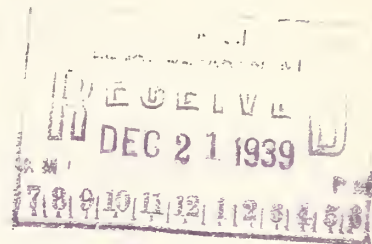


HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.



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INVESTIGATION UNIT POSSIBLE IN FCC BUDGET

Creation of an investigation division within the Federal Communications Commission, which would examine the qualifications of applicants for new radio stations, was seen this week if Congress approves a Budget Bureau recommendation of \$2,100,000 for the FCC in the fiscal year 1940-41.

FCC officials appeared before the House Appropriations Sub-Committee last week in executive session and explained the need for the investigation unit.

The Commission asked the Bureau of Budget for \$3,115,000 for the new fiscal year but was allowed only \$2,100,000, which is \$300,000 more than the current appropriation. Of the \$300,000, additional \$150,000 will be for personnel and the other \$150,000 for modernizing its monitoring system.

Additional funds may be asked of Congress for the FCC under the Special National Defense Appropriation which President Roosevelt will submit to Congress shortly after it convenes, it is understood.

Included in this budget may be estimates for mobile monitoring units to be used in checking short-wave operations. It has been suggested that these mobile monitors would be a safeguard against unlawful operations of short-wave stations, either licensed or unlicensed.

The Investigation Division, if set up, would include a dozen or fifteen experts, and would cost about \$50,000 a year, it is estimated.

As has been indicated, the Investigation Division would be used primarily to inquire into the qualifications of new station applicants as well as to pursue other inquiries specifically assigned by the Commission. Need for preliminary study of prospective station licensees has been repeatedly emphasized not only to assure the Commission of first-hand information regarding prerequisites but also to prevent hearings on such applications when it might be learned beforehand that the applicant is automatically disqualified. Such matters as citizenship, lack of financial responsibility and character of background, are included.

Chairman James L. Fly has already taken cognizance of the plight of broadcasters forced to defend themselves against irresponsible applicants, declaring he hoped to devise means of correcting this situation.

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PROGRESS NOTED IN RADIO WEATHER FORECASTING

Recently, a significant advance has taken place in weather forecasting, based on the routine collection of upper-air data to heights of $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles by means of radio soundings, according to the Bureau of Standards. This method, developed at the Bureau, has supplanted the use of airplanes carrying calibrated recording instruments for securing upper-air data.

"The radio-sonde system", a report in the Technical News Bulletin, explained, "employs an instrument carried aloft on a small unmanned balloon, and ground-station receiving and recording equipment. The balloon instrument, or radio sonde, comprises elements for measuring barometric pressure, air temperature, and humidity; a radio transmitter and power supply; and means for impressing on the radio transmitter modulating frequencies which have predetermined relationships to the values of the factors measured. At the ground station, the frequencies of the received signals are measured and recorded automatically, thereby providing a plot of temperature and humidity against pressure.

"A year's experimental use of the system during 1938-39 at 12 stations by the Navy Department, Weather Bureau, and Coast Guard provided data which exceeded both in regularity and accuracy the observations previously obtained by the airplane soundings. During the present fiscal year, the service is being expanded to include 30 land and 5 shipboard stations. One of the features of the experience with the radio-sonde system has been the excellent operation obtained by the shipboard stations.

"An improved form of the radio sonde has been introduced at three of the stations and is to be used soon at six more stations. The essential improvement consists of the incorporation of a new device for measuring relative humidity, which utilizes the phenomenon of variation in conductivity of a hygroscopic salt when exposed to different relative humidities. In its operation as a resistor - the value of which varies with relative humidity - it parallels the temperature element used in the radio sonde, which functions as a resistor varying in accordance with the ambient temperature. The two measuring resistors and two fixed reference resistors are switched into the modulating oscillator of the radio sonde by a switch responding to changes in the ambient pressure. The modulating frequency is thereby controlled to provide measurements of pressure, temperature, and humidity.

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GENERAL ELECTRIC APPLIES FOR TELEVISION PERMIT

General Electric Co., Schenectady, last week applied for a construction permit for a new television broadcasting station to be located at New Scotland, N. Y., for operation on 156000-162000 kc., with 10 watts power, unlimited time.

The international short-wave station, WRUL, operated by World Wide Broadcasting Corp., Boston, asked for authority to increase its power from 20 to 50 KW.

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NAB CODE SUBJECT OF NEWSPAPER FORUM DEBATE

A full page of contrary opinions on the Code of the National Association of Broadcasters was carried by the Washington Post Sunday in its weekly "American Forum" feature.

The lead articles were given to Neville Miller, President of NAB, who defended the Code, and to Elliott Roosevelt, who criticized it. Others who wrote in its behalf are Roger Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Norman Thomas, Chairman of the Socialist Party of America. Siding with young Roosevelt were Frank E. Gannett, publisher, and Morris Ernst, liberal lawyer and writer.

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FIVE NEW STATIONS RAISES TOTAL TO 812

The Federal Communications Commission issued operating licenses to five stations during the month of November. One operating station was deleted and four construction permits were issued for the construction of new stations.

There are now 755 standard broadcast stations operating and 57 under construction; bringing the total to 812.

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Willi Falke was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary last week for listening to a foreign radio broadcast in Berlin, according to the Associated Press. The court ruled that "it is dishonorable for a German to listen to lying foreign broadcasts which form the main weapon against Germany".

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REVOCATION HEARING OPENED BY FCC

The Federal Communications Commission this week was holding a hearing on revocation proceedings against WSAL, Salisbury, Md., based on charges of purported lack of financial responsibility and transfer of license without authority. The licensee is Frank M. Stearns. Glenn D. Gillett, consulting engineer, also was named a party, in view of financial interest in the station.

A hearing on the renewal of license of WBAX, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was ordered for Jan. 16 under a tentative calendar. The station license is held by John H. Stenger, Jr., but litigation developed over ownership and operation of the outlet. The hearing was ordered on the matter of control, with Mr. Gillett also a party.

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EUROPEAN PROGRAM EXCHANGE CONTINUES DESPITE WAR

A striking example of how international broadcasting remains undeterred by wartime difficulties was given by a concert from Italy that British listeners heard recently. Arrangements had been made months before for the relaying in BBC transmissions of the Italian program, but, on the assumption that the new conditions would prevent the broadcast's taking place, a concert by the BBC Salon Orchestra was planned as a substitute. While the orchestra was in the studio, waiting for the flick of the red light, there was a sudden 'phone call from the control room to say that the Italian engineers had come through to test the lines, and to confirm that Britain was waiting to take their program as planned.

Since then, programs originating in European countries have been - and are being - frequently heard by listeners to BBC broadcasts. In recent weeks, concerts from, for example, Turkey, Holland, Finland, and Switzerland, and several programs from Paris, have been relayed. Similarly, countries in Europe continue to relay programs originating in BBC studios.

Many of the broadcasts already heard were arranged before the war through the International Broadcasting Union at Geneva, that from Finland being taken by Germany as well as by Great Britain.

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FCC KIDDED AT RADIO LAWYERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

There were some hearty laughs at the expense of the members of the Federal Communications Commission, who, generally speaking, are inclined to take themselves pretty seriously, at a Christmas party given by Louis G. Caldwell, former president of the Federal Communications Commission Bar Association, in honor of Philip J. Hennessey, Jr., newly elected president of that Association, and Mrs. Hennessey. For several years now, these radio lawyers in their clever skits at annual dinners, have caused many a Commissioner to feel probably as does President Roosevelt sometimes, when the boys make it particularly warm for him at the Gridiron.

Even as the guests entered the Caldwell home, they realized they were in for a pretty hilarious time when they saw a large sign over the door of the room where the men checked their hats and coats, which read: "Inter-Venenors", while over the doorway into the room where the ladies left their wraps was a placard reading "Inter-Venuses".

Downstairs most every room was labeled. One had a sign, "Hearing Room - Intervenors Not Allowed (for Long)". "Persons Adversely Affected -- This Way" was a sign pointing from the Hearing Room to the Bar Room. Other inscriptions noted were: "Please Reflect International Culture and Good Will (This Rule Temporarily Suspended By FCC)"; "No Controversies On Important Matters"; and "This House is a Closed Shop Under the NAB Code".

There was a witness book which every guest had to sign and a bound volume containing the guests' acceptances, which was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Hennessey. In accepting, at least two of those invited said that they were enclosing 14 copies of their acceptance, thus complying with the FCC extra copies rule.

There were three past presidents of the organization present - first president, Mr. Caldwell, formerly Chief Counsel of the Commission and now attorney for Station WGN, of Chicago, and others; Duke M. Patrick, and Frank J. Roberson.

In presenting the illuminated crown of the presidency to Mr. Hennessey, Mr. Roberson remarked, "I hope you have better luck with the Commission than I did".

The proceedings were interrupted by the shrieking of police sirens, which proved to be the broadcast, presumably, of a riot occasioned by the pleading of the Federal Communications Commission Bar Association, and the election of Mr. Hennessey. This broadcast, which was made to order by NBC, under the direction of Mr. Bellar of Mr. Caldwell's law firm, proved to be a regular Orson Welles, "Martian" thriller.

Among those at the party, many accompanied by their wives, were Federal Communications Commissioners Paul A. Walker and T.A.M. Craven; Congressman Clarence F. Lea, of California, Chairman of the House Interstate Commerce Committee; Senator Wallace White, of Maine, of the Senate Commerce Committee; Frank M. Russell, Vice-President of the National Broadcasting Company; Kenneth H. Berkeley, Manager of the NBC in Washington; Ted Shawn, of the NBC; Paul Porter, counsel of Columbia; William J. Dempsey, Chief Counsel of the FCC; former FCC Commissioner Judge E. O. Sykes; Thomas P. Littlepage, Jr., radio counsellor; Jouett Shouse; Donald Richberg; Marriner S. Eccles, of the Federal Reserve Board; Justin Miller and Harold M. Stephens, Associate Justices of the D. C. Court of Appeals; Justice Bolitha J. Laws of the U. S. District Court, and Martin Codel, publisher of Broadcasting Magazine. There were also present numerous members of the Gridiron Club and their wives.

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FORMULA FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS APPROVED

An eight-point formula was prescribed for children's radio programs this week at a luncheon meeting at the Town Hall Club of members of the Radio Council on Children's Programs and representatives of the National Association of Broadcasters and major networks, including the National, Columbia and Mutual systems.

The formula, which was approved by the broadcasting officials, provides that children's programs be entertaining, be dramatic with reasonable suspense, possess high artistic quality and integrity, express correct English and diction, appeal to the child's sense of humor, be within the scope of the child's imagination, stress human relations for cooperative living and intercultural understanding and appreciation.

Mrs. Harold V. Milligan, Radio Chairman of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and head of the Council, cited the eight points as attributes juvenile radio entertainment should have in order to be included in the recommended lists that the Council will distribute to affiliated organizations.

It also was reported that the Broadcasters Association intends to include the eight-point formula in its code of self-regulation, the New York Times reported.

The Council, which has national headquarters at 45 Rockefeller Plaza, was formed "to bring about better children's radio programs". Mrs. Nathaniel Singer, Radio Chairman of the United Parents' Association and National Vice-Chairman of the Council, is Executive Secretary in charge of activities. Five organizations compose the Council: the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Library Association, the United Parents' Association, the New England Council of Women and Junior Programs, Inc.

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A. T. & T. EMPLOYEES PROTEST WIRE MERGER PLAN

An organization of employees of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., announced this week in New York City that it would protest to the Federal Communications Commission against any unification of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies which would affect the A. T. & T.

The memorandum of the Federation of Long Lines Telephone Workers, to be filed with the FCC, objected to the FCC's reported plan to recommend a merger of the telegraph companies which would permit the new concern to take over the leased wire and teletype-writer exchange services of the A. T. & T., "so as to bolster the revenues of the consolidated organization".

Opposition to such a plan, the organization said, was based on the possibility of "damage to a large number of employees in our organization which might very well result therefrom through furloughs, layoffs, discharges or otherwise". The Federation claims a membership of 8,500.

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BRITISH GET RADIO SCRIPTS FROM WESTERN FRONT

Much of the war news broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation and heard via short-wave in this country, is obtained directly from the front-line of the western front, according to the BBC.

Describing how its observers "get the story", the BBC submits the following account:

A machine-gun post in the French front-line was the studio; a BBC observer the artist. The control-room was a camouflaged car, drawn up in a tree-shaded position 200 feet behind the post. About eighty-five feet away was the enemy's front line. . .

Peering through the gun embrasure, the BBC observer, microphone in hand, described what he could see; back in the car, an engineer ensured that the description was satisfactorily recorded. The enemy may well have watched him at work.

But all was quiet in the German lines that day, and so, in due time, a graphic sound-picture of life on the edge of No Man's Land was heard by listeners to BBC programs.

The occasion was typical of how the BBC's observers on the Western Front - Richard Dimpleby, David Howard, and the recording engineer, H.F.L. Sarney - "get the story".

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Already the saloon car that carries the recording equipment has travelled thousands of miles in the search after "actuality", and the results have given to listeners not only vivid impressions of daily life in and behind the lines, but unique assurances of the welfare, cheerfulness, and determined enthusiasm of the men who are "out there".

Officially accredited as war correspondents, wearing uniform and ranking as officers, Dimbleby, Howarth, and Sarney are based in a hotel in a French town behind the lines. (The BBC observer with the R.A.F. in France - C.J.J. Gardner - is stationed elsewhere.)

An attic that is at once a recording studio, office, sitting-room, and a bedroom for their batman is their headquarters; on a baize-topped table is a microphone; there is a mattress on the floor and a couple of armchairs, a sideboard, and a radiogram against the walls. Through the window runs the cable that connects the microphone to the recording car in the garage below.

"We use the room", said Dimbleby, in an interview, "as a studio for recording the commentaries linking the actuality accounts, and for modifying the records in accordance with the censor's requirements."

Scripts are made of all recorded material and of the linking commentaries for submission to the censors. The records are "sub-edited" as corrections on the scripts may demand, then the censors are invited to the studio in the attic to hear and check the final recordings. On each passed disc an officer records a few words signifying approval.

Then the records are ready for despatch. While Dimbleby and his colleagues sleep, the discs are flown to England, and less than twenty-four hours after their original cutting, are available for broadcasting.

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MOTHER HEARS SON BROADCAST GRAF SPEE SINKING

A Washington woman had a double thrill Sunday when she heard the radio description of the sinking of the German pocket-battleship, Admiral Graf Spee, off Montevideo. The woman is Mrs. Jane Bowen, Director of the Alva Belmont House, headquarters of the National Woman's Party. The announcer who delivered a rapid-fire eye-witness story of the sinking is her son, James, whose voice she had not heard in four years.

Just as James, who is 43, was asking National Broadcasting Company headquarters in New York to communicate with his mother so that she would know he was to broadcast what was expected to be the Graf Spee's dash through the Allied cordon, the battleship exploded and he was immediately connected in with the regular hook-up. NBC notified Mrs. Bowen by phone.

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TRADE NOTES

Powel Crosley, Jr., President of the Crosley Corporation, of Cincinnati, has been appointed to a colonelcy by Governor John E. Miles of New Mexico. He will serve as aide-de-camp on the Governor's staff.

Consolidated Edison, advertising in the New York Times last week, pointed out that one cent's worth of electricity "will bring you three hours and six minutes of radio entertainment from your G.E. radio-phonograph."

One of the busiest spots around Washington is the site of WJSV's new 50,000-watt transmitting plant at Wheaton, Md., just north of Kensington. Workmen from a dozen trades swarm over the swanky, ultra-modern building. Already the three 340-foot antenna towers have altered the complexion of the countryside. When the plant is completed about February 1st, a new sightseeing spot becomes available, an old familiar landmark near Alexandria will pass (the existing 10,000-watt transmitter on Memorial Boulevard).

Frederick L. Redefers, Executive Secretary of the Progressive Education Association, has been added to the Board of Consultants of "Columbia's American School of the Air", according to Sterling Fisher, CBS Director of Education. Other officials of the Association on the Board are Miss Margaret Harrison, the organization's radio consultant, and Miss Alice V. Keliher.

A Wireless Telegraph Board has been established in South Africa, according to the American Commercial Attache at Johannesburg. Its functions will be to consider all matters relating to radio, to coordinate Government policy in respect of radio, and generally to assist the Postmaster-General in exercising the control vested in him. The new Board will be presided over by the Director-General of Signals. The telegraph regulations have now been amended by the addition of a provision that in all matters relating to radio within the Union, the Postmaster-General shall be guided by the recommendations of the Wireless Telegraph Board. No license shall be issued under the Radio Act of 1926 without the recommendation of the Board.

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RCA, G.E. AND WESTINGHOUSE SIGN AGREEMENT

Announcement that the Radio Corporation of America has entered into new license agreements with the General Electric Company and Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company was made this week by officers of the three companies. The new agreement is supplemental to license agreements which have been in effect between the companies since 1932.

Expanding research and engineering activities of the several companies, providing new horizons of application of radio and electronic devices, make the new arrangement desirable, it was stated. Under the new licenses for the United States and most foreign countries, RCA will be enabled to put the results of its research to broader uses in both radio and other industries employing electronic devices. In general, RCA has acquired from General Electric and Westinghouse the right to sell, and to grant licenses to others for the sale of, most types of radio tubes for all uses, and has also acquired the right to sell associated apparatus for many uses.

Under the agreement, General Electric and Westinghouse acquire from RCA the right to sell equipment, including tubes, for many radio applications, such as broadcasting transmitters, television and facsimile apparatus, and airport equipment.

The new agreement widens the scope of activities of the three companies by giving to each a broader market for its products and services, a joint statement said.

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WOR SPECIAL FEATURES INCREASE 23% IN YEAR 1939

The stroke of midnight marking the New Year 1940 will bring to a close a year marked by an increase of 23% in Special Features, spot news, talks and sports broadcasts heard over WOR, New York City, during the past twelve months. It also will mark the fifth anniversary of the Special Features Division, begun in 1935 by G. W. Johnstone, Director of Public Relations and Special Features.

More than 1005 spot news, talk and special feature programs will have been heard over WOR by January 1 in contrast to 720 heard over WOR in 1938. Five hundred and twenty-two were broadcast in 1937. Of the 1939 total of 1005, more than 637 were originated by the WOR Special Features Division. The WOR originations do not include a large number of European originations by Mutual which were handled in one form or another by the WOR staff. For example, the scores of European broadcasts technically booked and accounted for by the Mutual Broadcasting System during the war crisis and ensuing months were in a large part supervised, directed and routed by WOR Special Featuresmen, assisted by members of the Program Department.

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