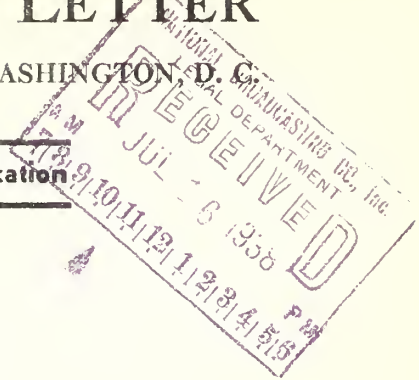


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"NEWSPAPER OF AIR" APPROVED AFTER THREE YEARS

The right of broadcasting stations to conduct a "newspaper of the air" was in effect sustained by the Federal Communications Commission this week when it renewed the license of Station KVOs, Bellingham, Wash., and approved its transfer of control after three years of investigation.

At the same time the FCC denied a construction permit to KVOs' bitter rival, the Bellingham Publishing Co., which publishes the only daily newspaper in the city.

Significant is the fact that KVOs in its editorial pronouncements over the air was strongly New Dealish, whereas the Bellingham Herald, in its equally acrimonious published articles, was on the other side of the political fence, both locally and nationally.

The FCC decision marks the second victory for KVOs and its counsel, former Senator C. C. Dill, as it previously had bested the Associated Press in a legal fight that was carried to the U. S. Supreme Court. The A.P. had charged KVOs with "pirating news" for its "newspaper of the air".

The Commission, which reversed the recommendation of Examiner Ralph L. Walker, made in October, 1936, did not go deeply into the charges against the "newspaper of the air" and the intra-city political rows.

It concluded merely that the testimony against the station was insufficient to justify the refusal of a license renewal and that the City of Bellingham has no other station and Station KVOs is needed in that place.

The FCC also found that there had been no violations of the law in the execution of a contract under which KVOs was provided a "newspaper of the air" and approved the transfer of control from the Westcoast Broadcasting Co. to Regan Jones.

Several previous decisions of the Commission were cited in the decision to support the FCC's ruling that an existing station should not be deprived of its broadcasting privilege "unless sound reasons of public policy demand such action".

Concerning the "newspaper of the air", which was designed "to be in every way comparable to a newspaper as it is known today or as 'radio newspapers' may develop", the FCC said:

"The contract of June 20, 1933, though not approved by the Commission, does not appear to be in violation of the Act; nor does it absolve KVOs, Inc., of responsibility, full and complete, for the use or misuse of its radio-broadcasting facilities by L. H. Darwin.

"The Examiner found, inter alia, that 'the "Newspaper of the Air" consists of local, national and international news items, commercial and gratuitous announcements, and daily "editorial comments" by Mr. Darwin.' That finding is sustained by the record; and it appears that in the course of the daily comments Mr. Darwin made remarks concerning certain individuals and groups in Bellingham, of which they complained by addressing letters to the Commission."

Examiner Walker in his report had quoted numerous excerpts from the "newspaper of the air" assailing individuals and organizations. An example:

"If Justice Roberts of the United States Supreme Court were to run for President, do you think it would be worthwhile counting his votes? He is nothing but a Philadelphia Republican machine lawyer. Read his opinions, and you will find what your Congress has done, what the President has done, who were elected by two-thirds of the people of the United States."

That the FCC saw no reason for authorizing a new radio station in Bellingham merely to combat the political broadcasts of KVOs is apparent from the decision denying facilities to the Bellingham Publishing Company.

"To support its application, the applicant (Bellingham Publishing Co.) offered testimony of one witness who testified that there was a need for additional radio service in Bellingham; that he was personally opposed to the policies advocated by Station KVOs and that he felt there should be another station in Bellingham", the FCC said. "When cross-examined on his personal objection to the existing station, his answer was:

"I think when they talk (Station KVOs) about the Hoover-made depression it is an insult to men of common sense."

"Another witness called by the applicant testified that there should be another radio station in Bellingham to eliminate the 'bunk going on over the existing station' which that witness characterized as a disturbing factor in the community. The following question and answer appear in his testimony:

"Q. You think by getting this new radio in here it might eliminate the other radio?

"A. At least I hope so."

"The foregoing illustrates fairly well the general trend of the testimony given in favor of the applicant.

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"The general manager of the applicant for the construction permit under consideration testified that the publishing company had been importuned by interviews and letters from a large number of people and by agricultural, educational, civic and religious institutions to make application for a construction permit for a new broadcast station in Bellingham but the general manager failed to give the names of any individuals that had solicited the applicant to apply for broadcast facilities. There is nothing in the record to indicate who these individuals are, what their interests might be or what reasons there is to suppose that their solicitations could be made a reasonable basis for additional radio facilities in the City of Bellingham."

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CANADIAN RADIOS MORE COSTLY THAN AMERICAN

Canadian radio users demand and get better quality in their radio receiving sets than do American listeners, the Canadian Tariff Board was told this week by radio manufacturers, according to the Canadian Press. This, in part, accounts for higher prices for radios in Canada than in the United States, it was said.

The Board was told that reasons for the better quality in Canadian sets are the Canadian electrical code which imposes strict standards on manufacturers and for which there is no counterpart in the United States and the fact that a great many Canadians live at a distance from broadcasting stations and would find the inexpensive small sets made in the United States of little use.

As the Board opened a hearing on the radio industry, S. M. Finlayson, Deputy General Manager of the Canadian Marconi Company, presented a brief for the Radio Manufacturers' Association of Canada and called a number of radio experts to demonstrate the alleged inferiority of American sets.

E. C. Grimley, President of R.C.A. Victor, said that the lowest price RCA set in the United States sold for \$14.95 and the lowest in Canada for \$29.50. The sensitivity of the Canadian set was ten times as great and it cost twice as much to make, he said.

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ZENITH GETS CP FOR CHICAGO TELEVISION STATION

The Zenith Radio Corporation, of Chicago, this week was granted a permit by the Federal Communications Commission to construct a television transmitting station in its Chicago factory for the purpose of experimentation and with the aim of making visual broadcasting a medium of public entertainment.

The station will operate on the frequencies 42,000 to 56,000 and 60,000 to 86,000 kc. with power of 1 KW, unlimited time.

"The applicant has a program of research and experimentation which indicates reasonable promise of substantial contribution to the development of the television broadcast art", the FCC stated in making the grant.

Zenith's program of research, according to Commander E. F. McDonald, Jr., President, will cover the five principal divisions of television service: (1) transmitters, (2) transmitter antennae, (3) transmission medium, (4) receivers, and (5) receiver antennae.

"One of the problems which must be met in the further development of television to a point where it will be of practical use and of sufficient merit to be sold to the public", the FCC stated, "is a better understanding of the matter of interference on the frequencies which have been allocated for television experimentation. The Zenith Radio Corporation has for a number of years manufactured sound receivers which cover the broadcast band and also the short-wave band. It has ascertained that in many locations satisfactory reception on the short-wave bands is impossible because of electrical interference. It is not thought that the whole problem of interference can be fully and properly investigated without a transmitter for testing purposes, nor is it thought that a receiver can be intelligently and successfully designed without the use of a transmitter in conjunction with the study and work devoted to the receiver; furthermore, it appears that special antenna may have to be developed for use along with the receivers; and it is not likely that the development work on a receiving antenna would be successful without an available television signal.

"It appears to be a fact that field tests on a sound receiver show up defects which are not disclosed by equipment tests in the laboratory; and apparently there is no reason to suppose that a television receiver passing equipment tests in the laboratory should not be subjected to field tests before it is accepted and subjected to use.

"It is said that there are many circuits in a television receiver which would be related to the results of the tests which might be made with a transmitter available while the television receiver proceeds to the completion of its design.

It is believed that the television transmitter must necessarily perform a large part in overcoming problems now known to exist in the development of the television receiver. It might be admitted that at present the engineering staff of the applicant is unable to state in what particular the television receiver which they hope to perfect will be superior to some receiver which may now be in process of development by some other radio manufacturer; but there is nothing in that point, if indeed it be a fact, because one of the purposes of the application is to put the engineers of the Zenith Radio Corporation in a position where they may contribute their ability and experience to the development of a satisfactory television receiver.

"One of the engineers of the applicant stated that it had been investigating the various component parts of transmitters and receivers; that the engineers of the applicant had been working on television sweep circuits, on the production of the synchronizing signals, on television amplifiers; that they hope to learn something about radiation systems and antennas usable on ultra high frequencies to overcome the difficulty experienced in television reception; that television receivers as presently known require in operation a strong signal for any satisfactory use; that difficulties arise in propagating such signals on the frequencies used in the transmission of television because of the noise level that exists in cities; and it is contended that experimentation is needed for such reasons.

"The Commission finds that the television transmitter and the television receiver are the two most intimately related parts of the terminal apparatus in a radio transmission; and that the receiver must have sufficient signal at all times to maintain the operating relation.

"It is not believed that it will be an easy and certain possibility to perfect the design for a radio television receiver except under actual field conditions and tests to ascertain the effect of noise and other disturbances upon the propagating medium on the wide band frequencies.

"One witness testified that complete television systems had been developed at the laboratory but he added that the systems that were developed in the laboratory did not test the propagation characteristics, the effect of static, both man-made and natural disturbances, and in some instances were not far enough separated to get away from the harmonics, etc., that might be generated by the transmitter itself.

"The same engineer also said: 'There is a great difference between a laboratory set that works fairly satisfactorily in a laboratory and one that would give fair satisfaction under outside conditions'.

"The applicant maintains a staff of many engineers, several of whom are devoting, and will continue to devote, their entire attention and time to television experimentation; and the applicant at the time of the hearing was engaged in selecting an additional staff of competent television engineers to carry on the work proposed by it under the pending application.

"The Zenith Radio Corporation owns a completely equipped factory with approximately 13 acres of space on one floor - and one section of the factory has two floors. It has recently spent one year and expended more than a million dollars in improving and enlarging its factory; its laboratories are fully equipped for radio television research and development. The applicant has actively engaged since January, 1937, in the development of important parts of the television transmitter and receiver. The proposed transmitter is designed for and will be capable of modern high definition television, using all electronic methods."

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U. S. STATIONS HELD COMBATTING EUROPE'S PROPAGANDA

American short-wave broadcasting stations are quietly counteracting the barrage of radio propaganda directed at the Latin American countries by Nazi and Fascist nations, the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia was told this week.

William V. B. Van Dyck, Assistant to the President of the General Electric Company, admitted that "the purpose of the barrage of radio propaganda from Europe is primarily to develop closer trade relations with overseas countries". However, he insisted that General Electric's two Schenectady stations, W2XAD and W2XAF, and other privately-owned U.S. short-wave stations are combatting this propaganda successfully.

He called particular attention to the action of the Federal Communications Commission last Winter in lending the Government-allocated international frequencies to General Electric and the World Wide Broadcasting Foundation, of Boston.

"The application was granted in February, and on March 4th the broadcasts announced in Portuguese were inaugurated on one of the new channels, while those previously announced in Spanish were continued and improved", he recounted.

"Since the inaugural night, we have been broadcasting every day of the week programs which we endeavor to make more interesting than those originating in other countries and that are designed to let our listeners know something of the life and culture of the people of the United States.

"Already, in hundreds of letters and personal assurances we have been convinced of the good results of this policy.

"Our listeners comment favorably on the strong signal given in South America, both by England and Germany, and they like their excellent musical programs, but they say that they 'turn the dial' when they recognize inspired news items or other propaganda. They prefer to receive their news items or matters of like interest from America."

In this way, rather than by retaliation, in kind, Mr. Van Dyck said, his and other privately owned stations were counteracting one "barrage of radio propaganda from Europe designed to develop closer trade relations with overseas countries at the expense of the United States."

General Electric, Mr. Van Dyck said, was now at work on research and development projects designed further to improve its service in listening countries "thus contributing to the cultivation of good-will abroad", and to make our facilities available for public service."

At Schenectady new studios and equipment are being inaugurated to be used exclusively for short wave", he told the Institute.

"In addition, a new station is under construction at Belmont, Calif. A directive antenna will enable it to serve the Orient effectively, and, by reversing its directivity, to transmit to Latin America.

"All this work costs money, and the question may well be asked: 'Why does General Electric do it - especially since international broadcasting cannot be commercial?'

"I will answer that in the words of Boyd Bullock, Assistant Manager of Broadcasting:

"First, because General Electric is interested in the technical and social advance of all phases of electrical enterprise, and, second, because it believes that such broadcasting is a vital factor in the promotion of international good-will - not by the propaganda method, but by making all peoples better acquainted with each other.

"It is a long-range and far-sighted viewpoint, but General Electric knows that through peaceable and understanding conditions, world prosperity can flourish, bringing with it national prosperity and the prosperity of great industrial enterprises which provide employment, buying power and real wealth to hundreds of thousands.'"

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WILL GETS POWER INCREASE DESPITE INTERFERENCE

Despite the fact that its increase in power will cause interference with three commercial stations, the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., was given a construction permit by the FCC this week to raise the power of Station WILL from 1 to 5 KW, daytime, on 580 kc.

The educational station will interfere slightly with Stations WCHS, Charlestown, W. Va., and WKZO, Kalamazoo, Mich., and seriously with WIND, Gary, Ind., the Commission stated.

"The present operation of the applicant station causes objectionable interference within the service area of Station WIND, affecting 60,000 people", it added. "If the instant application is granted, the affected area will be enlarged to include a population of 93,000 people.

The affected area in either case is within the borders of Illinois, and its listeners receive service similar to that rendered by Station WIND from several commercial stations operating in the metropolitan area of Chicago."

In summarizing its conclusions in support of the grant, the FCC said:

"The slight interference that the proposed operation would cause within the normally protected service areas of Stations WKZO and WCHS is warranted by the need for the service which the applicant proposes. There will be increased interference within the normally protected service area of Station WIND, but the affected area is entirely within the State of Illinois and the listeners therein have a greater need for service from the applicant station than from Station WIND. The objectionable interference that would result within the proposed service area of the applicant station from existing or proposed stations is negated in importance by the increase in the number of listeners that would receive satisfactory service from the applicant's station."

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By decree of the French Minister of Colonies, an Inter-ministerial Committee for Colonial Radio Broadcasting has been instituted, the U. S. Commercial Attache at Paris reports. The aim and object of this Committee will be to prepare and draw up programs for radio broadcasts intended for colonial propaganda throughout the metropolitan France, and to promote a closer relation between France and its overseas possessions. The Committee's headquarters are at the Intercolonial Bureau of Information and Statistics.

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NBC AND CBS SIGN WITH AFRA

Contracts governing wages and working conditions for actors and singers employed by the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Company for sustaining radio programs in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, and in the case of NBC, also in San Francisco, were signed this week at Radio City by officials of the broadcasting companies and the American Federation of Radio Artists.

The contract provides minimum pay schedules ranging from a low of \$8.00 for choral and group singers for a 15-minute broadcast on the Pacific Coast to a high of \$25.00 for soloists for a full-hour's broadcast in New York or on a national network. It sets up a minimum scale for singers employed by the week ranging from \$40.00 on the Pacific Coast to \$65.00 in New York, and also names AFRA the exclusive bargaining agent for radio actors and singers on sustaining programs originating on the network key stations in the cities affected.

Lenox R. Lohr, President of NBC; Lawrence Lowman, Vice-President of CBS; Emily Holt, National Executive Secretary of AFRA, and George Heller, Assistant National Executive Secretary and Treasurer of AFRA, were the signers.

The contract, which is for a term of two years, becomes effective the third Sunday following its ratification by the members of AFRA and after AFRA shall have been certified to the broadcasting companies by the American Arbitration Association representing a majority of the actors and singers employed by the broadcasters in the cities covered by the agreement.

As the contract covers only sustaining programs in the cities named, other radio stations and commercial advertisers are not affected by this agreement.

Under the agreement, rehearsal hours are limited for the first time in the history of broadcasting and overtime pay schedules are provided for artists required to rehearse more than the agreed time. Working conditions for staff singers are defined and there is a requirement that artists be paid for program auditions.

Rehearsal hours for actors call for two hours for a fifteen-minute broadcast, six hours for a thirty-minute program and eight hours for a sixty-minute broadcast. For singers rehearsals will be one and a half hours for fifteen-minute programs, two and a half hours for thirty minutes and three and a half hours for an hour's broadcast. The agreement provides for the payment of rehearsal overtime at the rate of \$4 an hour.

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OPERATORS' HEARING RECESSES TILL SEPTEMBER

The informal hearing before the Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission with respect to "Proposed Professional Radio Operator Rules", which was held on July 11th and 12th, will reconvene at the offices of the Commission in Washington, beginning 10:00 A.M., on September 14th. This recess was granted at the request of the American Communication Association and others who stated that they desired more time to consider the proposed operator regulations.

The next portion of the hearing will be for the purpose of permitting all interested parties to appear in person and submit specific typewritten recommendations as to changes, additions, or deletions in the proposed rules, together with the reasons for such recommendations.

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FCC AUTHORIZES NEW STATIONS; TWO RECOMMENDED

One new broadcasting station was authorized by the Federal Communications Commission this week, bringing the total for the year to 31, and two more were recommended by Examiners.

Kanawha Valley Broadcasting Co., Charlestown, W. Va., was given a permit to operate on 1500 kc. with 100 watts power, unlimited time. There is one other station in Charlestown - Station WCHS.

Vancouver Radio Corp., Vancouver, Wash., and Nathan Frank, of New Bern, N. C., were given favorable reports by Examiners. They requested 880 kc. with 250 watts daytime and 1500 kc. with 100 watts unlimited, respectively.

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FIVE FLATS SERVED BY BBC TELEVISION SET

"The luxury of today is more often than not the necessity of tomorrow", a correspondent writes in World-Radio, BBC journal. "In time a television receiver will be an accessory as accepted in English homes as 'sound' radio is today. When that time comes - just when it will come no responsible person would dare to prophesy - we can expect all kinds of devices for serving television programs to the public from one central source.

"I inspected one of the first television relay stations the other day. The service has been installed in a large block of flats in the West End, and has given satisfactory results for more than eighteen months.

"At the moment five tenants are served from the one master receiver, but there are sufficient points to include the remaining flats, without any appreciable loss in vision strength.

"Altogether the scheme seems to be ideal for hotels and large buildings inhabited by separate families. There is only one aerial system needed - in this case it is of the ordinary half-wave vertical di-pole type, mounted on a thirty-foot flag-staff erected on the roof, about 100 feet from the ground. The receiving apparatuses in the flats themselves are worked by only three controls - main switch, brightness of picture, and volume.

"The vision master-receiver, of the superheterodyne type, converts the vision signal to a frequency of about 16 Mc/s. This comparatively high frequency has been chosen for a variety of reasons.

"The vision power amplifier, fed from the master-receiver, feeds the network, the impedance of which is 20 ohms, at a fairly high level. A small multi-electrode transmitting valve is used.

"As for the sound receiver, this is entirely separate from the vision receiver, and follows a more or less conventional design, except that a certain amount of noise suppression is achieved.

"The sound amplifier is a small triode valve delivering the audio frequency component at a level of approximately 3 volts to the distribution network via a line transformer of the usual type. Sound distribution at low level has been used to avoid any possibility of cross-modulation effects and sound waveform appearing on the vision screen.

"Television monitoring arrangements consist of a bridging amplifier and rectifier feeding a cathode-ray tube. Sound is monitored by a simple stage bridging amplifier and loudspeaker.

"The filters are of conventional design, but care has been taken with the television section to avoid distortion of the modulation sidebands.

"All the equipment described above is mounted on relay racks and panels housed in a small building on the roof. This building, small as it is, also contains air-conditioning fans and motors - rather, one would have thought, an unfavorable place for radio reception.

"The distribution system is of interest. The cabling, all of which was laid after the flats were built, is inexpensive and no bulkier than ordinary lighting flex. This cable carries all the signals - vision, sound, and radio frequency.

"Technical details in the terminal apparatus are all standard, although the exteriors vary in accordance with the furnishing schemes of the flats concerned. The vision channel is passed through an amplifier of simple design prior to rectification. The signal available to different parts of the building varies somewhat, and the amplifier is used for adjustments.

"The high voltages for the cathode-ray tubes are locally generated, together with the scanning voltages. Large-diameter tubes are used.

"Altogether the apparatus is designed for trouble-free working. A successful design, evidently, for there has not been a single break-down since the service started."

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