

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

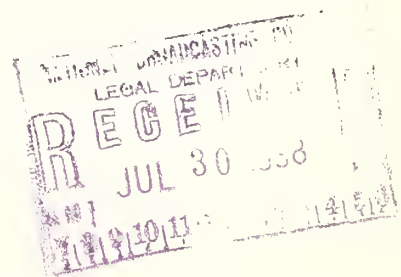
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No. 1145



SENATOR WHITE CITES GAINS AT CAIRO

World-wide radio regulations adopted at the International Telecommunications Conferences in Cairo, Egypt, last Spring "are a distinct improvement over the existing regulations" and "the interests of the United States have been safeguarded", Senator White (R.), of Maine, Chairman of the American delegation, reported to the State Department this week.

In a 42-page report, Senator White reviewed the actions of the Conference in relation to the demands of the United States.

Seven decisions of the Conference on radio matters were cited by Senator White as outstanding. They are:

1. Adoption of a plan for radio channels for the world's seven main intercontinental air routes, including calling and safety service channels.
2. Widening of the high frequency broadcast bands to a total of 300 kilocycles and the adoption of special bands for tropical regions for regional use.
3. The limitation of the use of spark sets to three channels and the outlawing of spark sets except below 300 watts output.
4. Improved tolerance and bandwidth tables.
5. The extension of the allocation table to 200 megacycles for the European region. Other regions were given the right to effect their own arrangements above 30 megacycles.
6. Establishment of further restrictions on the use of 500 kilocycles frequency for traffic.
7. Bringing up to date of regulations relative to the maritime and aeronautical services.

Some of the highlights of the report relative to broadcasting follow:

"With respect to long wave broadcasting, the Madrid plan was only slightly altered. The band 160-265 kc. was continued for European broadcasting as under the Madrid Regulations. However, under the new regulations a European or Regional Conference may allow one or several broadcasting stations in Europe in the band 150-160 kc. in derogation of the general allocation to mobile services provided the mobile services are not hampered. The regulations also provide for the use of the frequency band 160-265 kc. for broadcasting in South Africa and and British India, in addition to New Zealand and Australia, on condition that the stations which use these frequencies for broadcasting be placed in such a manner as to avoid interference with the services of countries which use these frequencies for purposes other than broadcasting.

"The regular broadcasting band, 550-1500 kc. was continued for this service in accordance with the Madrid Regulations except that in the footnote, which authorized the use of 1364 kc. by the mobile service, Type B emission has been eliminated. In addition, the Conference extended the band to 1560 kc. for broadcasting in Europe, and provided for the use of the band 1500-1600 kc. in other regions for broadcasting on a shared basis with the fixed and mobile services. The Delegation of the United States would have preferred an exclusive allocation to broadcasting in the band 1500-1600 kc., but this could not be agreed to by countries outside the Americas because of the special use of these frequencies in various regions for fixed and mobile services. However, inasmuch as this band is of a regional character, and since it is set up as an exclusive broadcasting band under the Inter-American Regional Agreement, it is not expected that the fixed and mobile services of the Americas will be permitted to operate therein.

"The problem of allocating frequencies between 6,000 and 25,000 kc. to broadcasting was left until late in the Conference. This was necessary because of the pressure which was brought to bear for aeronautical frequencies and the desire of most of the larger nations to protect the frequencies which are already in use by other services.

"Pursuant to the recommendations of the Inter-American Radio Conference of Havana, the Delegation of the United States submitted a proposal to consider the need for additional high frequency broadcasting bands in accordance with the basic principles which had been agreed to at Havana.

"After long discussion extending through several meetings, the Conference agreed to a broadcasting allocation which in most respects conformed to our recommendations. In other respects, the plan was not considered objectionable by our Delegation since it contained the necessary safeguards to our own interests.

"The new bands allocated to broadcasting are actually extensions of the existing bands. They are: 6150-6200 kc.; 9600-9700 kc.; 17800-17850 kc.; 21550-21750 kc. A footnote in the allocation table applicable to all of these bands requires the removal, as soon as possible, of stations other than broadcasting which are now operating in these newly created broadcast bands. It likewise requires that broadcasting stations operating in derogation of the general allocation table be moved to the broadcast bands. In addition, the Madrid amateur band 7200-7300 kc. was allocated for shared use between amateur and broadcasting services in regions outside the Americas, their territories and possessions. In the Americas the band is allocated for the continued and exclusive use of the amateur service. The Madrid broadcasting bands, 11700-11900 and 15100-15350 kc., were approved for continued use without change.

"The United States Delegation espoused the cause of the amateurs and vigorously opposed the recommendations of Italy to allocate parts of the 7 and 14 mc. amateur bands to the broadcasting service. Except for countries in the Americas, the Italian proposals received general support. Arguments were advanced to the effect that additional broadcast frequencies were required and the amateur service, as well as the fixed and mobile services, should make some sacrifice."

"With respect to the allocation of frequencies to broadcasting between 25,000 and 30,000 kc., our Delegation made every effort to obtain world-wide agreement for the use of the band 25,000-27,000 kc. in accordance with the plan approved last year for stations of the United States. This proposal, however, met with immediate opposition on the part of Great Britain, France, Germany, and other major nations. As a compromise, it was agreed to maintain the Madrid general allocation of frequencies between 25,000 and 27,000 kc. and also to show under the heading of 'Other Regions' that the American continent might use these frequencies for broadcasting. In this way it is believed that the plan which has already been adopted by the Federal Communications Commission may remain in effect without violating the new regulations.

"The United States endeavored to obtain world-wide agreement with respect to the allocation of frequencies to television and suggested, at least for the purpose of research and experimentation, that the entire world use the bands recommended by the Inter-American Radio Conference of Havana. This proposal did not satisfy Great Britain and other major nations which are now operating television stations on a permanent basis on slightly different frequencies. The British Delegation called attention to the fact that several thousand television receiving sets were already in use by the general public in England and these receivers were designed to operate on a locked frequency which could not be changed without re-designing all of the receiving sets now in use. Germany, France, and other countries were of the opinion, that the allocation should be handled on a regional basis so

that Europe, America and other regions might use the frequencies they believed best suited for television and other services. Opinions were expressed by nations outside the Americas to the effect that the frequencies desired by the United States for fixed, mobile and broadcasting services did not coincide with the use which is being made of these bands elsewhere. Consequently, after long discussion it appeared that the only solution would be to obtain a separate agreement for Europe. The resulting allocation is a compromise of all of these viewpoints. From a practical operating standpoint, it is not important that these very high frequencies be used by the same services in all regions of the world. In some bands there are supporting reasons for maintaining the allocation so as to insure the greatest possible flexibility."

"The Delegation of the United States is well pleased with the results of the Cairo allocation and believes that it represents the best possible agreement consistent with the policies of nations participating in the Conference, that could be reached in the time allotted to the work. Our existing services are protected. The plan, if faithfully carried out, should result in a better communication structure for all services throughout the world."

"The United States, supported by several other countries, advocated the total elimination of radio traffic on the 500 kc. distress frequency for other than distress, urgent and safety measures. This same proposal had been made at the Madrid Conference and while it was strenuously opposed by certain countries at that time, regulations were adopted by that conference which restricted somewhat radio traffic on that frequency. France vigorously supported the proposal as renewed at Cairo, but Great Britain, aided by other maritime nations including her Dominions and northern European countries, was instrumental in defeating it. However, an agreement was reached imposing further restrictions upon the use of 500 kc. for the handling of traffic. The proposal had for its purpose the reduction of interference caused by the excessive use of the frequency for sending messages, thereby preventing distress and urgent calls from being heard. Under the new regulations, ships in regions of heavy radio traffic, new regulations, ships in regions of heavy radio traffic, equipped with break-in devices, may transmit only one short single message on 500 kc., thus, coast stations and many ships will no longer be permitted to use this frequency for radio traffic for even short, single messages, as under the former rules. In other regions it may be used for traffic and radio direction finding, but with discretion. Some real progress has been made, therefore, toward the elimination of interference on the distress frequency.

Senator White made acknowledgment of the assistance given by Mr. Francis Colt de Wolf, Treaty Division, Department of State; Capt. Stanford C. Hooper, United States Navy; Mr. E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer, Federal Communications Commission; Edward M. Webster and Gerald C. Gross, both of the Federal Communications Commission in the preparation of the report.

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McNINCH TO QUIT HOSPITAL; REPORTED RECOVERED

Chairman Frank R. McNinch, of the Federal Communications Commission, who has been in Naval Hospital since the first of July, was due to leave the hospital before the end of this week, his secretary said, and expected to return to his office sometime next week.

It was said at his office, however, that he may take a brief vacation with his family after returning to his office. His secretary stated he is "fully recovered" from the stomach ailment which sent him to the hospital.

Mr. McNinch's discharge from the hospital came on the heels of a published report that his illness was much more serious than officially stated and that he might be away from the Commission for several weeks or months.

During the Chairman's absence, work at the FCC has slowed down somewhat although plans had been made for a no-let-down Summer.

Chairman McNinch faces a busy Fall with important decisions pending on super-power, WLW, and FCC regulations and an inquiry scheduled to start around September 1 into charges of monopoly and chain operations within the broadcasting industry.

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JUNE RADIO TAX COLLECTIONS RISE

The first increase in excise tax collections on radio since November, 1937, was recorded last June by the U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau. The June excise tax collections, covering operations largely of last May, were \$448,882.61, an increase of 12 percent above tax collections of \$394,641.50 in June, 1937.

The total radio and phonograph taxes for the June, 1938, fiscal year were \$5,848,841.64, as against \$6,754,272.07 for the year ending June, 1937.

For the six months from January to June, inclusive, 1938, the radio tax collections were 31.5 percent below those of the first six months of 1937.

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500 KW. LICENSE OF WLW RENEWED CONDITIONALLY

While hearings continued on the application of WLW, Cincinnati, for renewal of its 500 KW. experimental license, the Federal Communications Commission this week granted the station temporary experimental authority to continue operation from August 1 to February 1.

The authorization, however, carried the "express condition that it is subject to whatever action may be taken by the Commission upon the pending application of this station for renewal of extension of special experimental authority."

The FCC action indicated that a decision in the WLW case may be delayed for several weeks at least.

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LISTENERS AID IN TESTS ON SUN SPOTS

Listeners to Daventry, the Greenwich Observatory, and the British Broadcasting Corporation are cooperating in the proving of new theories relating to the effect of sun-spots on short-wave transmissions, and as a result it may be possible, in the future, to warn Daventry listeners that one of the long-term fade-outs for which solar activity is responsible is due.

Investigations have shown that the complete fade-outs of the Daventry transmissions that listeners sometimes experience - such fade-outs may, at their worst, persist for one or more days - are preceded some thirty-six hours earlier by a bright hydrogen eruption from an active sun-spot crossing the sun's meridian. This eruption may cause a short fade-out of the higher frequencies which follows almost immediately. The delayed eruption effect on the short-wave broadcasts is apparently caused by the emission of vast quantities of charged particles from the vicinity of the sun-spot, which travel at a much slower speed than that of light. As they penetrate the ionised layers they considerably reduce the ionisation levels by collision with the electrons, and give rise to very poor propagation conditions, resulting in a more or less complete failure of signals.

A new scheme whereby oversea listeners cable reports to the BBC is proving most helpful in testing the new theory. Each week observers in many parts of the world report details of any fade-outs that they have experienced, and this information is correlated with the observations of BBC engineers and with the accurate solar information supplied by the Greenwich Observatory.

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WLW CHALLENGES DEFINITION OF SUPER-POWER

The general definition of super-power as 500,000 watts was challenged this week by James D. Shouse, Vice-President of Crosley Radio Corporation, as hearings continued on the application of WLW for renewal of its experimental license.

"We find that the term super-power as applied to 500,000 watts in a certain sense of the word represents a distorted picture of what power is", he said.

"In 1924 power of 500 watts was called super-power, and in each successive stage in the increase in power of WLW, the step taken has been referred to as adhering to the super-power theory.

"Super-power has been progressively 50 watts, 500 watts, 5,000 watts, 50,000 watts, and 500,000 watts".

Mr. Shouse pointed out that WLW began with the call letters 8CR and only 20 watts power in 1921. The following March it took the call letters WLW and increased its power to 50 watts. In September the same year it was raised to 500 watts.

In 1925, WLW's power jumped to 5,000 watts, in 1928 to 50,000 watts, and in 1934 to 500,000 watts.

It was one of the first broadcasting stations to use 500 watts and the first, successively, to adopt 5,000 watts, 50 KW., and 500 KW.

"From the outset", Mr. Shouse explained, "executives of Crosley have been convinced that one of the principal factors in the growth and popularization of radio was the maintenance of a sufficient signal to over-ride noise level, whether man-made or natural, and pursuant to that belief it has been its policy at all times to seek authority to use the highest power then technically feasible under the circumstances."

WLW was still presenting evidence this week in support of its application for renewal of its 500 KW. experimental license.

George Porter, Assistant FCC counsel, and Duke M. Patrick, WLW attorney, were clashing frequently over evidence and cross-examination of WLW witnesses.

Among other witnesses was John A. Kennedy, who operates three West Virginia stations, who stated that WLW does offer competition to his stations in the West Virginia territory.

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3,000 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON AIR

Broadcasting over local radio stations in 42 States, schools and colleges have produced more than 3,000 radio programs in less than two years, using scripts supplied by the Educational Radio Script Exchange, according to the Office of Education, Department of Interior.

The Script Exchange is a project created to further the work of the Federal Radio Education Committee. Commissioner of Education John W. Studebaker is Chairman of the Committee.

Commenting on the work of the FREC, the Commissioner declared:

"The primary purposes of the Federal Radio Education Committee, created by the Federal Communications Commission December 18, 1935, were first, to work for the elimination of controversy and misunderstanding between educators and broadcasters, and second, to bring about active cooperative efforts between the two groups. As part of one of the projects set up by the Federal Radio Education Committee, the Educational Radio Script Exchange was organized to serve as a central clearing house for radio scripts and production suggestions. By this means educational groups in various parts of the country may exchange materials and experiences, and local educational organizations are helped to become sufficiently adept in radio broadcasting to enable them to secure time on the air and to do a quality of broadcasting which justifies cooperation by the local station."

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TWO NEW STATIONS AUTHORIZED FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Construction permits for two new broadcasting stations in North Carolina were granted this week by the Federal Communications Commission.

The capitol Broadcasting Co., of Raleigh, N. C., was granted a permit to build and operate a station using the frequency 1210 kc., with 100 watts at night and 250 watts, daytime, unlimited time.

The Piedmont Broadcasting Co., of Salisbury, was granted a permit to build and operate a station using 1500 kc., with 100-250 watts power, unlimited power.

At the same time the FCC denied applications for the same facilities by C. Frank Walker and Waldo W. Primm, of Fayetteville, and Burl Vance Hedrick, of Salisbury.

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LABOR PARTY ENDORSES REPRESENTATIVE CELLER

The American Labor Party has endorsed the candidacy of Representative Celler (D.), of New York, for reelection, according to the New York Times.

Representative Celler at the last session sponsored a bill to set up a Government-owned Pan American short-wave station but later came to the defense of the present broadcasting system during House debate on a resolution for a Congressional investigation of the FCC and broadcasting.

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NEWFOUNDLAND PLANS NEW RADIO SYSTEM

Newfoundland, the oldest part of the British Commonwealth, is about to be given a new broadcasting system, according to World-Radio. At present VONF and VOGY of the Dominion Broadcasting Co., and VOCM of the Colonial Broadcasting System transmitting wholly sponsored programs, are the sum and substance of the radio field. VOWR, however, owned and operated by Wesley United Church, is on the "air" every Sunday with church services. All these stations operate on long wave only, and do not therefore reach into every corner of the Island throughout the year - reception in Winter, of course, being better than at any other time.

The Government is now considering the site occupied by the Admiralty at Mount Pearl during the War years as a national broadcasting station. It is about five miles from St. John's, the capital. If the scheme is adopted only a minimum of advertising will be accepted and relay stations will be placed at advantageous points throughout the country.

Plans, too, are under consideration for the institution of a wireless telephone system to link Newfoundland with Canada and America on the one side, and Great Britain on the other. This service would naturally aid the development of exchange broadcast programs with the Old Country, Canada, and the United States.

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MAJ. DALRYMPLE, OF FCC LEGAL STAFF, DIES

Maj. A. V. Dalrymple, last Federal Prohibition Director, who for the last four years has been a member of the legal staff of the Federal Communications Commission, died this week in a Washington hospital of injuries suffered in an automobile accident last Saturday night. He was 62 years old.

The Commission subsequently wrote the following memorial in its permanent records:

"In memory of Major A. V. Dalrymple, industrious, loyal and respected member of the Commission's legal staff, whose career ended in untimely death on July 25, 1938. His record as a patriotic and faithful public servant is recognized as a valuable service to his country and his fellowmen. The Federal Communications Commission regrets deeply the loss of the valuable services and association of Major Dalrymple."

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::::: TRADE NOTES :::::

Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, of the Radio Corporation of America, former Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission, and A. A. Heising, Radio Research Engineer of New York, have been nominated for the 1939 presidency for the Institute of Radio Engineers, for balloting and decision next November. Nominations for IRE Directors include Virgil M. Graham, of Emporium, Pa., Chairman of the RMA Standards Committee, and A. F. Murray, of Philadelphia, Vice Chairman of the RMA Television Engineering Committee.

The Federal Communications Commission on July 27th granted extension of special experimental authority to WGN, Chicago, Ill., to operate a facsimile station from 1 to 6 A.M., for period August 1, 1938, to February 1, 1939.

A special employment and wage rate survey for RMA parts and accessory member companies has been arranged, to cover manufacturing operations for the week of July 24 to 30, inclusive. Important employment and wage statistics, primarily for the information of RMA parts and accessory members but also for Government purposes, will be secured. The survey will develop wages paid (actual earnings) all employees in various wage groups, male and female, and in the principal employee classifications. Statistics also will be secured on employment, average hourly and weekly earnings, overtime practices, working hours, labor organization affiliations, etc.

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