, Governor Talmadge, of Georgia, joined the G.O.P. in its attack on the two networks for alleged favoritism to the New Deal.

"A cuttlefish cloud of politics obscures the important issue in the radio controversy aroused by President Roosevelt's message to Congress", said Editor & Publisher. "That issue is the right of the responsible owners of broadcasting facilities to edit their programs, to accord and deny their facilities as their consciences dictate, subject, of course, to court processes for prevention of unfair competition, misrepresentation, or restraint of trade.

"The courts have generally upheld these rights as pertaining to the editorial and advertising contents of newspapers. Similar reasoning should be applied to the radio problem. Common sense should dictate to a licensed radio system that it apportion its facilities evenly among political parties.

"The major chains are on solid ground in distinguishing between the President of the United States and a candidate for office. If the President chooses to play politics on the air when the occasion calls for statesmanship, that is something the broadcasters cannot control. By no reasoning can they be accorded the right to censor a Presidential utterance. Good taste and a sense of responsibility toward a medium which is at his mercy must govern the words of the Chief Executive; if they do not, he is open to unlimited criticism by his opponents on the air and in the press."

Said Governor Talmadge: "Whether the radio companies are being influenced or coerced by the New Deal or whether they are going out of their way to conciliate the New Deal is open to question. But there can be no question that the abuse of the power of the radio cannot and will not be tolerated."

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A. T. & T. COUNSEL EXPLAINS ATTITUDE ON COAXIAL CABLE

The American Telephone & Telegraph Company has never intended to restrict the use of the coaxial cable for television experiments to the Radio Corporation of America, as inferred by attorneys for the Federal Communications Commission during recent hearings in Washington, according to Harvey Hoshour, General Solicitor of the Telephone Company.

At each of the three hearings, Mr. Hoshour said, "we have stated and testified that it was not our purpose to limit television experimenters to the RCA or to any other company or companies.

"In fact, the record shows that we have expressly agreed that television experimenters who have appropriate television sending or receiving apparatus may have access to the terminal apparatus of the coaxial cable which we seek to install so as to be able to use the cable for experiments in sending or receiving of television images by means of their own apparatus, such use to be with due regard to our experimental use of the cable, and we have in no manner indicated any disposition or purpose to exclude any reputable concern from this access. Further, we have expressly stated that we have no objection, if we cannot come to terms as to time or other conditions with television experimenters, to the Commission's prescribing proper and reasonable terms and conditions under which such experimenters may experiment with the cable, although it is the opinion of our legal department that the Commission has no jurisdiction as to matters of this kind. In a word, we have attempted to meet every reasonable requirement in this connection so as to avoid any suggestion of discrimination that, as I see it, could possibly be urged by any one."

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WLXBS TO JOIN INTER-CITY GROUP OF STATIONS

Station WLXBS, New Haven-Waterbury, Conn., will be permanently linked with WMCA and other stations of the Inter-City Group, effective February 1, according to announcement by Donald Flamm, President of the Knickerbocker Broadcasting Company, key station of the Inter-City Group. WLXBS is a high fidelity broadcasting station operating on the 1530 kilocycle channel with 1000 watts power, day and night. It is owned and operated by the Waterbury Republican and American and maintains studios in New Haven and in Waterbury.

This makes nine stations in this group linked together by A. T. & T. wires for twenty-four hours each day. The other stations are WMCA, New York; WIP, Philadelphia; WPRO, Providence; WMEX, Boston; WLNH, Laconia, N. H.; WOL, Washington, D. C.; WDEL, Wilmington, and WCBM, Baltimore, Md.

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BRITISH HANDLE KING'S DEATH NEWS IMPRESSIVELY

The continuous ringing of the famed bells of the Church of St. Mary leBow will linger long in the memories of those who listened to the short-wave broadcasts of the British Broadcasting Corporation just preceding and following the death of King George V.

The twelve bells formed a background for the periodical announcements of BBC announcers on the condition of the King prior to his death and between announcements after his death. They rang continuously all night.

All regular BBC programs were cancelled sometime before King George died and were not resumed until the following night. Nevertheless, BBC stations were not only employed to broadcast the news throughout the far-flung British Empire but were kept on the air, in some instances, long after regular closing hours to keep the people throughout the Empire informed of developments.

The Church of St. Mary le Bow, whose bells provided such impressive interludes between news broadcasts, is situated in Cheapside, in the heart of London, half way between St. Paul's Cathedral and the Bank of England.

Just preceding each news announcement the deep notes of Big Ben striking the hour or its quarter were heard. As the King's death was told to a waiting world audience, the announcer said:

"We ask you all to join in reflection and prayer for our King."

A radio choir sang, "Whoever Shall Endure Until the End He Shall be Saved", and then the announcer read:

"Let the motto of our thoughts and prayers tonight be the words: 'In quietness and confidence shall be our strength. Set free, we pray the Lord, our souls from all restlessness and anxiety. Give us that peace and power that follow from Thee.' Now with trusting hearts let us pray for our King."

At one time following the King's death the BBC stations permitted the le Bow bells to fade out long enough to pick up the firing of the minute guns in Hyde Park as a salute to the dead monarch.

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FCC AGAIN MAKES IT TOUGH FOR NEWSMEN WITH NEW GAG RULE

Failing to profit from its own experience and that of other governmental agencies who have tried to exercise a form of censorship, the Federal Communications Commission has imposed a new gag rule that is making newspaper men grumble.

In an apparent attempt to keep noney outsiders away, the FCC has ordered its docket section not to reveal any applications or other data without specific authorization of Herbert Pettey, Secretary of the Commission, and George Porter, Assistant General Counsel.

The procedure - which few newspapermen care to follow - is to submit a request in writing to the secretary for permission to see a certain paper. If he approves, the request is then passed on to Porter. If the latter also approves, the newspaper man may carry the doubly-approved note around to the Docket Section and take a peep. . . Meanwhile, several editions of his newspaper will have gone to press.

The relations between the FCC and the press have never been too good, largely because the Commission would not allow its veteran and competent Public Relations Counsel, Franklin G. Wisner, formerly of the Baltimore Sun, to handle publicity matters entirely. Not so long ago the old Federal Radio Commission issued an order that no employee could talk with newspaper men, but this rule was subsequently withdrawn under ridicule.

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HIGHER POWER FOR INDIANA, ILLINOIS STATIONS URGED

Power increases for WFBM, Indianapolis; WHBU, Anderson, Ind., and WJBC, Bloomington, Ill., were recommended in Examiners' reports submitted to the Federal Communications Commission this week.

Station WFBM asked for an increase to 5 KW daytime from 1 KW, while WHBU applied for a daytime increase from 100 to 250 watts. Station WJBC asked for a power raise similar to that requested by WHBU.

Special authorization for KADA, Ada, Okla., to operate 90 days on its present daytime frequency of 1200 kc., with 100 watts power, at night as well was recommended by Examiner P. W. Seward.

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A. P. ENDS ASSESSMENT FOR PURELY LOCAL NEWS BROADCASTS

The Associated Press Board of Directors has decided to remove the October 5, assessment from purely local news broadcasts because of protests of newspapers with station affiliations. The decision, reached at a meeting last week in New York, is explained by Editor & Publisher as follows:

"Recently opposition was expressed in some quarters to A.P. assessments for broadcast where no so-called 'general' news was employed. The ruling that the A.P. would not charge for this broadcasting of local news in no wise affects the status of the A.P. by-laws, governing all member papers, that all local news gathered by a member is the exclusive property of the A.P.

"Where there are two or more members in either field, morning and evening being distinct, it was decided also that the assessment for broadcasting should be against the division of the assessment rather than for the total for the field where only one member broadcasts.

"Refunds will be made to members - or additional assessments made - so that there will exist no inequity for newscasting assessments. Jackson Elliott, Assistant Secretary of the A.P. is adjusting the various accounts.

"Use of A.P. news for bulletins of transcendent importance by members will continue to be free from assessment. Approximately 60 A.P. members have regular newscasts on owned or operated stations. These will pay the assessments, which are from a dollar weekly upward.

"Some members urged the Board to do away with radio assessments entirely, but it was ruled that as the charges accorded with the expression of the membership in annual session the assessments should continue until the members again have opportunity to vote upon the policy."

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NINE RADIO ADVERTISERS SPEND \$1,000,000 EACH

Following is a list of nine broadcast advertisers spending more than \$1,000,000 each on the National, Columbia, and Mutual broadcasting system in 1935, as reported by National Advertising records:

Procter & Gamble Co., \$2,104,697; General Foods Corp., \$1,948,509; Standard Brands, \$1,938,577; Ford Motor Company, \$1,928,860; Colgate-Palm-olive-Peet Co., \$1,679,037; Sterling Products, Inc., \$1,422,640; American Home Products, \$1,211,568; Lady Esther Company, \$1,100,998; Pepsodent Company, \$1,098,996.

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LARGE RADIO TURNOUT AT ALFALFA DINNER

Among the 500 distinguished guests at the Alfalfa Dinner in Washington last Saturday night was a liberal representation of the radio industry. A new member whose initiation took place that night was John M. Littlepage, well known radio lawyer, whose father, Thomas P. Littlepage, was formerly president of the Club. Gene Buck, of the American Society of Composers, as usual, was in charge of the entertainment.

Familiar faces at the dinner, either of those directly or indirectly connected with the radio industry, were:

Sosthenes Behn, President, International Telephone & Telegraph Co.; George T. Bishop, General Electric Co., Cleveland; Thad H. Brown, member Federal Communications Commission; Gene Buck, President, American Society of Composers; Harry C. Butcher, Columbia Broadcasting Co., Washington; Norman S. Case, Federal Communications Commission; T.A.M. Craven, Chief Engineer, Communications Commission; Col. Manton Davis, counsel, Radio Corporation of America, New York City; Donald Flamm, President, Knickerbocker Broadcasting Co., New York City; Hampson Gary, General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission; Dr. Charles B. Jolliffe, Radio Corporation of America; John M. Littlepage, lawyer, Thomas P. Littlepage, lawyer, Thomas P. Littlepage, Jr., Washington, D. C.;

Also, Arthur W. Page, Vice-President, American Telephone & Telegraph Co., New York City; Anning S. Prall, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Lewis J. Proctor, International Telephone and Telegraph Co.; Andrew D. Ring, Engineer, Federal Communications Commission; Frank M. Russell, National Broadcasting Co., Washington, D. C.; Eugene O. Sykes, Federal Communications Commission; Eugene S. Wilson, Vice-President, American Telephone & Telegraph Co., New York City; W. A. Winterbottom, R.C.A. Communications, New York City; and Frank W. Wozencraft, Assistant General Counsel, R.C.A. Communications, New York City.

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EX-NEWSPAPER MEN FORM PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCY

Two former newspapermen, Glenn I. Tucker and John Kelly, have formed a public relations and publicity agency under the name of Tucker-Kelly and Associates, with offices at 347 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Tucker, a former Washington newspaper correspondent, covered the White House for the New York World during the Wilson, Harding and Coolidge administrations. Subsequently he handled the Ford Motor Co. account for N. W. Ayer & Son and was Washington representative of the Radio Corporation of America.

Kelly, after newspaper work in this country and abroad, established the Publicity Department in the former George Batten Co. and has since served as Publicity Director of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, until his withdrawal January 1, 1936, to form the new agency.

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::: INDUSTRY NOTES :::

Col. Malcolm Churchill Rorty, former Vice President of the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. and noted engineer-economist, died January 18 of heart disease. Since 1924 he had been President of the American Management Association.

"Why aren't editors raising more hell over the feature syndicates' decision to sell their newspaper-nurtured features to radio sponsors?" George Olds, Managing Editor of the Springfield (Mo.) News and Leader & Press, asks in a signed article in the January 18th issue of Editor & Publisher.

Herbert Moore, President of Transradio Press Service, in a formal statement this week denied that Transradio is abandoning its short-wave delivery service to broadcasting stations. He admitted, however, that the short-wave service is being curtailed because of the increasing popularity of teletype service. Six major stations, he said, have switched from short-wave to teletype circuits within the last month and a half.

Salary raises of from \$1 to \$5 were given last week at the New York office of the Columbia Broadcasting System, according to Variety.

While most of New York groped in sudden and complete darkness, subways and elevators ceased running, and even telephone service was disrupted by a short circuit in an uptown power station January 15th, broadcasting at the National Broadcasting Company continued without a break. Emergency power equipment installed in its Radio City studios, and a personnel trained against just such emergencies, enabled NBC to continue on the air without interruption.

The Birmingham News and Age-Herald this week acquired the ownership and operation of radio station WSGN, Birmingham, from the R. B. Broyles Furniture Co. Licenses for this station were obtained three years ago, the SGN meaning "The South's Greatest Newspaper", a term applied to the News. The station had been leased to an operating company until recently.

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