

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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FCC APPROVES HEARST PURCHASE; SETS POWER HEARINGS

The Federal Communications Commission this week rather unexpectedly approved two of the Hearst Radio, Inc., purchases of broadcasting stations from the Southwest Broadcasting Company and set two others for hearing. At the same time it prepared to open the super-power inquiry by designating the applications of WJZ, NBC key station in New York, and WHO, Des Moines, for hearing.

Stations WHO and WJZ have applied for permission to increase their power from 50 to 500 KW. and thus to rank with Cincinnati's super-power outlet, WLW. As other applications for 500 KW are pending and more stations are preparing to file similar requests, the decision of the FCC on the WHO and WJZ cases will determine its future policy on super-power.

William Randolph Hearst becomes a more formidable figure in radio by acquiring KNOW, Austin, and KTSA, San Antonio. While it was expected that the FCC would set all of his applications to purchase for hearing, these two were approved abruptly and the requests for transfer of KOMA, Oklahoma City, and WACO, Waco, Tex., were set for hearing. It is significant that Eliot Roosevelt, son of the President, is personally in charge of these stations.

Young Roosevelt will manage the two Hearst stations in Texas as Vice-President of Hearst Radio, Inc., and President of the KTSA Broadcasting Co., which nominally controls KTSA.

Judge E. O. Sykes, Chairman of the Broadcast Division, said there was nothing unusual in this procedure and that the FCC merely wished to go more thoroughly into the transfers of the two latter stations.

While the sale of KTAT, Fort Worth, is listed in the name of Raymond E. Buck, a young Fort Worth attorney, the case was set for hearing along with the Hearst applications. Judge Sykes said he has no information as to whether the publisher will control KTAT indirectly.

FCC approval of the KNOW and KTSA deals brings the Hearst-owned stations to eight. If the purchase of KOMA and WACO is approved, the number will be ten. Hearst is also trying to force the heirs of M. A. Leese to sell him WMAL, Washington, and is dicker for other outlets in the East.

Only recently the FCC permitted his Los Angeles station, KEHE, to go to full time by absorbing KELW.

Reports in the broadcasting industry are that the publisher eventually hopes to build up a network of stations strategically located over the country. There also have been rumors of a tie-up with Warner Brothers, though this is largely speculation. Warner Brothers has made an offer for the Mutual Broadcasting System.

The other Hearst-owned stations are WCAE, Pittsburgh; WBAL, Baltimore; WINS, New York; KYA, San Francisco, and WISN, Milwaukee.

In the super-power applications the Commission has an even more troublesome problem than the Hearst applications, despite the political implications of the latter.

Besides WJZ, the FCC has received applications for permits to operate on 500 KW from WGN, Chicago; WHAS, Louisville; KNX, Hollywood. Stations WGN and WHAS are owned by powerful newspapers (Chicago Tribune and Louisville Courier-Journal), while the Columbia Broadcasting System has purchased, subject to FCC approval and renewal of the station's license.

Should the Commission decide to approve a limited number of permits for super-power stations over the country, regional and local stations will unquestionably descend upon it with requests for corresponding jumps in power.

A few years ago, when WLW was permitted to instal the first 500 KW transmitter, the old Federal Radio Commission was apprehensive lest the super-power outlet disturb neighboring and less-powerful stations. Now that WLW appears to have convinced radio engineers, however, that it is not a disturbing factor in the ether, the Commission is apparently more receptive to the arguments of the high power promoters.

European countries have long ago gone into super-power broadcasting but they have not as many stations operating as has the United States.

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NAB RETAINS DR. AIKEN FOR ENGINEERING HEARING

James W. Baldwin, Managing Director of the National Association of Broadcasters, this week announced that he has retained Dr. Charles B. Aiken, outstanding engineer, to represent the NAB at the broad engineering hearing to be held by the Federal Communications Commission beginning June 15th. He has been granted a leave of absence from Purdue University, where he is Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering, to accept the NAB job.

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NBC HEADS CAUTION AGAINST FREE SPEECH ABUSE

A warning against the abuse of the privilege of freedom of speech in this country was sounded May 7th in a joint statement issued to the National Broadcasting Company Advisory Council by David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board; M. H. Aylesworth, Vice-Chairman; and Lenox R. Lohr, President. The statement was made at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Council in Radio City, New York.

"During the year the question of freedom of the air or the use of broadcast facilities for the free expression of speech has again become a matter of great concern", the report said. "Those who demand unlimited freedom must not forget that their very demands for such a privilege may result in an abuse of license which may bring undesirable restriction. Among all the countries of the world freedom of speech is less restricted in the United States than elsewhere. By its wise use and not its abuse it will remain so."

The report, in outlining the advancement of broadcasting in the last year, particularly in various fields of public service, declared radio to be "a growing force for international peace", adding that "it can be made the most effective weapon against war."

Referring to political broadcasts before and after conventions, the report said:

"Until the national conventions of the various parties take place, it is necessary for us to make that separation clear and distinct. With the facilities at our command, we endeavor before such conventions to present as fairly as is humanly possible both sides of public issues discussed in and out of Congress or of State Legislatures or even city assemblies.

"After the nominating conventions, we adhere to the same rule, with this exception, that we allocate and sell time to political organizations or candidates who wish to use it for reaching the people.

"This policy, in contrast to other countries where political discussion is limited either to relatively few hours divided according to party strength or simply to one party, as is the case in totalitarian States, brings out again the principle of freedom under the American system, found nowhere else in the world."

The report indicated that there had been little change in dividing broadcasting hours between programs of an educational and cultural nature and those classified as "light entertainment." Programs falling under the latter classification occupied 50.5 per cent of the time on the air, educational programs 24.4 per cent, and "cultural and developmental" programs 25.1 per cent. Music comprised 63.3 per cent of the total broadcasting time, the spoken word 36.7 per cent.

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SYKES SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED BY THOMAS' THREAT

Judge E. O. Sykes, Chairman of the Broadcast Division of the Federal Communications Commission, was somewhat perplexed this week as newspaper men asked him for comment on a dispatch from Pittsburgh that John Charles Thomas, the baritone, has exchanged indignant letters with the FCC.

The singer was quoted as threatening to quit radio unless the Commission withdrew its ban on his "Good night, mother", with which he ends his programs.

His farewell is addressed to Mrs. Dora Thomas, of Towson, Md., he said, but a note from the FCC pointed out that it violates the law against broadcasting personal or point-to-point messages over the long wave stations.

Mr. Thomas stated that he had replied with an ultimatum either to withdraw from broadcasting or to continue his "good night" to his mother.

Judge Sykes had his secretary go through the files in search of the correspondence and then reported he has no record of any such ban issued to the singer. He declined to comment in the absence of "the facts".

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EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The first National Conference on Educational Broadcasting will be held in Washington December 10-12 in cooperation with the Office of Education, Interior Department, and the Federal Communications Commission.

A score of educational organizations have been invited to participate. Discussion will center about proposals for making radio more effective in the field of education. C. S. Marsh, of the American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C., is Executive Secretary of the Conference.

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AUTOMATIC DIAL SELECTOR DESIGNED FOR RADIO SETS

A new automatic dial station selector for radio receivers, similar in every respect to an ordinary telephone dial, will shortly be available to radio manufacturers in the United States, according to Fassnacht International, Inc., Chanin Building, New York City, who control the distribution rights for this new device.

It was introduced at the Leipzig Fair in a four tube superhet for A. C. connection with fading compensation and visible tuning. The set contains a reception circuit and an oscillator circuit and four permanently regulated intermediate frequency circuits which are assembled together to form two band filters. The set is equipped with a standard telephone dial. By dialing a number, any station on the medium or long wave bands may be selected. The use of two digit numbers, for example, permits the tuning of a maximum of 99 different stations within the medium wave lengths.

A much smaller number of two-digit designations will suffice on the long-wave range, because it has a much smaller number of sending stations. A rotary button which effects a frequency alteration of approximately 4kHz, permits compensation of deviations in wave lengths of the sending stations to the extent of a few kilohertz, as well as of other irregularities.

The station selector consists of six specially formed condenser plates, which are silver-faced on both sides, whereby the facing on one side is subdivided into 10 single main-facings by insulating bridges. In each of the six plates there is also a switch star, composed of 11 thin springs with silver tips which can make contact with the silver facings of the condenser plates, when pressure is applied. The necessary pressure is caused by a ball which the dial moves into position on one of the springs.

Three plates each belong to the reception and to the heterodyne circuits. Therefore, each of the three plate sets replace one variable condenser.

By dialing the numbers, the partial capacities are switched together. For purposes of illustration, it may be supposed that the first numeral selects the necessary rough capacity for the tuning of the respective sending station, while the second number selects the fine capacity; the third plate contains certain compensation capacities, the importance of which can be left out of consideration at the moment. In this way, two different capacities can be switched in the two oscillation circuits by selecting with a two-digit numeral whereby the respective station will be picked up. Special finishing and measuring arrangements assure the exact, calculated values for all capacities of the station selector. This tuning system is said to be easy to operate and also may be used for remote control.

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A.P. FILES REPLY IN KVOS "NEWS PIRACY" APPEAL

The Associated Press this week asked the United States Supreme Court to continue an injunction against Station KVOS, Bellingham, Wash., in the "news piracy" case twice ruled upon by lower courts. John W. Davis filed the answer.

Replying to a brief filed by KVOS asking a review of the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals granting an injunction against the station, the Associated Press charged KVOS with broadcasting without authority news items from the Bellingham Herald, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and Seattle Daily Times, all members of the cooperative news service.

KVOS and The Associated Press werve the same territory, the brief comments, adding that the radio dissemination of the news is "an appropriation of the product of the industry" of The Associated Press and its members and that it is "unfair competition." The practice "works a direct and irreparable injury", and, it is stated, The Associated Press has frequently and vainly asked KVOS to stop it.

The District Court dismissed the plea of The Associated Press for an injunction, but the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overruled this decision and ruled in favor of The Associated Press. Four weeks ago KVOS, represented by former Senator Dill, asked the Supreme Court to review the decision of the Circuit Court, in granting a preliminary injunction.

The Supreme Court is expected to say, before the Summer recess, whether it will consent to reopen the controversy.

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FCC SUSTAINED IN HEAD OF LAKES BROADCASTING CASE

The United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia this week upheld the Federal Communications Commission in its decision in the Head of Lakes Broadcasting Company case.

The litigation arose after the FCC approved an Examiner's report recommending that Station KGFK, Moorehead, Minn., be allowed to move to Duluth, Minn. Protests were filed by the city of Moorehead and by Station WEBC, Superior, Wis., both of whom maintained they would be affected adversely by the move.

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ORGANIZATION OF 1370 KC. CLUB PROPOSED BY WIBM

Forty-eight local broadcasting stations, all assigned to the 1370 kc. channel, are being invited to join a "1370 Club" for their mutual benefit by Charles A. Hill, Manager of WIBM, Jackson, Mich.

Writing to executives of each of the stations on the same wave, Hill recently pointed out that a coordination of efforts might obtain increased power and other benefits and would enable them to resist the larger broadcasting stations should they encroach on the locals.

His letter follows, in part:

"There are a stream of rumors floating around to the effect that it is not at all improbable that if and when the local channel stations can prove to the Commission that they are capable of operating with standards comparable with the regionals, it would open the door to a horizontal increase to 500 watts day and 250 watts night with the possibility of even going to 1,000 watts during the day. It is obvious, therefore, that with the regionals and clear channels stations getting all the beautiful breaks that they have been getting that we should expect and demand some change for the better in the local station picture, but we must pave the way ourselves by proving our fitness and preparedness. It is further believed that the horizontal increase will be pioneered on only one of the local channels."

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SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS SPONSOR AND NETWORK

Upholding the contentions of the National Broadcasting Company and one of its largest advertisers, the Texas Company, and the rulings of lower courts, the United States Supreme Court this week held that the Uproar Company, of Boston, was not entitled to damages against the two defendants.

The effect of the decision was to sustain the principle that publication of radio scripts is limited by provisions of contracts between sponsors and broadcast entertainers. In the case at issue, NBC and the sponsor had refused to permit the Uproar Company to publish scripts from Ed Wynn programs.

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JAPAN GRANTS SUBSIDY FOR TELEVISION EXPERIMENTS

Alert to the experiments being conducted in the field of television by public and private agencies in the United States and Europe, Japan has instituted a visual broadcasting research department of its own.

The Japanese Government, through the government-controlled Broadcasting Corporation of Japan, has granted a subsidy of 300,000 yen for television development during the fiscal year April 1, 1936, to March 31, 1937, according to U. S. Assistant Trade Commissioner Carl H. Boehringer, of Tokyo.

The Hamamatsu Polytechnical College located in Shizuoka Prefecture, was the first entity in Japan to take up television research. The studies, under the direction of Dr. K. Takayanagi, were commenced in 1925 and in 1927 the school carried out the first transmitting and receiving tests made in Japan. Image transmission was accomplished by means of an extreme illumination system employing a Nipkow plate having 40 scanning lines, while the Braun tube was used for receiving.

Television research work was later instituted by a number of official and private agencies, including Waseda University, the Electro-Technical Laboratory of the Ministry of Communications, the technical laboratory of the Japan Broadcasting Association, and the Tokyo Electric Light Company, Ltd.

In 1933 the Japanese Society for the Study of Television was organized by 15 students of television as a nucleus. The society has for its object the exchange of technical knowledge, the mutual agreement on matters concerning control, and the study of technical problems among members as well as the deliberation over domestic and foreign problems submitted to it. Further, the society endeavors to propagate general knowledge concerning television and its application, as well as to promote the development of business and undertakings having relations with television. Since its formation, the society has held occasional meetings besides holding lecture meetings and publishing annual reports.

Opinions as to when television in Japan will pass from the experimental to the practical stage vary, as might be expected. Dr. Takayanagi, whose work is outstanding, is of the opinion that, from a technical standpoint, it will be possible to start broadcasts before the end of 1936. He says that the major problem now is to get responsible firms interested in making receiving sets so that they will be within range of the public. Receiving sets of the type he has designed he feels should be manufactured to retail at 700 yen per set. Incidentally, Dr. Takayanagi's system of transmitting produces 245 lines, 60 frames per second.

According to Dr. Takayanagi, his aim has been the reduction of the number of lines in order to reduce the cost of

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transmitting and receiving. It is not known if his statement is correct in the light of television by the end of 1936, the official in charge of broadcasts at the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (Mr. Masayasu Oyama, graduate of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn) does not evidence the same optimism. It is believed that much of the 300,000 yen which the Japan Broadcasting Corp. will have available during the 1937-37 fiscal year will be spent for the purchase or building of a powerful transmitter, use being made of Dr. Takayanagi's experiments and inventions as well as of all other significant local and foreign developments.

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PAYNE PUTS RADIO ADDRESSES INTO NEW BOOK

George Henry Payne, editor and writer and now the most prolific of the Federal Communications Commissioners, has incorporated his addresses on timely radio subjects in a book under the title "The Fourth Estate and Radio and Other Addresses" (The Microphone Press, Boston, \$1).

Most of the addresses were delivered to groups of university students last Fall and Winter, and some of them are highly critical of past Commission policies.

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NBC LOSES IN \$115,000 "AUNT JEMIMA" SUIT

The National Broadcasting Company, General Foods, Inc., and Log Cabin Products, Inc., lost a \$115,000 verdict to Tess Gardella - the "Aunt Jemima" of stage and radio - in the Federal Court at Brooklyn May 7th.

Miss Gardella charged other entertainers had been hired to broadcast her songs and use her name in programs carried over the network. The jury reached its decision after listening to phonograph records of songs sung by Miss Gardella and then by her imitators.

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ACTION AND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY FCC

Applications Granted

May 5 - WOV, International Broadcasting Corp., New York, N. Y., authority to install new automatic frequency control equipment; W6XKG, Ben S. McGlashan, Los Angeles, Cal., CP to make changes in equipment and increase power from 100 watts to 1 KW; W4XBZ, Radio Station WSOC, Inc., Portable-Mobile (Charlotte, N.C.), license to cover CP (Broadcast pickup station) freqs. 31100, 34600, 37600 and 40600 kc. 7 watts; KNED, Carter Publications, Inc., Portable-Mobile (Fort Worth, Tex.), license to cover CP (Temp. Brdcst. pickup), freqs. 1606, 2020, 2102 and 2760 kc., 50 watts; KABB, Don Lee Brdcstg. System, Portable-Mobile (San Francisco), license to cover CP for new broadcast pickup station, freqs. 1646, 2090, 2190 and 2830 kc., 100 watts; W10XCT, Shepard Brdcstg. Serv. Inc., Portable-Mobile (Boston, Mass.), license to cover CP authorizing changes in equipment and increase power from 2 watts to 100 watts; W8XEO, Harold F. Gross, etc. d/b as Capital City Broadcasting Co., Portable-Mobile (Lansing, Mich.), license to cover CP for broadcast pickup station, freqs. 31100, 34600, 37600 and 40600 kc., 15 watts; W3XER, Philco Radio & Television Corp., Philadelphia, Pa., license to cover CP for new special Exp. station to be used for experimental transmission of the associated synchronized sound of visual broadcast station, freqs. 42000-56000 kc. and 60000-86000 kc., 250 watts.

May 6, WAAB, Bay State Broadcasting Corp., Boston, Mass., granted petition asking Commission to accept and file its answer as respondent in re application of Debs Memorial Radio Fund, Inc. and to participate in hearing of the Brooklyn cases scheduled for May 18, 1936; WVFW, Brooklyn, N. Y., Paramount Broadcasting Corp., overruled demurer to Notice of Appearance and Statement of Facts to be proved by Brooklyn Broadcasting Corp. (WBBC) at hearing of Brooklyn cases.

New, Edwin H. Armstrong, New York City, application received for C.P. for a general experimental station on 41600, 86500, 111000 kilocycles, 40 kilowatts; WOL, American Broadcasting Company, Washington, D. C., application received for construction permit to erect a vertical antenna and move transmitter and studio from 1111 H St., N.W., to 1627 K St., N.W., Washington.

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RADIO TESTED FOR DIRECTING TOWBOATS

The beginning of experimental tests, looking toward the establishing of a new radio service by which the operations of towboats may be directed from the offices of the owners, was disclosed this week by the Radiomarine Corporation of America.

The radio company has equipped the towboat "Alice M. Moran", of the Moran Towing and Transportation Co. with a special receiver for the reception of voice messages from a transmitter located in the RCA marine equipment laboratory at 75 Varick Street. Preliminary tests have already demonstrated that such a service would be entirely successful, the tug having had uniformly good reception of signals at such widely separated points as Perth Amboy, N. J., and Yonkers and Whitestone, N. Y. Even the East River bridges do not interfere with continuous communication as the towboat makes her appointed schedules in New York waters.

The tests are being conducted on a wavelength of about eleven meters. This is at the "long" end of the ultra-short wave band. The receiver is adapted specially to this service, and incorporates fixed tuning and automatic noise suppression, which makes it virtually silent in operation until it picks up the carrier wave from the short transmitter. The receiver is installed in the pilot house, and operated from a six volt storage battery.

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REFRIGERATORS NOSE OUT RADIOS IN ELECTRICAL TRADE

Radio was displaced last year by the electric refrigerator as the leading electric appliance in aggregate value of sales, a survey conducted by Dr. Warren M. Persons, economist, for the Temperature Research Foundation of Kelvinator Corp. showed this week.

Dr. Persons, a former professor at Harvard University, studied the radio industry as part of a survey of electric refrigeration and its relation to other electrically-operated appliances. His findings were published by The Temperature Research Foundation of Kelvinator Corporation in a brochure entitled "An Economist's Appraisal of Domestic Electric Refrigeration". Dr. Persons is a member of the Foundations's Advisory Committee.

Together with electric refrigeration, Dr. Persons declared, radio during the past few years "set new high records". Last year it accounted for 35 percent of the aggregate sales of electrical appliances, the economist said. This, he declared, was exceeded only by electric refrigeration, which accounted for 38 percent.

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