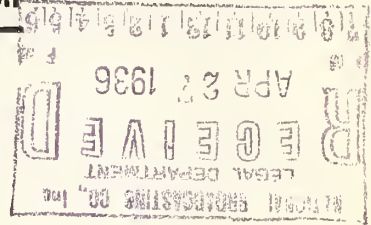


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HIGH FREQUENCIES AGAIN DISTURBED BY THE SUN

Short-wave broadcasting and commercial radio communication in the high frequencies was seriously disrupted and for awhile practically non-existent this week by another disturbance in the ionosphere, some 200 miles above the earth's surface.

The United States Bureau of Standards, which has been making a special study of the relation between magnetic disturbances, sun-spots, and radio transmission gathered much more data on the latest outburst, the most serious since October 24, 1935.

As yet the source of the trouble has not been definitely traced, and operators of high frequency transmitters have no recourse but to send out signals on lower frequencies. Even substantial increases in power do no good as the signals merely break through the ionized layer and are lost in space.

Dr. J. H. Dellinger, Chief of the Radio Section of the Bureau of Standards, first disclosed the action of the ionosphere, formerly known as the Kennelly-Heaviside layer, in the magazine Science, last Fall. He cited similar occurrences on March 20, May 12, July 6, and August 30, 1935.

As explained by S. S. Kirby, Associate Physicist at the Bureau of Standards, there are three ionized regions above the earth. The last, or highest of these, acts as a wall to reflect the high radio frequencies. When this ionized region, for reasons as yet undetermined, loses much of its ionization density, it no longer stops the radio signals or reflects them back to the earth for reception at some other point on the globe.

The ionosphere, which is actually extremely rarefied atmosphere - too thin to sustain human life - might be called "charged air", Mr. Kirby said. When it no longer reflects radio signals, it loses part of this "charge" or ionization density.

Long wave broadcasting or low or medium frequency radio transmission is not disturbed by the change in the ionosphere as the signals do not shoot up so high when transmitted.

The latest disturbance began April 18th and reached its maximum intensity April 21-22.

While physicists at the Bureau have no means of checking on conditions in the ionosphere over the globe, they are reasonably confident that the disturbance is world-wide though not as serious

near the equator as near the North and South Poles. The condition is much worse in the daylight than at night.

The Bureau of Standards scientists hope to learn from their accumulated data not only what causes the density changes in the ionosphere but to determine the relations between magnetic disturbances, sun-spot activity, and poor high-frequency radio transmission.

A Bureau of Standards report on the October 24th disturbance stated:

"At the time of a radio fadeout there is doubtless some eruption on the sun much more sudden than the growth of a sun-spot, which abruptly changes the rate at which the sun sends certain waves or particles into the earth's atmosphere. Such eruptions also produce magnetic disturbances.

"There has hitherto been no way of identifying particular magnetic disturbances associated with such eruptions. The radio effects, on the other hand, are easily identified, and further study of them may furnish means of closer insight into the mysteries of magnetic disturbances and other effects closely related to events on or in the sun."

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STATION CLAMOR FOR SUPER-POWER AWAITS WJZ GRANT

Several of the country's leading broadcasting stations are awaiting with keen interest the action of the Federal Communications Commission on the application of the National Broadcasting Company for 500,000 watts power for WJZ, New York. If the FCC grants a permit for this second super-power station, broadcasters believe the way will be opened for several more at strategic points throughout the United States. Station WHO, Des Moines, also is awaiting action on a similar request.

Station WLW, Cincinnati, is the only station now holding a permit to broadcast with 500,000 watts. Admittedly an experiment at the beginning, the station has proved its ability to operate with ultra high power without disturbing other broadcasting stations, as had been feared.

Among the other stations reported ready to make applications for super-power permits, if the FCC shows a disposition to act favorably on the move for higher power, are WGN, Chicago, and KFI, Los Angeles.

If super-power stations are authorized on the East and West Coasts and in the Northwest, applications for similar grants are sure to come from stations in the South and possibly Southwest. Among the stations suggested as candidates for the honor are WSM, Nashville, and WSB, Atlanta.

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PRALL GUARANTEES FREE SPEECH IN PROGRAM AWARDS

Freedom of speech over the air, with safeguards, commensurate with freedom of the press, was promised by Anning S. Prall, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, in an address at New York City, April 22nd, in connection with the presentation of awards for outstanding radio programs by the Women's National Radio Committee.

"In the conduct of the press and the radio, our fundamental obligation is to respect freedom of speech", he said. "The search for truth shall keep us free.

"The freedom of the press within the legal limitations to which I have referred, which conditions bespeak the wisdom of experience, is a precious inheritance. That freedom must be extended to the radio. To the defense of that freedom of the press and the radio, we pledge, as did our forefathers, our lives and our sacred honor.

"It is inconceivable that, as in the dictator-ridden countries of Europe, or even in England where the radio is under state control, there could be imposed by the Communications Commission regulations that would mean a denial of the same degree of free speech over the radio as is enjoyed by the press of our country.

"But while that liberty should be granted and maintained, a degree of reasonable restriction should be preserved. Namely, the protection of the government and its processes including judicial action from violent disruption, and unlawfully created disrespect; the protection of individuals in good name and business reputation; and the protection of the morals of the public and of its right not to be defrauded or deceived."

The program awards were:

The best educational program, "America's Town Meeting of the Air", NBC-Blue network feature.

The best children's program, "Wilderness Road", a Columbia Broadcasting System production.

The best non-musical program, the Fleischmann Variety Hour with Rudy Vallee on the NBC-Red network.

The Cities Service Concert, heard over the NBC-Red network was chosen to receive the award for light music programs.

In the field of serious music no award was made because, as Mme. Yolanda Mero-Irion, founder and Advisory Chairman of the Women's National Radio Committee, explained, "none of the features considered conformed to the standards established by the Committee."

Runners-up in the field of children's programs were the NBC Appreciation Hour and the Singing Lady, heard over the NBC-Blue network, and the American School of the Air of CBS.

Honorable mention in education went to the American School of the Air, which placed second, and NBC's University of Chicago Round Table, third.

There were several subdivisions in the general classification of non-musical. Comedy was one, with Jack Benny leading, Fred Allen (both of NBC) a close second, and Burns and Allen (CBS) third.

In the drama division, Leslie Howard, of CBS, led with NBC Radio Guild and CBS's Lux Theatre of the Air runners-up. Ranking dramatic serials were One Man's Family, Today's Children, Vic and Sade and Forever Young, all NBC.

The Columbia Experimental Dramas under the direction of Irving Reis also came in for favorable mention. Among news commentators, Gabriel Heatter, week-end broadcaster over the NBC-Blue network, and Edwin C. Hill, also NBC, placed first and second, with Boake Carter of Columbia third.

Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians of NBC ranked second in the light music division. Honorable mention in the serious music group went to the Ford Sunday Hour, CBS (which ranked second to NBC's General Motors) and to Frank Black's NBC String Symphony.

Awards were accepted by Edgar Kobak, Vice-President of Lord and Thomas advertising agency, for the Cities Service Concert; George V. Denny, Chairman of the program, for America's Town Meeting of the Air; E. T. Smith, Vice-President of Standard Brands, for Rudy Vallee's Variety Hour; and William S. Paley, President of CBS, for "Wilderness Road."

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PAN AMERICAN GETS STATIONS FOR ATLANTIC FLIGHTS

Pan American Airways, Inc., this week was granted two permits by the Telegraph Division of the Federal Communications Commission for construction of aeronautical radio communication stations in anticipation of a trans-Atlantic clipper service similar to that recently inaugurated over the Pacific. One of the stations is to be located at Port Washington, N. Y., and the other "somewhere between Southampton and Amagansett, Long Island, N.Y.

Plans for the trans-Atlantic service were disclosed when the FCC began inquiring as to the necessity for the stations.

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COPYRIGHT SUB-COMMITTEE EMBROILED IN FIGHT

A sub-committee of the House Patents Committee held two executive meetings this week in an unsuccessful effort to reach an agreement on the three pending copyright bills, and scheduled the next session for Monday morning.

Appointment of the Sub-Committee was announced April 22nd after the full Committee had fought over what action should be taken. Fruitless moves were made to report out a bill immediately and then to appoint the ranking members of the Committee on a Sub-Committee.

Chairman Sirovich, of the full Committee, who is an outspoken foe of the Duffy Bill, endorsed by organized broadcasters, and a friend of ASCAP, was not placed on the Sub-Committee. Instead, the chairmanship was given to Representative Lanham, of Texas.

The other members are Representatives Deen, of Georgia; O'Malley, of Wisconsin; Kramer, of California; Daly, of Pennsylvania; Barry, of New York; Perkins, of New Jersey; McLeod, of Michigan; Hartley, of New Jersey; and Risk, of Rhode Island.

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FORMER SENATOR DILL APPLIES FOR CAPITAL STATION

Should the Federal Communications Commission act favorably on an application just received, former Senator Clarence C. Dill, now a Washington, D. C., attorney, would be in a unique position in the National Capital.

Senator Dill has filed an application for a permit to operate a radio station in the District of Columbia, using 100 watts power and the 1,310-kilocycle wave band now occupied by WOL. The application is conditional, however, upon FCC approval of WOL's request for a shift in frequency to 1,230 kc. with 1,000 watts power. A hearing on the latter application has been set for May 20th.

A rival applicant for WOL's wavelength is William Dolph, at present Sales Manager of WOL, and recently appointed Radio Director for the Democratic National Committee. He is also a brother-in-law of Herbert L. Pettey, retiring Secretary of the FCC.

Senator Dill a few years ago was the most powerful legislator handling radio matters in Congress. He was co-author of the Radio and Communications Act, creating the old Federal Radio Commission and its successor. Since retiring from politics he has represented various radio interests before the FCC.

Retired members of Congress have become engaged in divers pursuits in Washington, but Senator Dill is the first to seek the role of a broadcaster.

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GERMAN S-W STATIONS URGE REBROADCAST BY U. S. OUTLETS

Long-wave broadcasting stations in the United States are being invited by the German Broadcasting System to pick up and rebroadcast programs transmitted by German short-wave stations for American listeners. Apparently a move to improve German-American relations, the invitation is the first to come formally from a European nation.

In an effort to avoid any obstacles to the rebroadcasts, the German Broadcasting System has agreed to withhold any musical numbers that might cause American stations trouble with the copyright owners. This gesture was made after a Washington, D. C. station was forced to cut off a German program suddenly on account of a musical piece that the U. S. station was unlicensed to broadcast.

Kurt G. Sell, American representative of the German Broadcasting System, addressed a letter to stations in this country recently calling attention to a special preview broadcast of forthcoming Olympic Games by the German short-wave station DJD, Berlin, on 25.49 meters, or 11.77 megacycles.

Explaining that the time had been fixed for the convenience of American listeners at 9:15 P.M., EST, he added:

"We urge you take one or all of these programs for rebroadcast. If you have not tuned in on DJD so far, you will be surprised at the fine reception one is able to get on that wavelength. The talks will last from 10 to 15 minutes, will be in the English language only and will contain nothing which might interfere with your present copyright problems, that is, no copyrighted music will be played. If you decide to take one or several and wish to have your station mentioned in these broadcasts from Berlin, please let me know and I shall notify Berlin."

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THREE LICENSES RENEWED AS WEVD CHANGES REQUEST

The licenses of Stations WHAZ, Troy, N. Y., WFAB, New York City, and WBBR, Brooklyn, N. Y., this week were renewed by the Federal Communications Commission because WEVD, one of the stations involved in the "Brooklyn case", had amended its application from asking 1300 kc. to 1400 kc.

The Commission will hold a rehearing on the "Brooklyn case" on May 7th.

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PRESS-RADIO BUREAU EXPANSION PROPOSED TO ANPA

Expansion of the Press-Radio Bureau's service so as to enlist more broadcasting stations and constant vigilance upon the part of publishers to prevent government officials or advertisers from restricting the freedom of the air were recommended to the American Newspaper Publishers' Association April 23rd in New York City.

E. H. Harris, Chairman of the Publishers' Radio Committee, also urged the newspaper owners to continue their fight against illegal broadcasting of their news.

The Committee advocated adoption of a resolution that the Press-Radio Bureau be continued for another year. The Committee advocated study of means to cut the Bureau's distribution costs, so that more radio stations in the South and West, which cannot afford to pay the wire costs from New York, will use the service.

Mr. Harris in his report emphasized the power which has been granted by Congress to the Federal Communications Commission over the radio, telegraph and telephone, as well as "dictatorial powers assumed" by the Commission, and charged that this situation had opened the door "for the Government to attempt to intimidate the press."

The Committee report asserted that the press and radio should cooperate in the public good and for the benefit of the country as a whole. Pointing out that the operation of broadcast stations was in the nature of a monopoly of the air controlled by private capital under government domination, Mr. Harris said that its monopolistic feature was its greatest weakness. This was so, he explained, because broadcast stations must always be licensed by the government, and because they can operate only in a very limited number of radio channels, opening the door "for control as to who shall speak and in some cases what shall be said."

"Some groups affiliated with the radio industry and some connected with the government", he continued, "have gone so far as to state that radio broadcasting and its affiliates, facsimile printing and television, eventually will supplant the newspapers."

"The fallacy of these statements is apparent at a glance. With the ratification of the first amendment to our Constitution, the press was freed not only of licensing but of any governmental control whatever."

"Journalism could not exist if it were subject to a government license. Radio broadcasting, facsimile printing and television by their very nature must always be under government license. Attempts of radio to function in the field of journalism must fail because a government license destroys the freedom on which any journalistic endeavor rests."

"If radio broadcasting, facsimile printing and television ever jeopardize the functions of the press, they will do so only when these facilities are used for propaganda purposes to retard the work of the press, and the press by a lack of vigilance has aided in its own destruction.

"The control of debate, the utilization of radio for government propaganda, and censorship of news over the air are possibilities in radio, even probabilities. They are unthinkable as to the press."

Mr. Harris pointed out that steps have already been taken in the direction of control, propaganda and censorship of radio. Saying that the efforts of the Committee to keep the presentation of news over the air free from censorship and to protect the property rights of newspapers in news which they have gathered, have led to false charged that the newspapers are warring against radio, he went on:

"As an indication that there is no hostile feeling on the part of the press toward radio, it is only necessary to point out that the newspapers and press associations during the last two years have made available the entire news services of the three press associations to all broadcasting stations without charge. Thereby they are offering protection to all radio stations on news throughout the twenty-four hours of the day and night. The only conditions are that this news shall not be comingled with advertising or connected with an advertising program and that it be broadcast in the form given and at periods of value to the listening public."

Mr. Harris attacked the practice of some broadcasters and some news agencies which supply the news of selling news programs for sponsorship by advertisers.

"The sale of news to any broadcasting station or to any advertiser for sponsorship over the air", he said "is just as unsound as if the newspapers sold news to their advertisers and then permitted them to comingle this news in their advertising copy. How long would the newspapers hold the confidence of the public as media for the dissemination of information if they adopted such a policy? The same principle is applicable to radio stations which permit such a policy."

In urging the sepansion of the Press-Radio Bureau, Mr. Harris said that the National Broadcasting System has expressed its desire to continue it and finance it for another year.

He recommended that the Committee be authorized to take up with such stations plans for a more economical distribution of the Bureau reports, and that The Associated Press, United Press and the International News Service be requested to continue to cooperate by supplying its news reports to the Bureau.

The resolution offered by the Harris Committee follows:

"Resolved, that the Press-Radio Bureau be continued for another year and that The Associated Press, the United Press and the International News Service be requested to cooperate with the Bureau during that period, so that its news reports may be available to all radio broadcast stations desire to use them."

It was to be acted upon today, April 24th.

FCC PERMITS MILITARY TESTS BY RADIO-TELEGRAPH

Operators of radio-telegraph and radio-telephone stations this week were informed by the Federal Communications Commission that they may engage in military and naval tests, providing they obtain government authorization and FCC approval.

The training is expected to make the wireless communication facilities susceptible to immediate adaption to emergency measures in case of war.

The FCC order reads:

"Rule 212(a) The licensee of any radio-telegraph or radio-telephone station, other than broadcast, may, if proper notice from authorized government representatives is filed with and approved by the Commission, utilize such stations for military or naval test communications (messages not necessary for the conduct of ordinary governmental business) in preparation for national defense during the period or periods stated in said notice subject to the sole condition that no interference of any service of another country will result therefrom. Nothing herein or in any other regulation of the Commission shall be construed to require any such station to participate in any such test."

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FIVE MC CLATCHY STATIONS JOIN NBC NETWORK

The National Broadcasting Company this week continued its expansion program by adding five McClatchy-owned newspaper stations to its list of affiliated outlets. The stations are now associated with the Columbia Broadcasting System through the Don Lee network. This action came close on the heels of a tie-up with three Yankee Network stations - WNAC, Boston; WEAN, Providence, and WICC, Bridgeport-New Haven.

These stations, all owned and operated by the McClatchy Newspapers, consist of the following: KFBK, Sacramento, 5,000 watts; KMJ, Fresno, 1,000 watts; KOH, Reno, Nevada's only station, 500 watts; and KWG, Stockton and KERN, Bakersfield, Cal., both 100 watts. These stations serve the productive Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and adjacent Nevada, which is approximately the same territory covered by the McClatchy newspapers: the Sacramento Bee, the Fresno Bee and the Modesto Bee.

The Sacramento Bee was the first newspaper to build and operate a broadcasting station on the Pacific Coast. What was later to become KFBK was started by this newspaper in 1920, a five-watt station later discontinued by popular request because

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its strength interfered with the reception of distant stations. The station was re-established in 1923, and is the only station on record to jump its power from 100 watts directly to 5,000 watts.

The four California stations, KFBK; KMJ, KWG and KERN, will join NBC's networks January 1, 1937, or as soon as existing commitments expire. KOH, Reno, will become an NBC station February 15, 1937. These five stations at present are associated with the Columbia Broadcasting System through the Don Lee network. Four of these stations will be optional Red or Blue network stations, taking sustaining and commercial programs from both circuits. KERN, the fifth, will be added to the NBC-Blue network.

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NBC CONTINUES "ECONOMY" DISMISSALS

As a part of a general reorganization plan to effect economies, and to divert the savings from those economies to other expansion moves, National Broadcasting Company last week let out about 50 people, mainly in the general service department and mainly in the way of page boys and reception clerks, according to Billboard. This follows the release of 15 or 18 hostesses. Dismissals were in the press, sales and music departments, in addition to the service department affected. The Program and Artists' Bureau setups will next be given a pruning, it was added.

Major Lenox Lohr, NBC President, who is instituting the cutting down of personnel, is said to believe that the network was previously overburdened as to staff and that there was far too much waste motion. The cutting down, it is felt, will bring about not only a centralization in the various departments, but an improvement in efficiency. Major Lohr is said to have established the fact that, before this cutting was instituted, NBC had twice as many employees as CBS and didn't need them.

In the newly set up general service department, of which Walter Preston is head, about 30 page boys were let out, with another half dozen expected to be dropped this week. In addition, a number of cleaners and porters were discharged.

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 ::: INDUSTRY NOTES :::
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Radio market reports were issued this week by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce on the following: Austria, Philippine Islands, Morocco, and Greece. Copies are available at 25 cents each.

Harry G. Ommerle, formerly Assistant Director of the Radio Department of N. W. Ayer & Son, Inc., will join the Columbia Broadcasting System on Monday, April 27th, as Assistant Director of Program Service. Mr. Ommerle was with N. W. Ayer for five years.

Economy Rubber Products Co., 600 Burkhardt Ave., Dayton, Ohio, selling "Tiger-Grip Tire Patches", has been ordered by the Federal Trade Commission to cease and desist from making exaggerated and misleading representations as to the value and efficiency of its product, and concerning the earnings of its salesmen in advertisements or circulars, on labels, or by radio broadcasts.

Neal Gordon Keehn, formerly Assistant Manager and Program Director of WCLO, Janesville, Wis., has joined the headquarters production staff of the Affiliated Broadcasting Co., in Chicago.

David F. Crosier, for the past six years Radio Director of Pedlar & Ryan, Inc., New York, has joined ABC's New York sales staff. Previously Mr. Crosier was with the Columbia Broadcasting System and prior to that spent many years in the publishing field.

C. L. Moon, formerly national representative for the New York Evening Post and World Telegram, previously identified with the magazine field, has been appointed Eastern representative of the Roesler station representative organization. Mr. Moon's headquarters are located in the Lincoln Building in New York City.

"Philips do Brasil", the branch sales organization in Brazil of the Philips Company of Holland, has just been conceded a banking charter by the Federal Government for the ostensible purpose of engaging in discounting and other banking activities in connection with the financing of instalment sales of radios, according to an announcement this week by Andrew W. Cruse, Chief of the Electrical Division, U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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