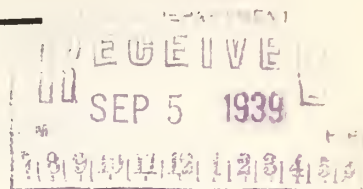


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No. 1154

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September 1, 1939

TELEVISION SEEN AS AID IN FUTURE WARFARE

While it is doubtful that television could be put to extensive practical use in the event of an immediate European war, it doubtless will be a valuable military aid in the wars of the future. American military experts already are busy studying its possible applications.

No particular attention has been paid by American manufacturers to date to the military possibilities of television, but this stage in the development unquestionably will be expedited by any major European conflict.

"Although considerable technical progress is to be expected under normal conditions during the next few years, "according to Col. G. L. Van Deusen, of the U.S. Signal Corps, "it is unlikely that any serious attempt will be made to adapt television to military use until government contracts are placed with the manufacturers."

Taking a glance at the future, Colonel Van Deusen observed that several military applications of television suggest themselves, among which are the following:

" (1) For observation within the combat zone, to supplement the reports of military observers and the information conveyed by still and motion pictures. Commanders and staff officers, like other persons, have an instinctive desire to actually see events of interest or importance while these events are in progress, even though other efficient agencies for recording and communicating the details of the event are available. A television transmitter mounted in an airplane may enable the commanding general, while seated at his headquarters, to view troop movements, details of actual combat and other important features along the front or within the enemy lines. (2) For adjustment of artillery fire, the camera and transmitting equipment being installed either in an aircraft or in a ground O.P. (3) To aid in the radio control of robot aircraft, aerial bombs or seacraft, the target or objective being made visible to the controlling station by television apparatus mounted in the directed craft. (4) For mass propaganda or training within the zone of the interior. The educational use now made of motion pictures can be reinforced by the more intimate appeal to the audience which is possible with television.

" For military use, as in commercial practice, the television signal may be transmitted over specially designed wire

circuits or by radio. By the use of special conductors, repeaters, and associated equipment on wire lines, television transmission is possible over greater distances than can be covered over a single point-to-point radio channel. The necessary equipment for either wire or radio transmission will be complicated and its use in the combat zone will present many problems.

"If a permanent record of the televised information is desired, it may be recorded on notion-picture film at the receiving station.

"The transmission of televised scenes from a military airplane is possible, although no satisfactory apparatus has been produced for this purpose up to the present by American manufacturers. The space and weight limitations on such an installation should not be serious, once the problem of securing a well-defined image is solved.

"Until the present frequency band assigned to television can be materially enlarged, the number of channels available in any area will be small. Under present standards (441 scanning lines) the televised scene is resolved into approximately 260,000 picture elements, each of these elements being scanned 30 times per second. These standards have been adopted to insure sufficient detail without objectionable flicker. With single side band transmission, it does not seem that a television channel can be reduced to less than 5 megacycles if interference from adjacent channels is to be avoided.

"There is no suitable place for these television channels in the radio spectrum except at the ultra high frequency and, preferably above 40 megacycles. The upper frequency limit practicable for television is now around 110 megacycles but will undoubtedly be extended with the development of vacuum tubes capable of high power output at greater frequencies.

"Any military characteristics formulated in the present state of television development must necessarily be of a general nature. The following characteristics appear desirable as a goal for special development:

" (1) The equipment should be as rugged and portable as our present field radio sets.

" (2) For installation in any type of aircraft or vehicle the weight and bulk of the equipment should be within the limits imposed by the type of transport.

" (3) The power requirements should be such as can be met by portable self-contained generator units.

" (4) The transmission range should be sufficient for the image to be viewed directly by the party served, e.g., by the firing unit in the case of artillery adjustment or by the commander of the tactical unit for which the airplane or ground station is observing.

" (5) The image definition at the receiver should be approximately as good as can be obtained by photographic means under the same conditions.

" (6) The equipment should be capable of prompt installation and satisfactory operation by a trained enlisted crew.

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ONLY A WAR WOULD DETERMINE U.S. RADIO CONTROL

Nothing short of a World War in which the United States would become embroiled would put to a severe test the application of the "emergency" clause of the Communications Act with respect to American broadcasting, according to informed government authorities.

While the Federal Communications Commission, the State Department, the War Department, and other agencies have considered the possibility of governmental control of American radio stations during a war, authorities agree that the issue will be avoided so long as possible.

The Communications Act gives the President far-reaching powers in the event of war or even a national emergency, with respect to radio broadcasting, but it is considered doubtful in Washington that such authority will be used except as a last resort.

The first class of radio stations to feel the hand of governmental control following the outbreak of actual hostilities abroad doubtless would be the American short-wave stations. A form of Censorship similar to that proposed in the now-suspended international rules probably would be invoked to prevent any U.S. station from endangering American neutrality.

As these short-wave broadcasts reach an international audience, they are considered potentially dangerous by American diplomats.

Public pressure on the FCC to crack down on stations which carry pro-Hitler or pro-British broadcasts already has been felt, and it would be intensified as the European conflict became more serious. However, at present while FCC officials are keeping more or less check on the activities of American radio stations there has been no disposition to curtail them.

If and when a war does occur, broadcasters unquestionably will have to watch their step, but they probably will escape the full force of censorship or punishment so long as they use discretion and avoid taking sides too obviously.

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COURT REVISES SYSTEM OF REVIEWING FCC APPEALS

A new system for reviewing the acts of the Federal Communications Commission and other U S. agencies was placed in operation Friday by the District Court of Appeals.

The new system was designed to bring the practice of the Court of Appeals into harmony with the system of civil procedure promulgated last year for all Federal courts.

The court ordered that appeals from FCC decisions be filed within 20 days after effective date of decisions and gave the FCC 30 days after an appeal is filed to present the records of the case. Should the commission fail to include matter believed by the complaining party to be important, it was provided that the party might remedy the omission or request the court to do so.

The court cautioned lawyers to confine FCC appeals to disputed points, giving as an example the proper procedure in an appeal involving the financial standing of an applicant for a radio license. "Matter relating to station interference, or to the type of daily programs," said the court, "would not be essential to the question involved, and should be omitted."

The court in past opinions has thrust aside ponderous records and arguments when it found these to be on points not directly at issue before it.

The old rule of sending a "mandate" to the FCC after the court acts in a case will be abolished instead, the FCC will receive a simple certified copy of the court's opinion and judgment order.

The general rule for appeals from administrative bodies ordered such cases placed on the court's special calendar. The court acted to preserve the rights of persons who wished to intervene in such cases but were not given by law the right to do so. Such interveners were ordered permitted to present their positions within 10 days after the filing of the appeal in which they were interested.

To save the appellate justices from having to read complete records, when cases before them involve only part of a record, it was provided that disputing parties may designate what part of a record shall be printed for study by the court. This was expected to reduce the expense of appeals.

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The Columbia Broadcasting System has announced that the closing time has been extended until 2 a.m. for the basic network and coast stations. This new policy, which keeps the network on one hour longer than its previous sign-off time of one a.m., marks the latest hour in its history at which the network has closed. It became effective Sunday, August 27.

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SHORT-WAVES PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN CRISIS

A new anti-propaganda force is playing a vital role in the current European crisis, according to Washington political observers, and may have a hand in the outcome.

While short-wave broadcasts established a new record for international news transmission in the Czech episode, this time they are believed to be responsible for breaking down the bars of Nazi censorship and thereby influencing the actions of Hitler himself.

Great Britain and France, following the seizure of Czecho-Slovakia, started directing short-wave broadcasts in German into the Reich and, while Nazis forbid Germans to listen it is doubtful that such a ban was very effective.

President Roosevelt's recent peace plea, moreover, was directed to German listeners, among others, by U.S. short-wave stations, and is believed to have had an effect of inducing the note of caution into subsequent proceedings.

Washington observers believe that the bombardment of news broadcasts from London and Paris and pleas for peace have offset to a large degree the effect of the government-controlled Nazi press and given Germans a true picture of the international situation in place of the one-sided Nazi portrayal.

Reports from American representatives in Germany show Hitler has been unable to check listening in on foreign short-wave broadcasts, or to check the repetition by listeners of what they hear, despite severe penalties.

Hitler has used the radio in every way possible and taken every precaution to make it useful to him and not to others. He seized control of the radio even before he muzzled the press.

When Goebbels set up his ministry of propaganda he got German radio manufacturers to devise a cheap set along specifications approved by the government, which subsequently has been followed by a still cheaper set. These have a short receiving range and no short-wave attachment.

But the number of short-wave sets in use in Germany has increased in recent months, Commerce Department records show.

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REICH ADOPTS RULES TO NATIONALIZE RADIO

Full details of the regulations for the nationalization of the German radio industry were officially published recently. These regulations are issued by General Fellgiebel, who was :

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recently put in charge of the entire German electrical communications industry, and are part of the Four Years Plan for economic independence.

The industry is required to form twelve groups of manufacturers, each of which will be permitted jointly to manufacture the following sets:

A high-efficiency receiver at a medium price (probably a small super-het.)

A receiver for reception of the local station at high tonal quality and for wired-wireless services.

A "highest-efficiency" set (probably a large super-het.)

A receiver for motor-cars.

Portables and other "highest-efficiency" sets may be manufactured only if there is a direct demand in the German market or if they are required for export.

P.A. amplifiers are standardised as 20, 120, and 500 watts; no others may be made.

The regulations stipulate all receivers must be for A.C. with converters, or for A.C /D.C.

Single parts for sets must be chosen from those types which are also suitable for national defence. Single or hand processes must be superseded by mass-manufacture in all cases.

To prevent the selling of old models by dealers at reduced prices, thus causing them losses, the German radio industry has been ordered to continue for a longer period than hitherto the types it is allowed to produce.

There must be complete and immediate removal of all sources of man-made interference. On account of the television set all motor-cars must at once fit interference suppressors.

It is ordered that only German materials be used in manufacture to eliminate importation of foreign materials.

Indications are that, aided by the new system of mass-production, Germany will make a great drive for cheap exports. Already the types of value have been reduced from 66 to 23, the variety of loudspeaker types available from 100 to 12, the number of different types of resistance from 1,000 to 17.

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CBS announces that Station KROY, Sacramento, is now on a permanent full-time schedule.

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U. S. READY TO FORM WAR-TIME RADIO RULES

Governmental agencies are preparing to take whatever steps may be necessary to keep the American broadcasting system neutral in event of a general European war and may even take over frequencies needed for military purposes and direct the operations of all stations should the United States be drawn into the conflict.

James Lawrence Fly admitted at his first press conference that he had been consulted "in a minor capacity" by other Government officials in the State, Army, and Navy Departments who have been studying the question of what to do about radio when war comes.

He declined to predict what course the governmental supervision of America's ether waves may take, but he called attention to the war emergency powers granted the President by the Communications Act. Section 606 gives the Chief Executive broad authority over radio in time of war.

Several proclamations anticipating progressive stages in government control of radio operations have been prepared by military authorities, it is understood, but will be kept secret until called for by the President.

Should the United States become embroiled in the war or the danger become critical, authorities predict, the FCC probably will turn over its administration of the broadcasting system to an emergency war-time board.

Because the military and naval units do not have as large a share of the radio waves as they think are necessary in time of war, many privately-owned stations likely would be called upon to surrender their frequencies, particularly for coastal and interior communications.

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MILLER PRAISES RADIO NEWS REPORTING

Praising the public service work of stations and networks in bringing the nation the most comprehensive war-crisis coverage in history, Neville Miller, President of NAB, congratulated the industry in the following statement:

"The broadcasting industry is performing a monumental public service in this war crisis period. Commercial schedules have been abandoned at real financial sacrifice in order that the public interest may be served. No other industry can boast such an unselfish performance. Once again American broadcasters are proving their stewardship. Operations have been of a twenty-four hour

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basis. Radio staff men and women have stuck to their posts day and night, that the American people may be informed of the startling minute-to-minute developments.

"The comprehensive news reports and on-the-spot-broadcasts have undoubtedly gathered the greatest audience in the history of radio.

In every home in America, from the White House to the most humble, radios are turned on, and people are listening and hoping that the holocaust may yet be averted.

"Through it all, there is a perceptible growth in public appreciation of the private and competitive character of the American System of Broadcasting which is rendering such a superb service. I congratulate the industry.

"And let me convey the gratitude of the industry to the gentlemen of the press who have cooperated so splendidly with us."

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FLY ALIGHTS LIGHTLY AT FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

James Lawrence Fly, former TVA counsel, took the oath as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission Friday and shortly thereafter held his first press conference.

Adroitly evading controversial questions, he nevertheless sought to convey the impression that he would be neither hasty in reaching decisions nor dogmatic in enforcing them on the other Commissioners.

While rumors are afloat at the FCC that T.J. Slowie, Secretary, is to be replaced, Mr. Fly insisted that he has no plans for a "purge" or "housecleaning" such as his predecessor, Frank R. McNinch, attempted. Each case will be considered on its individual merits, he said.

He expects to announce shortly, however, the appointment of a special assistant to the chairman, a lawyer, who will act as his individual advisor. This is a new position.

"I hope to do this job right", he said. "I did not run for it on any dogmatic platforms nor seek the job on any basic issues. There are many problems before the commission that deserve very serious study."

He declined to comment or express an opinion on any of these problems.

Explaining that he was speaking as a radio listener rather than as Chairman of the FCC, Mr. Fly commended the radio networks and broadcasting stations for their "great public service in covering the European crisis.

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Retiring Chairman McNinch sat with him during the conference, and at a previous meeting of the FCC he was accompanied by Benjamin Cohen, one of the New Deal Aids. There was some speculation that Cohen is the man who Mr. Fly has asked to act as his special counsel.

EFFECT OF OUTBREAK ON U.S. BROADCASTS AWAITED

American broadcasters were uncertain this week-end as to what effect the outbreak of the European conflict will have on American broadcasts to and from the foreign capitals. Meanwhile, however, telephonic communication between this country and Europe was cut off.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company was notified that the British Postoffice, which operates the British end of the service, had advised the company's New York office that it would accept calls only to the Bank of England, the N.Y. Times reported. No reason for the suspension of service was assigned. The A. T. & T. has a circuit to France, which was accepting only official and banking calls.

Officers of the company pointed out that virtually all European calls clear through London. Thus the suspension of service, should the British Government so desire, could be complete. The British exchange is the central point for telephone calls on the Continent, it was explained, since all calls, except for one exchange in France, clear through the British capital.

New York offices of various radio and cable companies serving London were notified that the British Government had begun censorship of all messages. Commercial Cables disclosed that for several days past French censorship has prohibited the reception in that country of either commercial or private messages in code or cipher. Commercial Cables reported that its service was normal but that it would have to submit to the censorship, thus delaying transmission.

Radiomarine Corporation reported that all message traffic was normal but that "no code messages are accepted in Great Britain, France and Poland." The International Telephone and Telegraph Company reported normal cable service.

The Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company said that its service was normal on all circuits, but this company does not serve London. A representative of Mackay said that it had not been notified of any censorship in Poland. RCA Communications, Inc., said that there had been no interruption in its service.

So far the broadcasting systems report that they have not been affected, the Times stated. Transoceanic broadcasting facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and of the Columbia and Mutual systems are scheduled for today, but the companies are said to have had no assurance that the programs would go on.

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Columbia could not pick up London during its mid-afternoon comment period and was off the air for seventeen minutes before contact was re-established with its London representative. A check-up on short-wave channels, however, indicated that the stations were on with substitute musical programs. A representative of Mutual said that there was no indication yet of a cut-off of service.

It was agreed generally in broadcasting circles, that if the service was not cut off eventually, there might be a curtailment of broadcasts from Europe.

Max Jordan, chief of NBC staff in Europe, in a broadcast from Berlin yesterday afternoon, said:

"Allow me to report alarming reports that reached here from across the borders, Telephone communication with abroad became entangled once more. No calls were accepted to London, except those of the government. One could not get through to Paris, either. Broadcasting had been stopped from Great Britain to foreign countries."

A representative of the National Broadcasting Company pointed out that, in the event of war, if the cables were prevented from carrying programs and if the British Broadcasting Corporation and the German broadcasting system were ordered by their governments not to carry programs from London or Paris, that it would put an end to American rebroadcasts, so far as London and Berlin were concerned.

In the case of Berlin, it was pointed out, the NBC cooperates with the German broadcasting system, but all programs emanating from Berlin come by short wave and none by cable, which is not the case with England.

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AIR LINE EQUIPS PLANES WITH PORTABLES

Eastern Air Lines announced this week that portable battery-powered radios with airplane wave m.a.n.e.'s had been installed on planes of its fleet to bring to passengers the latest news service bulletins. Reception is reported to be excellent under most atmospheric conditions.

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DUE TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN WASHINGTON BEING CLOSED OVER LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE OF THIS SERVICE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5.

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CBS TO ASK PERMITS FOR TWO NEW AUDITORIUMS

Columbia Broadcasting System will apply for permits to build two 400-seat auditoriums at Columbia Square, Hollywood, it was announced this week. The auditoriums will be built to take care of the extraordinary demand for tickets for broadcasts, which has taxed the facilities of the present 1,000 seat theater beyond capacity. The two new auditoriums will be similar to the three other Columbia Square buildings both in design, which is functional and modern, and in color, which is blue and gray with chromium trimmings.

However, there will be an unusual innovation in the interior of both, with the monitor rooms and sponsors' booths being located behind the footlights; the latter booths built over the monitor rooms. The building will be one story high, with an additional half-story over a part of it, in which dressing rooms for the casts and rest rooms will be located.

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RADIO TRAFFIC BOOSTED BY CRISIS

An increase in traffic communication between the United States and Europe, as a result of the world crisis, was reported this week by the Radio Corporation of America. The Radiomarine Corporation of America alone estimates its traffic has shown a gain of 20 per cent.

It has been noted, says the N.Y. Times that ships flying the flags of Germany, France and England are not using their ship-to-shore transmitters, so as to avoid any indication of their positions at sea. While the messages are going out to these vessels as usual, no verification of their reception is given. It is believed, however, that the receivers on ship-board are picking up the bulletins on developments in Europe being sent out by the communications company.

Not only is a considerable increase in radiogram service reported, but a similar heavy traffic in the transmission of radio pictures for newspapers and the handling of radio programs between Europe and this country over R.C.A. circuits.

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