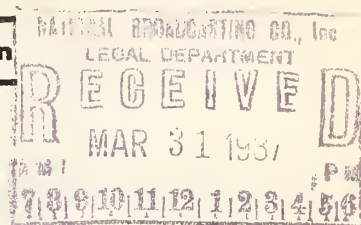


# HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

**CONFIDENTIAL — Not for Publication**



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## ACCORD REACHED AS HAVANA CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

The regional radio conference being held in Havana by representatives of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba has reached an understanding on basic technical principles as a preliminary step toward calling an inter-American radio conference next November, according to a special dispatch to the New York Times. The article continues:

"The Autumn meeting, it is hoped, will reach a formal agreement on radio relations among the countries of the Americas. Cuba will issue invitations to twenty-three countries, following the closing of the conference March 29th, to meet in Havana on November 26th in an effort to solve the unsatisfactory situation in radio communications caused by the simultaneous use of certain frequencies by adjacent nations with resulting interference.

"The present conference has been of a technical nature and its conclusions are purely advisory. While no specific agreement has been reached concerning allocation of frequencies, all the delegations express satisfaction with what has been accomplished. T. A. M. Craven, Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission, and head of the United States delegation, in commenting on the conference, said:

"The accomplishments to date at this preliminary conference have been outstanding in that for the first time in the history of their radio relations, a common understanding has been reached by the countries represented on the technical principles that are basic, adoption of which is deemed essential if coordination is to be accomplished.

"We have also paved the way for study of the facts and conditions that exist today in the chaotic and unsatisfactory situation in short-wave communications in this hemisphere with the view that, at the approaching November conference, all the American nations will be in far better positions to suggest effective means for meeting this situation."

"The specific recommendations of the conference include an increase in the regular broadcast band used for the national broadcasting services from 550-1,500 kilocycles to 540-1,600, thus increasing the available channels from ninety-six to 107.

"Fifty-eight of these would be set aside as clear channels to be used by high-power stations in each nation, to render service over wide areas. The remaining forty-nine channels

would be assigned for use by regional and local stations providing, through engineering principles and location of stations, against the present objectionable interference, on which the delegates have reached a common definition for the first time.

"There is also a recommendation for a change in the existing amateur band from 1,750-2,050 kilocycles to 1,715-2,000 and for extension of the existing bands allocated to State or Provincial police.

"A study looking toward elimination of interference by radio therapeutic machines and other apparatus will be made by all the attending countries and an international plan will be drawn up to provide for emergency communications in the event of disruption of normal channels of communication by hurricanes, earthquakes and other disasters.

"Likewise, study will be given to adoption of suitable regulations with respect to frequency bands above 1,600 kilocycles that might permit interchange of international police communications.

"The delegations have refrained from touching on the political phase of international radio problems, but it is undeniable that this is likely to prove the greatest stumbling block at the coming conference.

"It will be highly necessary for each nation to establish standards of control for its own stations. In Cuba, for example, due to lack of adequate regulations, the interference of stations has become so intense, not only with each other but with stations in the United States, that a wave of protest has swept the nation. However, the economic situation of the island's stations and political influences have thus far prevented enactment of efficient measures of control."

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#### WORLD'S RADIOBEACONS INCREASE 22%

The total number of radiobeacons in the world operating regularly as aids to marine navigation, and excluding those so operating only on request, has shown an increase of 22 percent, from July 1, 1935, to January 1, 1937, according to the latest edition of Radio Aids to Navigation, 1937, published by the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department.

On July 1, 1935, there were approximately 311 radiobeacons in the entire world, of which 33 percent were in United States waters. On January 1, 1937, the total number had increased to 379, of which 33 percent were in United States waters. Radiobeacons at the present time are distributed as follows: North America, 153; South America, 13; Europe, 153; Asia 42; Africa, 13; and Australia, 5.

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## STEWART EXPLAINS WHY FCC DOES NOT TAKE BAN OFF TELEVISION

Problems which must be solved before the Federal Communications Commission permits television stations to operate on a commercial basis, as broadcasting stations, were explained by Dr. Irvin Stewart, Vice Chairman, recently in a public address.

Pointing out that there are now 18 licensed experimental television stations, he said:

"The Commission is faced with two major problems. The first is the determination of the time when television can be placed upon a commercial basis. Involved is the matter of standardization whether by the Commission or by the industry. When television comes, it will be desirable for every person owning a television receiver to be able to receive the transmissions of every television transmitter within range. That seems to mean that the transmitters and the receivers should be built according to the same system.

"Experiments are still going on, inventors are still pitting their genius against the problems remaining to be solved. We cannot know that the system of today will not be junked by the developments of tomorrow. To put television on a commercial basis too soon may mean a standardization which might retard development. To standardize at all may mean to deliver television into the hands of a monopoly controlling the patents essential to meet the specified standards.

"But suppose there is no standardization. Receivers may be built for one transmitting system which are not capable of receiving programs from stations using other transmitting systems. The ultimate consumer may have the alternative of buying two or more television receivers or not being able to receive the transmissions of a desired television station. The owner of a television receiver may find it useless when he moves into an area served by a transmitter using a different system. Standardization seems desirable, but the questions which confront the regulatory body are 'when' and 'on what'.

"The second major problem connected with television is that of frequencies. Those television transmission systems which have been best developed up to the present require enormous bands of frequencies. In connection with an informal hearing held before the Commission last year bands 6 megacycles or 6,000,000 cycles wide were requested for television transmission. That is, each television channel would take up as much space in the ether as 600 conventional sound broadcast channels or, roughly, six times the entire present broadcast band. Each television transmitter would serve an area corresponding roughly to the line of sight from the transmitter, but its interference range would be substantially greater.



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"While television stations could be duplicated on the same frequency at fairly close intervals, a total television band width of tremendous proportions appears to be indicated. The Commission must determine how much space can be allotted to television in the light of the need for frequencies for other services. Television may be glamorous to others; to the Commission it still is a series of problems."

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#### CENSUS REPORT SHOWS SPURT IN RADIO INDUSTRY

Substantial increases in radio industry, employment, wages and production, especially of short wave and automobile sets, during 1935 are recorded in a report completed by the U. S. Bureau of the Census covering the radio industry in its biennial census of American manufacturing industries. The census was conducted with the cooperation of the Radio Manufacturers' Association.

The 1935 Census report shows that the radio and phonograph industry employed 44,792 wage earners, an increase of 36.2 percent over 1933, and their wages of \$42,910,316 exceeded the 1933 wage payments by 44.7 percent.

Industry production in 1935 (at f.o.b. factory prices) totaled \$202,865,672, an increase of 70.1 percent over 1933, including radio sets valued at \$131,341,846, as compared with \$70,553,334 in 1933.

Tube production in 1935 totaled 78,227,513 valued at \$28,973,820, compared with production in 1933 of 59,869,259 tubes valued at \$25,215,080.

In units, the set production report for 1935 was 5,568,294 sets against 3,599,522 in 1933, including a marked increase in short wave sets of 2,940,214 such sets compared with only 115,519 short-wave sets in 1933. Also the great expansion in automobile sets was recorded in production of 1,170,423 sets of this type in 1935, compared with 700,018 in 1933.

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## RMA BOARD MEETING CHANGED TO N. Y.

The Spring meeting of the Board of Directors of the Radio Manufacturers' Association will be held in New York Thursday, April 22nd, instead of at Hot Springs, Va., April 16th, as previously announced. The meeting is now scheduled to be held in the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, by those changing the time and place. Bond Geddes, Vice-President and General Manager, said that a much larger attendance was assured.

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## PHILIPS LOSES IMPORTANT RADIO PATENT CASE

The important manufacturer of incandescent lamps and radio products Philips, at Eindhoven, which owing to its strong patent position practically controls the Netherland radio market, is reported to have lost a patent case to a telephone manufacturing company at Antwerp, Belgium, which has a local representative in The Hague, according to a U. S. Consular report to the Department of Commerce. The firm, which is said to represent American interests, had registered a patent in The Netherlands under No. 3195 covering the so-called "push-pull" principle.

"Philips used this patent without approval or license of the owner, who summoned Philips to court on the basis of infringement of patent rights", the report stated. "The latter company then tried to obtain a so-called emergency or compelled license, which under the Netherland patent law the Patent Office may extend when public interest or welfare requires it. It is reported that in its defense before the Patent Office the Netherland firm is said to have argued that the principle involved might be circumvented by it without infringing others' rights, but only at far higher costs. The Patent Office could not see how this affected Netherland public interest, and advised the district court accordingly. It seems that the telephone company's claim that Philips cease the application of the push-pull patent in its manufacture was decided favorably, but that the right of compensation for any product with the 'push-pull' sold after the date of decision, was refused. The claimant appealed against this decision passed on October 27, 1936, and the Court of Justice in The Hague cancelling it on January 22, 1937, judged the claims fully justified. The amount of compensation for patent infringement sales will be decided later.

"This is one of the few cases in which Philips has completely lost a radio law suit. However, the last word has not yet been spoken, for it is reported that the telephone company is still involved in 23 other suits with Philips."

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TRADE NOTES

Collections during February 1937 of the five percent tax on radio and phonograph apparatus by the U. S. Bureau of Internal Revenue were \$464,853.41, an increase of ten percent over the February 1936 collections of \$423,673.38.

J. R. Poppele, Chief Engineer of WOR, recently placed an order for 33 of the new Western Electric "Salt-Shaker" microphones, which represents the largest single order to date for this new type of broadcasting equipment.

Exclusive of politicals, NBC revenue for 1936 was \$33,613,633 of which 4% came from new advertisers and 96% from NBC's repeat clients. There were 26 new clients in 1936 and 118 repeat-clients. This means that during 1936 82% of NBC's advertisers repeated on its networks with the 18% new ones. The 82% repeat-advertisers gave NBC 96% of its 1936 billings.

"Seasonal slackening of activities" caused a decrease of 3.7 percent in radio industry employment during December, 1936, according to the December report of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Of the eighty-nine manufacturing industries included in the monthly government survey, fifty-two showed more employees in December than in the preceding month and sixty reported larger payrolls, not including gifts or bonus payments.

The Federal Communications Commission this week was advised to grant an application by Red Lands Broadcasting Association, Lufkin, Texas, for a construction permit to build and operate a station on 1310 kc. with 100 watts power day-time in a report filed by Examiner P. W. Seward. Denial of a similar application by J. R. Curtis and R. Lacy was recommended.

William S. Paley, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Gerard Swope, President of General Electric Company, and Andrew W. Robertson, Chairman of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, have been added to membership of the Board of Directors of the New York World's Fair of 1939.



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WJSV's presentation of the "Parsifal" program of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in Washington Easter Sunday afternoon was badly marred by interference from another station. Sometimes the voices on the interfering station were as loud as the voices of singers who took part in the "Parsifal" program.

The Hundred Leading Network Radio Advertisers placed a total of \$52,971,493 for time on NBC and CBS Networks during 1936, a study prepared by NBC's Statistical Department reveals. Of this total, \$31,532,725, or 59.5% was invested with the National Broadcasting Company.

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#### WOMEN'S COMMITTEE TO MAKE RADIO AWARDS WEDNESDAY

Six of the best radio productions of the year, in the opinion of leaders of more than 10,000,000 women affiliated with the Women's National Radio Committee, will be acclaimed as winners of the organization's annual awards at a luncheon Wednesday at the Hotel St. Regis, in New York City.

For its third annual selections, the Committee is weighing the merits of programs in six groups - musical, dramatic, variety, news, children's and adults' educational, the news classification being an innovation this year. Only those offerings especially devised for radio presentation are considered for awards.

Guests of honor will be Mrs. Vincent Astor, Chairman of Women's Activities for the 1939 World's Fair; Dr. Walter Damrosch, and Mrs. Harold Vincent Milligan, former Chairman of the Committee. Anning S. Prall, Federal Communications Commissioner, will present parchment scrolls to the winners.

Other speakers will be William S. Paley, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and Alfred J. McCosker, President of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

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## U. S. RADIO EXPORTS JUMP 27% IN JANUARY

Export trade of the radio industry in January 1937 showed an increase of 27 percent over January, 1936, according to a report of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Total radio exports in January 1937 were \$2,584,207, compared with \$2,039,522 in January, 1936.

Receiving set exports last January numbered 59,457 valued at \$1,584,538, compared with 46,951 sets exported in January, 1936, valued at \$1,243,672.

Tube exports numbered 653,520 units valued at \$280,597, compared with January 1936 exports of 491,354 tubes valued at \$227,822.

Exports of receiving set components in January, 1937, were \$522,775, compared with \$315,064 in January, 1936.

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## U. S. PLANS RADIO BLOCK SYSTEM FOR AIRLINES

A radio block signal system for the airlines of the country, which will inform the pilot of his exact position in any sort of weather, is being planned by a committee of technical experts of the Bureau of Air Commerce, according to Mr. L. D. Lyman, writing in the New York Times last week.

"Recent developments in the practical application of the ultra-high frequency radio bands", he said, "are the basis for one of the most radical programs for airway beacons yet undertaken by the government. The engineers and research workers charged with the development are cautious in their statements, yet laboratory experiments indicate that their plan is practical.

"Experimental engineers employed by some of the big broadcasting companies on television and by the government have learned that for short distances radio frequencies above 40 megacycles, or 40,000 kilocycles, have certain characteristics which are not possessed by the frequencies used for ordinary broadcasting and commercial sending and receiving.

"Their signals can be controlled easily and they will go through weather and other conditions where static is present, which interfere seriously with the bands now in use. Moreover they require a very small power output.

"These factors are important in connection with their use in aviation. The plan for which the government engineers have great hope consists of the erection of a series of radio 'fans' or curtains, along the airways, each sending out a distinctive signal both visual and audible."

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## BBC NAMES TALKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Talks Advisory Committee has been established by the British Broadcasting Corporation to advise on talks policy, to make suggestions for both the National and Regional programs, and to act as consultants in the planning of particular series. The Committee will not be concerned with news talks, nor will it deal with religious subjects and broadcasts to schools, which are respectively the province of the Central Religious Advisory Committee and the Central Council for School Broadcasting.

Sir Walter Moberly is Chairman of the Committee, and the following have accepted invitations to serve on it: Rt. Hon. Sir Francis Dyke Acland, M.P., Mr. Arthur Bryant, Hon. Sir Evan Charteris, Mr. N. R. Cummings, Mr. Bernard Darwin (the well-known authority on golf), Hon. Frances Farrer, Prof. George Gordon, Sir Robert Blyth Greig, Mr. A. P. Herbert, M.P., Prof. Julian Huxley, Mr. G. Isaacs, Mr. A. T. Lennox-Boyd, M.P., Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P., Miss Rose Macaulay, Prof. J. H. Nicholson, and Mr. Robert Richards.

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## NAZIS DROWN OUT ANONYMOUS RED STATION

The radio sleuths of Dr. Joseph Goebbels, the German Propaganda Minister, this week finally got on the trail of the Communist who for a fortnight or more has been disseminating Red propaganda in Germany by short-wave, according to a Berlin dispatch in the New York Times.

Up to Monday night, the whereabouts of the secret broadcaster had baffled the German authorities, although the announcer usually began his tirades with the statement that the German radio listeners were being served from Hamburg by the German Communist party.

Monday night's talk had scarcely gotten under way when it was swamped by a chorus suggesting an agglomeration of steam sirens, foghorns and puffing donkey engines, all working in unison, leaving the Communist speaker completely blotted from the air.

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