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PAN AMERICAN STATION IDEA BELIEVED ABANDONED

An indication that the proposal for construction of a Government-owned Pan American short-wave station will be dropped was contained in a preliminary report of the Special Committee named last year by President Roosevelt to make a study of short-wave broadcasting with especial regard to European propaganda being directed at the Latin Americas.

The report was carried in a document released by the State Department this week and dealing with the broad subject of improving relations between the United States and South and Central America.

Chairman Frank R. McNinch, of the Federal Communications Commission, who heads the Special Committee, said that the report on short-wave broadcasting will be submitted to the President around the first of next January.

The indication that the Special Committee has abandoned the proposal to set up a Government-owned short-wave station to compete with Nazi and Fascist stations with beams directed at the Latin Americas came in the statement "no additional funds required".

Congress last session pigeon-holed bills authorizing the establishment of a Pan American station either in Washington or San Diego after brief hearings. The Administration at first intimated its approval but later decided to withhold its support.

Commissioner T.A.M. Craven is credited with convincing the President that the idea was unsound. Chairman McNinch subsequently was instructed to stay away from the hearings and the Committee abruptly held up its report and asked for more time.

The State Department report, which was made by a committee headed by Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State, cited three activities of the committee which are designed to improve short-wave broadcasting.

The first of these is a series of informal conferences between the Federal Communications Commission and the American radio industry in an effort "to develop further cooperation with Latin America and to raise the standard of programs transmitted abroad, especially to the American Republics."

Second, the FCC was said to be establishing better engineering standards in an effort to eliminate interference. The North American Treaty drafted at Havana a year ago, which has just been rejected by the Mexican Senate, was cited as an accomplishment in this respect.

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Finally, the Communications Commission offered to provide its experts for the aid of Latin American countries interested in improving their own broadcasting.

"The Commission stands ready at all times", the report said, "to cooperate with respect to such visits and to arrange, when it appears desirable, to send technical experts to various Capitals in Latin America, such visits, of course, to be made only on special invitation of interested governments, in order to discuss problems of mutual interest.

"Similarly, the Commission is prepared to cooperate at all times by arranging for the reception of foreign communications officials who express an interest in making a visit to the United States."

Present indications are that the Special Committee will recommend Government cooperation with the privately-owned international stations rather than competition. A Government subsidy to aid the stations has been considered and may be provided to pay for the time the Government would utilize in transmitting its own programs.

Under the Department of Agriculture's activities proposed is a statement that it will cooperate with broadcasting companies regarding transmission of special programs to the Latin American Republics. No funds will be required for this activity, the report stated.

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RMA AND NAB PLAN RADIO PUBLICITY DRIVE

Plans for an advertising campaign to impress the public with the services of radio stations and to encourage more extensive use of receivers were revealed in Chicago Thursday when representatives of the Radio Manufacturers' Association and the National Association of Broadcasters met to discuss development of the project.

The RMA Board of Directors voted to contribute one-half of the necessary funds, the total of which was not disclosed. The broadcasters are expected to take similar action at a meeting in Washington December 12th. It was agreed that campaign details will be left in the hands of the broadcasters. No agency services will be considered.

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MONOPOLY HEARING REACHES MONOTONY STAGE

As the broad Congressional investigation of industrial monopolies opened in Washington this week, the Federal Communications Commission's chain-monopoly inquiry had reached what newspaper men called the "monotony" stage.

Technical witnesses for the National Broadcasting Company occupied the stand throughout the week and loaded the record with a mass of statistics, charts and tables.

Chairman Frank R. McNinch continued to complain against the prepared and voluminous type of testimony offered by NBC and issued a formal statement to the effect that witnesses would no longer be permitted to read prepared statements. He had previously announced the ruling orally.

All indications are that NBC will continue to occupy the stand until the Christmas recess, after which the Columbia Broadcasting System will offer testimony.

Broadcasters will keep an eye, meanwhile, on the Congressional inquiry because of the likelihood that it may look into alleged monopolies in the music copyright field and possibly radio manufacturing patents.

Following the cross-examination of O. B. Hanson, NBC Vice-President and Chief Engineer, early this week, Philip J. Hennessey, NBC counsel, called B. F. McClancy, NBC Traffic Manager, and then W. C. Lent, NBC engineer.

Mr. McClancy testified as to the contractual relations between NBC and the American Telephone & Telegraph Company and the network's payments to the telephone company.

It was while Mr. Lent was on the stand testifying as to program duplication that Chairman McNinch complained against the introduction of voluminous exhibits to fortify the testimony of NBC witnesses.

Mr. Hennessey offered for identification a 317-page document full of maps and statistical tabulations. He said it had required 12,000 man-hours to prepare it.

Chairman McNinch took one look at the volume and said that if such exhibits were admitted, to be identified by long oral examination of several witnesses, the Committee would be occupied for months by these alone. He asked William J. Dempsey, Commission General Counsel, whether he had had time to examine the exhibit and to indicate what, if any part, might be legally objectionable.

Mr. Dempsey told the Commission it was not possible, without hearing testimony on each part of the exhibit, to determine whether the matter was objectionable in the record.

Mr. Hennessey pointed out that the volume was prepared at great expense in response to orders of the Commission, and that it represented the shortest and most complete method under which the data called for could be prepared. He added that he was very much afraid that it would be rather painful for the Commission to sit through the explanations of the exhibits, but said that nevertheless he wanted to assure the Commission that it had been just as painful for the National Broadcasting Company to have it prepared.

Chairman McNinch then permitted the examination of W. C. Lent, engineer of the NBC, to proceed.

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PAYNE SERIOUSLY ILL; LIBEL SUIT POSTPONED

Commissioner George H. Payne of the Federal Communications Commission, now in Florida, is suffering from "a very marked hyper-tension complicated with a valvular heart disease", according to an affidavit of his physician, Dr. Hugo Einstein, of Washington. This became known this week when counsel for the Commission in his \$100,000 libel suit against Broadcasting and its publisher and editor, sought at least a three-month postponement of trial of the case from November 16th. The District Court in Washington granted a postponement until January 16th.

Dr. Einstein stated in his affidavit he had recommended that Commissioner Payne, for the preservation of his health and in order to avoid possible serious results, "immediately discontinue all active duties and take a complete rest for a period of at least several months." He added that pursuant to this advice, Mr. Payne had gone to Florida "for the purpose of a complete rest from all matters of a burdensome or exciting character which rest affiant believes to be necessary to avoid a breakdown and probable severe illness * * *."

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GENE BUCK HEADS ALFALFA CLUB

President of the American Society of Composers: Gene Buck, of New York, was elected President of the Alfalfa Club for 1939 at the annual meeting held this week at the home of Frank J. Hogan, Past President, in Washington. Other officers elected were:

Joseph H. Himes of Maryland, Vice-President; Senator Tom Connally of Texas, Second Vice-President; Charles P. Light of Washington, Secretary-Treasurer; William Payne Meredith of Virginia, Sergeant-at-Arms; George H. O'Connor of Washington, Water Boy; Thomas W. Brahany of Wisconsin, Chairman of Entertainment Committee; and Senator Pat Harrison, Mr. Himes, Mr. Light and Thomas P. Littlepage, Washington radio attorney, for the Board of Managers for three years ending December 31, 1941.

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WLW HEARING IS SET FOR DEC. 15 BY COMMISSION

Oral argument on the WLW case was scheduled this week to begin before the full Federal Communications Commission on December 15th following the filing of exceptions to the recommendations of the three-man FCC committee that the Cincinnati stations's experimental 500 KW. license be discontinued.

The Committee made its report following a hearing last Summer. Its report was unanimous. Other members of the Commission, including Chairman Frank R. McNinch, however, have indicated they may vote to reverse the Committee.

The Committee was headed by Norman S. Case and included Commissioners T.A.M. Craven and George Henry Payne.

Through Duke M. Patrick, WLW counsel, a 57-page pleading, noting 125 separate exceptions to the report, was filed. The report took issued with the recommendation made by the Committee. Mr. Patrick categorically denied many of the conclusions reached by the Committee in its unanimous report and also challenged the failure of the Committee to find certain facts which it claimed were present in the record of the hearings.

The attorney contended that there was no basis for any conclusion that WLW's operation with 500 KW. and the consequent extension of its service area, had any economic effect upon stations in its primary service area. Moreover, it was held that the Committee failed to find that WLW's operation with super-power resulted in rendering a meritorious "and needed service over wide and thickly settled areas which is not otherwise available from any other source and which service, at least in large measure, would be destroyed in the event WLW is authorized to continue operation with but 50 KW. "

The Committee also failed to show that the testimony indicated that the rates for stations in WLW's service area increased much more rapidly than those of WLW, Mr. Patrick charged.

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The Washington Police Department has been granted a construction permit for eight radio sending units in police cars. The permit, granted by the Federal Communications Commission, authorizes the Department to install units operating on a frequency of 37,220 kilocycles with 5 watts power each.

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NBC RED NET NEARS \$3,000,000 MARK

The National Broadcasting Company has now commenced to release separate revenue totals for its Red and Blue networks, in view of the recent establishment of the Blue network as a separate coast-to-coast service. Gross advertising revenue for October was, in the case of the Red network, \$2,872,588. The Blue network tally was \$901,376.

Because the breakdown is on an entirely new basis, with complete separation of Red and Blue supplementaries, no comparison with previous years is available. It was previously reported, however, that the total NBC network (Red and Blue) revenue for October, 1938, was 13% ahead of October 1937.

SUMMARYOctober 1938

Red Network	\$2,872,588
Blue Network	<u>901,376</u>

Total NBC	\$3,773,964
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October 1937

Total NBC	<u>\$3,339,739</u>
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Increase	434,225
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% Increase	13%
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THREE NEW 50 KW. STATIONS ON AIR SOON

Three stations - WCKY, Cincinnati, WJSV, Washington, and KSTP, St. Paul - will soon join the ranks of 50,000-watt outlets, the maximum regularly licensed power, under authorization of the Federal Communications Commission.

The Commission this week authorized WCKY, located in Covington, Ky., across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, to boost its power from 10,000 to 50,000 watts with a directional antenna, protecting KFBK, Sacramento, also assigned to 1490 kc.

While no formal announcement has been made of the KSTP-WJSV power increases, well-founded reports were current to that effect. Formal announcement, it was said, was being withheld pending writing of the statement of facts and grounds for decision.

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NORMAL RANGE OF BBC TELEVISION 30 MILES

While reports of reception of television pictures have been reported as far away from Alexandra Palace, London, as 200 miles, the normal range of the British Broadcasting Corporation's transmitter is 30 miles, according to Sir Noel Ashbridge, Chief Engineer.

"In the report of the Television Committee which originally recommended the establishment of a service, and which was published in January, 1935, it was stated that a range of 25 miles was anticipated", he recalled in a recent broadcast. "You may have seen recent reports in the press of reception at distances of about 200 miles, and may have come to the conclusion that the original estimate was unduly pessimistic. I should like to point out, however, that it is very necessary to distinguish between a normal service range, by which I mean the range at which anybody can reasonably expect to get regular good reception, and the maximum range at which the station can be received under especially favorable conditions. Experience with the service in London has shown that the original 25-mile estimate was possibly a little pessimistic, and the average range for normal reception is probably more like 30 miles.

"The main limitation to range is, naturally, electrical interference. With television on ultra-short waves the two kinds of interference which have been found most troublesome are those produced by the ignition systems of motor-cars and by electro-medical apparatus for carrying out diathermy. From one point of view the former is, I think, the more serious because it is far more widespread. On the other hand, interference by electro-medical apparatus is more difficult to deal with. Thus, it is possible to silence electrically the ignition of a car at small cost, and with practically no reduction in the engine efficiency, but for electro-medical apparatus, while a cure is possible, it is difficult to devise a method which can be applied universally at reasonable cost. It is hoped that, in the future, the general problem of interference to broadcast reception may be dealt with on the lines of legislation - in fact, it is difficult to see any other thoroughly satisfactory solution.

"The range of an ultra-short wave transmitting station, such as is used for television, depends not only on the power of the station, but on the heights of the transmitting and receiving aerials above the ground. Thus, someone who lives on a hill, say 50 miles away may get a stronger signal than someone else living in a valley much closer to the transmitter. It is for this reason that reports of reception at great ranges must be taken with some reserve, because they do not necessarily mean that it is a simple matter to construct a television station to give complete coverage up to a range of, say, 200 miles."

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::: TRADE NOTES :::
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The Fifteenth Annual Radio Manufacturers' Association Convention and National Radio Parts Show will again be held together next June at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago. The RMA convention, membership meetings and annual industry banquet will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, June 13-14. The National Radio Parts Show will be held in the Exhibition Hall of the Stevens Hotel from Wednesday, June 14, to Saturday, June 17, and again under the joint sponsorship of RMA and the Sales Managers Clubs.

The Federal Communications Commission this week authorized transfer of ownership of WAYX, Waycross, Ga. from Dr. E. F. Sapp and S. F. Sapp, his son, to Jack Williams, publisher of the Waycross Journal-Herald. The deal involved \$26,000.

Two stations optional to advertisers on the basic Red Network and one station optional to advertisers on the basic Blue Network will become affiliates of the National Broadcasting Company on December 4, bringing the total number of NBC stations to 165. The new supplementary Red Network stations are WEEU and WRAW, Reading, Pa.; the new supplementary Blue station is WNBC, New Britain, Conn.

Comparisons of television's progress in the United States as compared with that in England and lessons that this country may learn from the BBC's experiments are set forth in two special articles on television in the Sunday New York Times (Nov. 27). One was an interview with Carlton L. Dyer, of the Philso Radio & Television Corp., regarding England's work.

Meredith Willson, for six years Western Division Musical Director for the National Broadcasting Company, has submitted his resignation effective within two weeks. Press of commercial program commitments, Mr. Willson said, forces his resignation from the post he has occupied since July 3, 1932.

Effective December 11, the Columbia Broadcasting System will have completed plans for improved coverage in the State of Maine, according to William C. Gittinger, Sales Manager. On August 28, Station WGAN, Portland, operating with 500 watts on 640 kilocycles, joined the Columbia network as a member of the basic supplementary group and the Columbia New England network. On Sunday, December 11, Station WABI, Bangor, becomes a full-time CBS outlet, available for all Columbia programs in that city. WABI operates with power of 250 watts daytime and 100 watts night on 1200 kilocycles. This will be its first network affiliation, although as the oldest radio station in Maine, it has built up a phenomenal local following.

A Communications Commission Examiner heard testimony this week concerning operation of radio stations WOV and WBIL in New York, which Arde Bulova proposes to combine with Atlantic City's municipal station WPG. Mr. Bulova, a watch manufacturer, controls the New York stations and asked the Commission to authorize the sale of WPG to him for \$275,000 and approve removal of the WPG studio to New York that he might operate the three as one full-time station.

Installation of new short-wave antennas that will swing radio beams over South America like rays of a powerful searchlight at the mere touch of a push button was announced this week by the National Broadcasting Company. When completed within a few weeks at the transmitters of short-wave stations W3XL and W3XAL, the antennas will enable the NBC International Division to extend its service to Latin America to sixteen hours a day, without diminishing the service to Europe. The NBC is now broadcasting nine hours of programs daily for Latin America in three different languages, English Spanish and Portuguese, which is more than any other country is transmitting to Latin America. The nine hours are divided into six in Spanish, two in Portuguese and one in English.

The Columbia Broadcasting System this week was granted a modification of its construction permit to extend the completion date of its visual broadcasting station until June 16, 1939.

A new radio station for Tacoma, Wash., was recommended to the Federal Communications Commission this week by Examiner P. W. Seward. The applicant is Tacoma Broadcasters, Inc., which asked for 1420 kc. with 100-250 watts, unlimited time.

The monthly index of radio advertising in Printers' Ink shows a gain of 5.4 percent in October from the corresponding 1937 figure. This is the first rise over 1937 since May. However, the index records a decline of 6.8 percent from September.

The Belmont Radio Corporation, reporting for nine months to Sept. 30 showed a net profit of \$93,245, equal to 31 cents each on 300,000 shares. Net profit for the September quarter this year was \$42,952 or 14 cents a share. Net sales for the nine months period totaled \$2,857,888 and for the three months ended on Sept. 30 were \$1,166,507. Company states that sales for the month of October increased to \$834,970 from \$348,415 in the same month a year ago.

Columbia Broadcasting System will shortly be able to direct its short-wave broadcasts to South America and Europe at the same time whenever desired. This will be accomplished by combining the services of W2XE, its international station in New York, and W3XAU, the international station owned and operated by WCAU, CBS' affiliate in Philadelphia.

The Federal Communications Commission this week granted Station WIND, Gary, Ind., authority to transfer control from the Public Service Co. to H. Leslie Atlass, Ralph L. Atlass, Pauline S. Atlass, Ralph Louis Atlass, H.P. Sherman and Philip Wrigley.

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"HAMS" TEST EMERGENCY SERVICE OVER NBC

The Eastern seaboard will not be without radio service if other lines of communication fail in a future national disaster. This was demonstrated last Sunday when the 18 amateur radio stations of the Susquehanna Emergency Net held their monthly drill over the National Broadcasting Company's Red network.

The Emergency Net, which was formed by amateur radio operators who served in the Susquehanna River flood of 1936, is composed of 16 stations along the Susquehanna Valley, one in Chevy Chase, Md., operated by Roy C. Corderman, 4401 Leland Street, N.W., and the control station at York, Penna.

In order to keep themselves prepared in case they are needed for communications work at any time, the 18 amateurs hold monthly drills in which they transmit reports on conditions in the Susquehanna Valley to the United States Weather Bureau at Harrisburg, Penna.

That the operators of the emergency net do more than just stay in practice was shown by their work in the New England hurricane emergency of last Summer. At that time, when telephone and telegraph lines were down, the amateur operators aided rescue work by transmitting last-minute information and instructions to relief units.

The stations of the emergency net were not chosen until it was known they fulfilled certain requirements, Mr. Corderman, who is transmission supervisor of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. told the Washington Post. The operators must be experienced men of mature age, must have stations well above the water mark and must participate in the monthly drills.

After conclusion of the drill over the NBC network on Sunday, talks were made about the emergency net's work by Lieut. E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission; Merrill Bernard, Department of River and Flood Control of the Weather Bureau, and James Feiser, Vice-President in charge of domestic operations of the Red Cross.

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In a presidential address to the British Kinematograph Society recently, Capt. A.G.D. West said that in the near future televised pictures of current events would be shown on full-sized screens in every cinema, according to The Electrical Review, London. Within the next few years it would be possible to use a complete and satisfactory electronic system in the taking and distribution of moving pictures, he said. The pictures would have the full definition and brilliance demanded by the cinema-going public. It had been found in tests with private audiences that the great attraction was that the result of the event was not known by the audience.

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NILES TRAMMELL NAMED NBC EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Niles Trammell, Vice-President in Charge of the Central Division of the National Broadcasting Company, last week was promoted to the position of Executive Vice-President. At the same time Alfred H. Morton, Manager of the NBC Operated Stations Department, was elected a Vice-President.

Mr. Trammell will assume his new duties on January 1st, and Mr. Morton's promotion will become effective on December 1st.

As Executive Vice-President, Mr. Trammell will transfer his activities to the Radio City headquarters in New York. Mr. Morton is in full charge of stations owned or programmed or operated by the National Broadcasting Company, and will continue in this capacity.

Both promotions are in recognition of years of service in the radio broadcasting field. Mr. Trammell is one of the youngest and best-known major executives in radio. He became associated with the Radio Corporation of America in April, 1923.

Mr. Morton became Manager of the Washington office of the Radio Corporation of America shortly after the World War in which he served. In 1923, he returned to New York to become Commercial Manager of R.C.A. Communications, and a year later was transferred to Paris as European Manager of RCA. In January, 1934, he again returned to New York as Business Manager of the Program Department of the National Broadcasting Company, and three years later was named Manager of NBC Operated Stations.

During his career as a radio engineer, Mr. Morton supervised the construction of Station WRC, in Washington, a pioneer broadcasting station, and two 50,000 watt broadcasting stations near Rome and Milan.

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Miss Dorothy Aylesworth, of 812 Park Avenue, New York City, and David G. Knott, of 43 Fifth Avenue, whose marriage will take place on January 4th in St. Bartholomew's Church, obtained a license last week in New York. Their engagement was announced early this month by the bride-elect's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Hall Aylesworth. Mr. Aylesworth is publisher of the New York World-Telegram. Mr. Knott is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Knott. Mr. Knott is President of the Knott Hotel System in New York City.

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