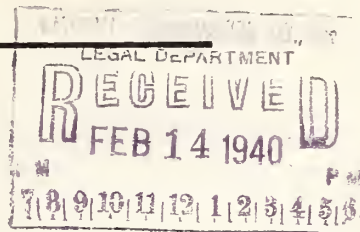


HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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No. 1208

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

February 13, 1940

BAN ON BROADCASTS BY ALIENS DISCUSSED

Prohibition of domestic radio programs produced by aliens is being discussed by the Federal Communications Commission at the instigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was reported this week.

Under the present Communications Act, aliens are prohibited from owning radio broadcast stations, and it is contended this restriction should be extended to prevent aliens from having any part in the production of programs in order to eliminate possibility of subversive propaganda being disseminated over the air.

Any such prohibition might be difficult to put into effect and, in any event, would require legislative action, it was pointed out. Discussion of it was prompted by the F.B.I. investigation of espionage in this country.

The discussion, it was explained, has nothing to do with reception in the United States of short-wave propaganda broadcasts by powerful foreign stations. It is aimed at broadcasts over standard wave stations in this country, and is designed to stop at the source any programs which might include material intended to influence the minds of listeners against democratic principles and in favor of foreign "isms".

It was explained it might be a simple matter to prohibit radio stations from using programs produced by aliens, but it would be more difficult to control a situation where a citizen might be found preparing a program containing subversive propaganda. In the latter case, the Commission would be powerless to stop the program under the law's restriction against censorship.

But there is reported to be a growing tendency within the majority of the Commission now to control the kind and type of programs being used by broadcast stations and the networks. It led to a bitter battle earlier in the week when the "Pot of Gold" program was under consideration. Then the conservative membership won a partial victory when the matter was sent to the Department of Justice.

It was contended that for the Commission to take any action against the program at this time would be just as much censorship as to rule the program could not go on the air.

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It was impressed on the Commission it would be on stronger ground, if the Department of Justice presented the facts to a court and, if the program was ruled to be a lottery, the Commission could still take action against the stations which put the program on the air.

It is known that tremendous political pressure was brought against the program on behalf of certain moving picture theater owners who complained they were suffering from the competition, because their theater audiences were being depleted on the night the program is broadcast.

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PREPARED STATEMENTS BARRED AT "F.M." HEARING

The reading of prepared statements, which has been frowned upon ever since James L. Fly became Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, will not be permitted at the frequency modulation hearing which will begin on March 18th. The order has been issued, it was explained, "in order to expedite the proceedings".

The final date for the filing of written statements, sketches, drawings, etc., in connection with argument, has been extended to March 11.

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NYC GETS SPECIAL EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE

The New York City Police Department this week was granted special temporary authority to operate Class II Experimental Municipal Police Station on A4 and A3 emission, using the equipment, frequencies and licensed power of Municipal Police Station WRGR, for the purpose of conducting tests to determine the practicability of utilizing radio operated teletype machines. The authority is to be from date of grant until further order of the Commission, but not beyond one month, subject to condition that no interference will be caused to the service for which the transmitters are primarily licensed.

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FCC TO RULE ON NAVAL TIME SIGNAL REQUESTS

Broadcasting stations were advised this week that they may henceforth obtain permission to rebroadcast Naval Observatory time signals from the Federal Communications Commission.

In a notice to standard station licensees, the FCC said:

"It is the policy of the Navy Department to consent to the rebroadcasting of the Naval Observatory Time signals in all cases where satisfactory assurance has been given that the following conditions will be complied with by the broadcast station concerned.

- "(1) Announcement of the time signal must be made without reference to any commercial activity;
- "(2) The time signal to be rebroadcast must be obtained by direct reception from a Naval radio transmitter which is broadcasting the time signal;
- "(3) The Naval Observatory time signals are intended to be sufficiently accurate for astronomical and other scientific purposes. No time, therefore, may be announced as a Naval Observatory time signal if any time lag has been introduced.

"In order to avoid hereafter the necessity for each individual licensee to make application to the Navy Department for the consent to rebroadcast the Naval Observatory time signals, requests therefor may be made direct to the Commission under the provisions of Section 3.94 without being submitted to the Navy Department, provided appropriate representation is made with the request that the above conditions will be complied with in full. Representations of compliance with conditions 2 and 3 shall include such diagrams, descriptions and data as necessary to show that no time lag in excess of 0.04 second has been introduced.

"In addition to the above conditions, requests for such authorizations must be made for the full license term when accompanying an application for renewal of license or for the balance of the unexpired license period when made after the application for license has been granted."

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The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin returned to the air Sunday but made no mention of the cancellation of his broadcast last week.

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WORLD TIME CONVERSION CHART AIDS RECEPTION

General Electric this week was distributing copies of a world time conversion chart in hours which enables short-wave listeners to gauge the time of any other country on the globe in relation to their own time.

"With this chart", General Electric explained, "you can convert standard time in any zone to Greenwich Meridian Time or tell what time it is in other parts of the world."

By means of dark and light shading, the chart also shows where day and night begin and end.

General Electric, according to Mr. E. S. Darlington, In Charge of Short-Wave Broadcasting, is offering the charts in Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English to its far-flung listeners of Stations WGEA and WGEO, of Schenectady, and KGEI, of San Francisco.

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F.D.R. IS CANDIDATE OF LONDON RADIO TIMES

While Americans in this country may be divided over the third term issue, the "Radio Times", of London, journal of the British Broadcasting Corporation, has come out flatly for the re-election of President Roosevelt.

Discussing a series of talks on "Men of the Hour", the journal comments on a talk on Mr. Roosevelt by Sir Frederick Whyte, thus:

"Personally, we find Roosevelt perhaps the most interesting of the whole galaxy. Although he has lived all his life in a country where everything is publicized and all the facts are on the record, people disagree about him more even than about Stalin, the Man of Mystery. Millions swear by him, but the average business man can't speak his name without foaming at the mouth. Any joke against him goes down well in the Pullmans, and most of the papers seem to knock him all the time, yet he is strongly backed for a third term. Nobody's for him but the people' - as his friends say."

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BROADCAST MUSIC, INC., NOW "GOING CONCERN"

Broadcast Music, Inc., was declared a "going concern" by its Board of Directors, meeting last week in the company's new offices at 580 Fifth Avenue, New York City, the National Association of Broadcasters has announced in its weekly bulletin.

The total amount of funds actually received or pledged was \$1,140,357.50. Members of the Board expressed confidence that as other station commitments are received the figure will exceed the \$1,500,000.

Stock certificates and license agreements will be issued in the very near future. It was also announced that the selection of personnel for the staff of BMI will be completed shortly. Meanwhile, Neville Miller will continue to serve as President of the corporation, and Sydney M. Kaye as Vice President and General Counsel.

Members of the Board present at the meeting were: John Elmer, Edward Klauber, Lenox R. Lohr, Samuel R. Rosenbaum, John Shepard, III, and Neville Miller, President, and Sydney Kaye, Vice President and General Counsel. Also present was Everett E. Revercomb, acting Secretary and Treasurer of the corporation.

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CBS MAY WRITE OWN SCRIPT FOR U.S. PROGRAMS

A contemplated policy of the Columbia Broadcasting System to write its own scripts for broadcasts on governmental themes, and to discontinue present Government-prepared programs, may change Uncle Sam's appearance on the air waves, according to the "Federal Diary" in the Washington Post.

"It was learned that C.B.S., beset by pleas of many Federal agencies for network time, believes it can solve the problem only by using programs on subjects pertaining to several departments, that are written by Columbia", the article said.

"The chain has discontinued the Interior Department program 'What Price America' after a year's run, although it awarded the program the prize for the most interesting Government series on the air. In its place, a temporary program has been substituted, pending development of the network's own series on governmental subjects.

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"C.B.S. still carries programs of the Office of Education, but if C.B.S. develops its policy to completion, these may be discontinued.

"The contemplated action raises the question whether the Government can find in the future any outlet for programs of its own preparation. Federal radio experts also expressed doubt the network would be able to present adequate broadcasts unless a much larger sum of money is devoted to them than now appears probable."

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NO SHOT-BY-SHOT BROADCAST OF BATTLE, SAYS BBC

"There is a tendency to imagine that the BBC broadcasts from the battlefield areas will be in the nature of running commentaries while the actual events are taking place", "London Calling", a BBC weekly organ comments. "Many people in Australia, for instance, thought that there would be a kind of ball-by-ball commentary on the war, after the manner of the Test Match commentaries. They seem to have overlooked the fact that such a commentary would be more eagerly listened to by the enemy than by anyone else. The whole course of a battle might be changed disastrously if the enemy were apprised of what was happening at certain critical moments.

"Listeners can take it for granted that the BBC commentators will be subject to the same rules of rigid censorship as are war correspondents. Everything a war correspondent writes must be censored before it is released for publication; similarly everything spoken by a broadcasting commentator must be censored and the only way in which this can be done is for the commentary to be recorded and broadcast later, at a suitable time. Listeners can take it, however, that within those limitations they will be able to hear many thrilling stories from the battlefield."

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The Kansas City Star last Sunday inaugurated a complete new suite of studios, control and office rooms in the Star Building for WDAF, its radio station.

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TRADE NOTES

The U. S. Civil Service Commission this week released application blanks preparatory to holding open competitive examinations for the positions of Radio Inspector at \$2,600 a year and an Assistant Radio Inspector at \$2,000 a year with the Federal Communications Commission.

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Local and spot sales on the 15 stations owned, operated or programmed by the National Broadcasting Company this year broke all previous records for the month of January, according to James V. McConnell, NBC's National Spot and Local Sales Manager. The total revenue for January, 1940, was \$516,400, an increase of 31 percent over the January, 1939, figure of \$392,700.

In making the announcement, Mr. McConnell also predicted a bright outlook for the remainder of 1940, with every indication, he said, that the percentage increase would be maintained throughout the year.

Charged with misrepresentation in the sale of "V-Bev", a medicinal preparation, Purity Products, Inc., 1060 Broad St., Newark, N.J., The Journal of Living Publishing Corporation, 1819 Broadway, New York, and Victor H. Lindlahr, have been served with a complaint by the Federal Trade Commission. Mr. Lindlahr controls the advertising practices of Purity Products, Inc., with respect to "V-Bev", and is editor of "The Journal of Living", published by the New York corporation and used for advertising the Purity company's preparation. The respondents advertise by radio and in newspapers.

Edgar Morris, distributor for the Zenith Radio Corporation in Washington, has been named Chairman of the annual Cherry Blossom Festival Committee by the District of Columbia Commissioners.

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DATA SOUGHT ON OVERSEAS TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION

Carriers engaged in international telegraph communication were this week ordered by the Federal Communications Commission to file with the Commission, not later than April 1 next, certain information concerning such service with Europe, Africa, the Near East, Asia, Oceania, the West Indies, and Central and South America.

In order to secure full knowledge of existing overseas traffic, carriers will be required to count words and messages in each direction on March 6, and report the results to the Commission along with other information concerning present routes and the number and age of circuits in operation, and whether there was interruption to communication between 1934 and 1939.

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"SCOOP" CREDITED TO SHORT-WAVE RADIO RECEPTION

The Chicago Daily Times obtained a news "scoop" by means of direct reception of a short-wave broadcast from Vatican City regarding Nazi atrocities in Poland.

The "scoop" was credited to the Times by Oren Weaver, Midwest News Editor of the Columbia Broadcasting System chain in Chicago. Speaking over Station WBBM, Mr. Weaver said news reports from Vatican City had "confirmed the story by which B. E. Lucas of The Chicago Times had scooped the entire nation when he broke the story (of Nazi atrocities as reported by the Vatican) last week."

"We call that good reporting", Mr. Weaver said over the air. "Here's orchids to Mr. Lucas."

In another article which the Times captioned "But that's only the half of it!", the Chicago paper said:

"The Chicago Times is one American newspaper which does not fall for British propaganda', Nazi radio station DJC in Berlin broadcast. Fred Kaltenbach, formerly of Waterloo, Ia., and now in Berlin, quoted extensively from Mr. Lucas' 'We're Listening' column. According to Mr. Lucas, the Germans failed to mention 'all the buckets of cold water I have poured on Kaltenbach's broadcasting. They used only what helped their case and dared not quote what I said about German propaganda.'"

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WMCA TO HAVE STRONGEST SIGNAL

A new type three tower directional antenna system which will give WMCA the strongest daylight signal of any independent radio station in the New York area will be constructed at Kearney, N.J., for WMCA's new 5,000 watt transmitter, permission for which was granted by the Federal Communications Commission Thursday. The permit boosts WMCA's daylight power five fold and provides for the removal of its transmitter from Flushing, Long Island, where it has been located for eight years.

Covering an area of 30 acres, the three towers will concentrate the WMCA signal into metropolitan New York. An elaborate groundwork of copper wiring spread fanwise under each tower will intensify the signal, comprising a strength equivalent to 15,000 watts, according to engineers. This ground system, containing more than 30 miles of wire, will act as a deflector in preventing loss of signal into the earth, it was explained.

The new transmitter will be housed in a modernistic structure of white terra cotta. Designed especially for the new system by WMCA engineers in cooperation with RCA, the building will be streamlined and windowless with special glass brick walls. Inside the building, a special air conditioning plant will keep the temperature controlled at all times. Emergency equipment will also be housed in the building in the event of failure of the primary transmitter.

The three towers of the antenna system will be built in parallel formation spaced 385 feet apart and rising 325 feet high. The top of each tower will be equipped with flashing beacon lights to warn approaching aircraft. Using a directional system to concentrate the signal in the metropolitan area the center tower is known as the "radiator" while the west tower is the "reflector" and the east tower serves as a "director" of the signal.

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GILL OPENS OWN RESEARCH AGENCY

Samuel E. Gill, who last month resigned as Director of Research for Crossley, Inc., has announced the opening of offices at 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City.

Mr. Gill, formerly connected with the National Resources Board and later with the Twentieth Century Fund, will deal principally with analytical phases of research. The service will be offered to advertisers and their agencies on a fee basis. Such field work as is carried on will be done only under the personal supervision of Mr. Gill or a member of his New York staff by professional market research workers who have, through a strict course of field training, become highly competent operators.

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