

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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WILLIAM KOSTKA

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No. 1237

HOUSE REFUSES FUNDS FOR U.S. RADIO DIVISION

An overwhelming voice vote on the House floor yesterday (Thursday, May 23) spelled the end of the Radio Division in the Office of Education.

The vote came late in the day on an amendment offered by Representative Coffee (D.), of Washington, to strike out a section of the Relief Appropriation Act barring use of any of its funds for radio, film and theater work.

The House shouted down the amendment without debate. Education officials saw little hope that the action would be reversed in conference.

Representative Coffee, in his remarks on the amendment, said:

"Mr. Chairman, Section 24(e) forbids the use of any of the funds appropriated in the Works Progress Administration bill for the use of radio broadcasting or motion pictures. It seems to me that, when the Nation's security is imperiled and when the value and importance of our natural resources - our supplies of timber, coal, oil, copper, and the strategic minerals - are things of great concern to us, we would be aiding national defense and the conservation aspects of this bill if we did not specifically bar the way to whatever small sums may be necessary to continue at their high standard such a fine series of conservation programs on the air as What Price America?

"If the United States is to defend itself against all comers, we must preserve and conserve our natural resources. And if we are effectively to preserve and conserve our natural resources, we must see that all Americans are aware of the problem and of its importance.

"The Department of the Interior and other departments are interested in conservation. They have dramatized the need of it on the air, and I hope they will continue to dramatize. These programs are non-partisan in character. They are not Republican or Democratic. No Member on either side of the aisle can charge that they are. They are conservation programs, dedicated to the cause of awakening the national conscience to the importance of preserving for ourselves and our posterity the great heritage of natural resources which a bountiful Providence bequeathed to us.

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"More than 105,000 Americans were so moved by the importance and need of conservation in the United States, as a result of one of these educational series alone, namely, What Price America? that they wrote in for literature on the subject. That is the kind of education we need in this country of ours. That is why I hope we will not deprive any of these conservation agencies of the few thousand dollars that they might need for radio broadcasting.

"If a foreign foe ever invades the United States - which God forbid - it will be because our Government and our people did not know how to conserve and utilize wisely our abundant natural resources. I hope the amendment I have offered will prevail."

The radio project was written off the same week that a ruling of the Federal Communications Commission opened the way for what officials saw as a boom for education through radio. The FCC set aside five broadcast channels for non-commercial educational stations to use a new non-static "frequency modulation" type of broadcasting. These new radio channels, officials said, would permit building up to 3,000 local stations for education work, compared with the 1,200 now operating. In this program, education officials had expected the Radio Division to continue its work of aiding radio projects in schools, colleges and other educational institutions.

During the past four years the Radio Division has cooperated with nearly a score of schools and colleges in radio research and demonstration. It has furnished a script exchange for the 1,200 local radio groups. Loans of its scripts have totaled about 250,000.

In addition the project has produced some 700 programs on education, safety, science, literature, democracy, history, Americanism and other topics. New programs under study for the next year included one series to show the contributions of various sections of the United States to national development, and another to encourage children's reading.

The Division had sought an appropriation in the Federal Security bill to organize its work on a permanent basis. The item was left out after Congressmen objected that the agency had never been authorized. Their bid for \$250,000 in the Relief bill would have continued their appropriation at the same rate as in the current year. Normal staff of the Division has been about 200 persons. About 175 persons now employed are from the WPA rolls.

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TELEVISION ORDER DELAYED UNTIL NEXT WEEK

While the Federal Communications Commission held several meetings this week on television, its decision will not be announced before next week, and FCC spokesman said.

There has been no announcement as to the date when the order will be released, but it is expected early next week or before Decoration Day.

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FCC AMENDS RULES, DISMISSES 150 APPLICATIONS

Following up its order allocating frequency modulation 40 channels, the Federal Communications Commission this week issued an order amending its rules and regulations to conform, changing the assignments of 26 stations, and dismissing the applications of 150 stations for channels no longer available for the purpose sought.

The stations whose frequencies were changed were given 30 days to file formal notices in opposition before the new rules become operative.

Under the amendment to Appendix B of the General Rules and Regulations, the following allocations are made:

41,000 to	42,000 kc.	- Government (Jan. 1, 1941)
42,100 to	49,900 kc.	- Broadcast
60,000 to	66,000 kc.	- Television (Jan. 1, 1941)
116,000 to	118,000 kc.	- Experimental (Jan. 1, 1941)
118,000 to	119,000 kc.	- Experimental (Jan. 1, 1941)
119,000 to	129,000 kc.	- Government
132,000 to	140,000 kc.	- Government (Jan. 1, 1941)
156,000 to	162,000 kc.	- Experimental

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TAXI, UNDERTAKER FIND NEW USES FOR RADIO

Attention of the Federal Communications Commission has been called to alleged use of radio by a Philadelphia taxicab concern for dispatching purposes. The Commission has granted no authorization for such class of private service and is making inquiry.

The Commission has warned an Illinois undertaking firm that intercepting police radio calls for the purpose of dispatching private ambulances to the scene of traffic accidents for the solicitation of business is a violation of the law.

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WAR SPURS INTEREST IN RADIO IN INDIA

The growing interest in broadcasting in India under war conditions is reflected in the import figures of broadcast receiving sets for the quarter ending December 31, 1939, which reached the total of 11,999, the highest for any quarter so far, according to the American Consulate General at Calcutta. The total number of sets imported into India during 1939 was 39,524. The month of December in 1939 was a record month for the issue of broadcast licenses which reached the figure of 10,873, but of which 4,482 were new licenses. This brings the total number of licenses in force at the end of 1939 to 92,772.

The Government of India has made new rules for the licensing of wireless receiving apparatus. Under these rules, a person who works any wireless receiving apparatus without the requisite license or continues to work any such apparatus after the expiration of his license is made liable to a surcharge of 20 rupees in the case of a broadcast receiver license and 50 rupees in the case of a commercial broadcast license.

A press release issued by the Government of India a few months ago states that all municipal and other similar public bodies which reproduce broadcast programs to the general public by the installation of wireless receiver sets or loud speakers in public places are permitted by the condition of their licenses to reproduce in public programs broadcast by the All-India Radio only. No programs broadcast by any other radio station are permitted to be reproduced.

The Government of the United Provinces has instructed the District Police to see that radio receiving or broadcasting sets or any such material do not fall into undesirable hands. Radio dealers have been requested by the Police to keep them informed of any abnormal demand that may arouse suspicion. The trade is also required to submit to the authorities a list of persons who have purchased sets after the declaration of war.

Studies of reception conditions, particularly with reference to the internal short wave service, are being made by All-India Radio. Pulse measurements are taken and the results so far obtained show that the transmission on the 31 meter band in the morning gives somewhat unsatisfactory reception within 300 miles of the transmitting station during July and August due to the intervention of 'skip distance' effects. Research in this matter is being made with an exhaustive study of ionospheric conditions. Frequencies of the stations of All-India Radio are checked regularly by the research workers at the Todapur Receiving Center of Delhi. Any appreciable deviation is rectified. Reception conditions of the British Broadcasting Corporation stations are also kept under continual observation.

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GROWTH OF MARINE RADIO CITED BY COMMISSION

Marine uses of radio has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, the Federal Communications Commission points out in a review of its duties in connection with the work. During the last three years, the FCC said, the number of ship radiotelephone licenses has increased more than 300 percent.

The Communications Act contains specific provision with respect to the employment of radio for the promotion of safety of life and property at sea, and the duty of enforcing the radio provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea adds to the Federal Communications Commission's responsibility in this field.

There are two general types of marine radio services: ship radiotelegraphy, using telegraph code signals; and ship telephony, permitting voice conversation. The large ships which are required by law to provide radio facilities are equipped with radiotelegraph equipment. However, the smaller vessels which are not required by law to be radio-equipped find it more convenient to employ radiotelephony to communicate with other ships and the coastal harbor stations on land.

Licenses to operate ship radio stations are issued by the Commission. At the present time there are more than 4,300 outstanding ship licenses. Approximately one-half of this number are issued to ship telephone stations. Twenty coastal harbor stations have been licensed to communicate with ship telephone stations; four others are under construction.

Ship and shore telephone radio frequencies are now active with transmissions to and from vessels navigating the Great Lakes, the coastal waters, and the inland waters of the United States.

The specific frequencies 2738, 35,860, and 37,660 kilocycles are assigned to ship telephone stations for communicating primarily with other ship telephone stations. That of 2738 kilocycles is the one most widely used at the present time. The ship-to-shore frequencies are governed by the respective frequencies of the individual coastal harbor stations. Various frequencies throughout the spectrum are assigned to ship radiotelegraph communication, the frequencies 3115, 3120, 35,860 and 37,660 being used primarily for contact with other ship radiotelegraph stations.

The privilege of operating a radio transmitting station aboard United States ships is limited to citizens. Heavy penalties are provided by law for the operation of a ship radio station by unlicensed personnel.

In the past the owners of small craft had been reluctant to use radiotelegraphy, since a knowledge of the International Morse Code is required for this type of communication. With the advent of radiotelephony these vessel owners have been able to equip their boats with such service and act as operators themselves without acquiring a working knowledge of the telegraph code. However, a person who holds an amateur operator license only is not permitted to operate any class of ship station. Under certain conditions, the holder of a restricted radiotelephone operator permit may operate a ship radiotelephone station. Adjustment of apparatus can be made only by a licensed operator holding at least a Second Class Radiotelephone Operator License.

The Commission maintains special marine safety radio watches at Baltimore, Md., and Portland, Ore. These stations are manned on a 24-hour basis by trained experts equipped with special marine receivers, auto-alarms, and frequency measuring apparatus. Here observations and frequency measurements are made regularly on all classes of ship radio stations. A ship station may have its frequency thus measured many times a year, yet no report is made to the licensee unless an off-frequency condition is found to exist.

Under the law, all radio stations are required to give absolute priority to radio communications or signals relating to ships in distress, must not cause interference to such calls, and must assist distressed vessels as far as possible.

Under the rules of the Commission, ship stations are not permitted to make one-way calls to fixed points on land, nor are they normally permitted to communicate with amateur stations. Needless "chatter" is also frowned upon.

Detailed information about ship radio service may be found in the following three publications obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at the prices indicated: "Rules Governing Ship Service" (Part 8), 10 cents; "Rules Governing Commercial Radio Operators" (Part 13), and "Study Guide and Reference Material for Commercial Radio Operator License Examinations", 15 cents.

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The Federal Communications Commission this week adopted proposed findings of Fact (No. P-5) and entered an order granting the application of Eddie Erlbacher for a construction permit to erect a new coastal harbor radio telephone station at Cape Girardeau, Mo., to operate unlimited time on frequency 2738 kilocycles, with power of 50 watts. In this connection the motion of Warner and Tamble Radio Service, to remand the case for further hearing, was denied.

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RADIO CORRESPONDENTS CELEBRATE FIRST ANNUAL DINNER

Hailed as the forerunner of another outstanding yearly event in a class with the Gridiron or the White House Correspondents' yearly gatherings, was the First Annual Dinner of the Radio Correspondents' Association at the Mayflower last night (Thursday, May 23). The Association includes the principal radio commentators of Washington and is made up of members of the Radio Correspondents' Galleries of the Capitol. Up to a year ago only the press had galleries in the Senate and House. They refused to take the radio commentators aboard and as a result of a fight led by Fulton Lewis, Jr., of the Mutual Broadcasting System, legislation was enacted by Congress reserving a front row of seats alongside the Senate and House Press Galleries for the radio news men, and giving them a workroom at each end of the Capitol, where broadcasting equipment is now kept and where the announcement of big news events may be put on the air at an instant's notice. Further recognition for the radio correspondents is the fact that this year for the first time they will have seats and facilities provided for them at both the National Conventions and will receive exactly the same courtesies as the press.

Having made that much progress in a year, the Radio Correspondents' first dinner was a happy occasion, outstanding credit being given to Mr. Lewis, President of the organization, by Postmaster General James A. Farley, Senator W. Warren Barbour, of New Jersey, Senator John A. Donaher, of Connecticut, and Representative John J. Dempsey, of New Mexico. Mr. Lewis gracefully passed the bouquets back to the legislators who made possible the creation of the Radio Correspondents' Galleries. There was an important off-the-record talk by Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, who gave assurance that there would be no cause for undue apprehension in wartime government radio control. There were several very clever radio skits by electrical transcription, and altogether the dinner was a great success.

At the conclusion, Mr. Lewis inducted his successor President-elect Albert L. Warner, of the Columbia Broadcasting System, into the new office.

Among those present from out-of-town were Alfred J. McCosker, President of the Mutual Broadcasting System; Frank Mullen, Vice-President of the Radio Corporation of America; and Niles Trammel, Vice-President of the National Broadcasting Company. Absent was Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission.

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TRADE NOTES

World radio market series issued by the Department of Commerce this week included Falkland Islands, British Somaliland, British Honduras, and Mozambique.

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The Federal Communications Commission this week discharged an order to show cause why the license of the Voice of Brooklyn, operator of WLTH, Brooklyn, N. Y., should not be revoked. It was explained that "interference conditions existing at the time of the issuance" of the first order have been eliminated.

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Station WLW will broadcast directly over special lines from the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia beginning June 24, according to James D. Shouse, Vice President of the Crosley Corporation in charge of broadcasting. WLW will send a staff of four men to cover the convention. They will include Peter Grant, chief announcer and ace commentator, and Fred Thomas, script writer for Grant's regular nightly programs over the station.

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An administrative order (No. 4) of the Reich Trustee for Communication Devices, forbids the manufacture of 88 types of radio types in Germany, according to the American Embassy in Berlin. It is understood that many of these types are identical and only traded under different denominations as the coordination and standardization program of the German radio industry called for a reduction from the 66 different types of radio tubes produced at the end of August of 1939 to only 23 types in the production year 1940-41. The Administrative Order seems to have been issued along these pre-established lines.

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SOVIET UNION EXPANDING RADIO SERVICES

The Soviet Union is engaged in considerable expansion of radio service, according to Pravda, Moscow. On January 1 last there were about 4,000,000 relay stations connected with State broadcasting stations; the number of these will be increased in 1940 by 561,000, the report states. Particular attention will be paid to service in the outlying Union republics, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Gruzia; in all of these the number of relay stations will be increased over those set up in 1939. Similar expansion will take place in rural districts, where new broadcasting stations of 500 watts or more, capable of serving 2,000 relay stations, will be installed. This will be a considerable improvement over present conditions, and the use of 5-10 watt sending apparatus. Special electric stations will be built to provide the necessary power. To improve the quality of service, the network of wired distribution in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Baku and other cities will be rebuilt.

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ROW CONTINUES BETWEEN LA GUARDIA AND CBS

With a hearing scheduled before the Federal Communications Commission on Monday, May 27, the row between Mayor LaGuardia and the Columbia Broadcasting System over New York's municipally owned station, WNYC, continued this week.

Mayor LaGuardia said he would submit to the Federal Communications Commission in "a day or two" his charge that the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Citizens Budget Commission were conspiring to end municipal operation of radio station WNYC.

The Mayor made the statement after Peter Grimm, Acting Chairman of the Commission, had said that Mr. LaGuardia's reply to his demand for the facts on the allegation contained "no facts", but made "offensive remarks" concerning Harold Riegelman, counsel, and Henry J. Amy, Executive Secretary of the Commission (Citizens Budget Commission). "

The Columbia Broadcasting System issued a statement accusing the Mayor of adopting tactics, along with "dark hints" of more serious offenses and implications of conspiracy behind bolted doors, intended to "hide the facts" and serve as "very fancy window dressing" for the two things he wants. These were said to be to block the Budget Commission's fight against a city appropriation for WNYC and to gain greater privileges on the broadcasting band from the FCC.

The statement explained that despite attacks on CBS, in which the Mayor "has persisted in rolling together separate issues involving the Budget Commission and WNYC", the only issue between CBS and Mr. LaGuardia is the WNYC application to extend its operations to full time on 810 kilocycles. The petition for extension in time on the air, the radio chain contended, would adversely affect WCCO, CBS outlet in Minneapolis, which shares the same channel with the municipal station.

In reference to the Mayor's charge accusing CBS of attempting to deprive WNYC of its wave length, it was stated:

"The sole issue here is between the Mayor and the Budget Commission, and apparently is: Shall a sum of \$118,000 be appropriated by the City Council for operation of WNYC for the next fiscal year? The Budget Commission says no. The Mayor says yes. Outbursts against Columbia serve merely to befog the issue.

"Statements that CBS wants to 'grab' WNYC's channel are not true so far as Columbia is concerned, and so far as is known, there is no action anywhere which would challenge the city's right to its wave length."

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The New York Times in an editorial criticized Mayor LaGuardia for his intemperate remarks but urged retention of WNYC as a municipal station.

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THREE-WAY PHONE CONVERSATIONS FORECAST

Marcello Creti, an inventor under 20 years of age received from the hands of Signor Mussolini recently the Gold Medal of the Fascist Syndicate of Inventors. He had invented the amplitele, an apparatus which, as soon as it is put to practical use, will enable A in Rome, B in London, and C in New York, to hold simultaneous conversation. The apparatus is described by the Rome Weekly News:

"On the right side it has a vertical line of numbers; on the left side a line of buttons. The fundamental characteristic of the apparatus is its power of amplifying the voice to a normal conversational pitch which can be heard all over a room instead of only in close proximity to the instrument, as with our present telephones. As many people can join in the conversation as there are buttons on the left side of the amplitele.

"To make use of the apparatus, it must be connected with the telephone. By pressing the first button you get the signal 'all clear'. Then call the number of the subscriber with whom you wish to speak. Unless there is some obstruction, you will hear his voice at once, as clear and as loud as though he were present in the room.

"If it is desired that a third person should join in the conversation, press the second button and call up the subscriber in question. In a few moments the three will be talking together without any more effort than if they were sitting around the same table.

"From all parts of the world the inventor is besieged by offers to exploit his wonderful machine. But foreign firms must wait until the amplitele has been regularly set up in Italy."

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