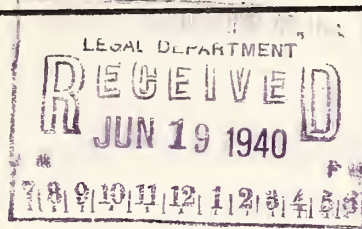


HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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WASHINGTON, D. C.



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No. 1243

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June 18, 1940

FCC ISSUES WARNING TO ALL COMMERCIAL OPERATORS

All classes of commercial radio operators were this week formally warned by the Federal Communications Commission to heed the strict letter of the law and international regulations which specifically prohibit superfluous and unnecessary personal chatter by radio. The Commission served notice that it intends to enforce these provisions vigorously, and that it will hold station licensees as well as commercial operators strictly accountable for any violation.

This warning applies to radiotelephone and radiotelegraph services both. It augments the Commission notice of June 10 which particularly cautioned ship radio operators and ship station licensees against transmission of superfluous, unnecessary or unidentified conversation.

The full text of the FCC formal notice follows:

"On June 10, 1940, the Commission issued a warning specifically addressed to ship radio operators and ship station licensees against the transmission of superfluous, unnecessary or unidentified communications. The purpose of this notice is to emphasize the importance of strict compliance with the previous notice and at the same time to call attention specifically that the provisions of statute and treaty prohibition the transmission of superfluous, unnecessary or unidentified communications apply to all commercial operators as well as those communicating from ship stations.

"The General Radio Regulations (Cairo Revision, 1938) annexed to the International Telecommunications Convention (Madrid, 1932), to which this Government is a party, and the Communications Act of 1934, specifically prohibit the transmission of superfluous, unnecessary or unidentified communications. The Commission intends to uphold vigorously these provisions of law and treaty and will hold all commercial radio operators and station licensees strictly accountable for any violations."

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RMA SETS UP POLICY COMMITTEE TO MEET NEW PROBLEMS

The Radio Manufacturers' Association, before concluding its convention in Chicago last week, set up a Policy or Executive Committee to make RMA a more effective industrial organization and to meet difficult problems ahead, according to Bond Geddes, Executive Vice-President.

The Committee comprises Ben Abrams, President of the Emerson Radio & Phonograph Corp., New York City; Dr. W. R. G. Baker, Managing Engineer, Radio Division, General Electric Company, Bridgeport, Conn.; H. C. Bonfig, Vice-President, RCA Manufacturing Co., Camden, New Jersey; James T. Buckley, President, Philadelphia Storage Battery Company, Philadelphia, Pa.; E. F. McDonald, Jr., President, Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago, Ill.; A. S. Wells, President of the Wells-Gardner & Company, Chicago, Ill., and former RMA President; and James S. Knowlson, Chairman of the Stewart-Warner Corporation, Chicago, Ill., and newly-elected President, as Chairman. This Committee, it was said, will have general charge of RMA operations and activities.

Both Mr. Knowlson and Mr. Wells in their convention addresses emphasized the need to strengthen the industry's organization.

At the annual membership luncheon of RMA members, Mr. Wells stressed the necessity for the radio industry to meet its obligations in the present world and national situations.

"This Association faces, as do all individually, a very critical time in its existence", he said. "This is true not only because of the fact that we have before us many controversial subjects, but also because of the world situation which is forcing the government to assume more and more responsibility, so-called, toward industry. If we are to have more and more regulation by government, as seems obvious because of an apparent national necessity, it is much better that this Association, as well as all associations for that matter, be strong and active so that they may function as they should function when making government contacts. We must recognize the fact that there will be more and more regulation of all industry, and I think it is the belief of most of us that government regulation as it comes will come through trade associations, for the most part, when those associations show themselves to be strong and know what they are doing."

Another speaker at the RMA membership meeting was John H. Payne, Chief of the Electrical and Radio Division of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Thousands of radio distributors, dealers and servicemen were attracted to Chicago for the annual National Radio Parts Show, in the Exhibition Hall of the Stevens Hotel, jointly sponsored by RMA and the Sales Managers Club. The attendance was the largest in

several years, and the exhibits overflowed the Exhibition Hall. The Parts Show was again under the management of Ken Hathaway.

Many measures in behalf of the industry and to extend RMA activities were projected during the Chicago convention. Steps toward nominations on a minimum wage committee for the radio industry, to be appointed during the next few months by the U. S. Wage-Hour Administration, were taken. Preliminaries include nomination by RMA of industry representatives to the Committee which will consist of one-third each of industry representatives, labor and the public.

A policy for maintenance of replacement parts for receiving sets also was considered by the RMA Board of Directors. A committee will be appointed to arrange a definite recommended RMA guarantee regarding the period for availability of replacement parts. Another special committee to arrange weekly statistical reports for RMA parts and accessory manufacturers also was authorized.

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FLY TO ADDRESS NAB! WAR TO BE DISCUSSED

James Lawrence Fly, Chairman of the Federal Communications, will be the principal speaker at the convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in San Francisco August 4-7, according to the tentative agenda. It is expected that he will discuss radio and communications in the national emergency.

An entire session of the convention will be given over to a discussion of radio and the war. Special events directors of the major networks are expected to open this roundtable discussion. There also may be a speaker from one of the military departments on war developments and how radio can best cope with the emergency.

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STUDY RADIO, ADMIRAL KING ADVISES YOUNG MEN

Speaking in the American Forum of the Air over Station WOL, Washington, Sunday night, Rear Admiral E. J. King, of the General Board of the U. S. Navy, advised young men to study machines and to begin by studying automobiles and radio sets.

"If you know how your automobile works", he said, "You'll know how many machines used in national defense work, and if you know how your radio works, you'll know a very important part of national defense communications."

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RULE ON BROADCAST OF NAVAL TIME SIGNALS MODIFIED

Because of complaints that many radio stations have been forced to discontinue the broadcasting of Naval Observatory time signals due to an FCC ruling that the signal must be obtained directly from a Naval transmitter, the Federal Communications Commission has modified its original order of February 9.

In order to meet the former requirements, it was necessary that the Naval Observatory time signals be obtained by direct reception from a Naval radio station which was transmitting the time signal with relatively short circuits between the receiver and the broadcast transmitter. This required that stations which formerly obtained the time signals from the networks either discontinue the practice or make provisions for direct reception. A number of stations made such provisions; however, still others did not and, as a consequence, a large number of complaints have been received by both the Navy Department and the Commission in regard to the discontinuance of the rebroadcast of these time signals.

"The original requirements were made in order that the accuracy of the time signals might be improved so as to be acceptable for normal scientific purposes", the FCC explained. "However, upon receipt of the complaints mentioned above, this question was restudied and it appears that the time signals as transmitted by the various broadcast stations whether obtained by direct reception or by means of telephone lines, either local or national networks, are entirely satisfactory for the purposes of the average user provided no mechanical relays are used.

"Therefore, effective this date any broadcast station so desiring is hereby authorized to rebroadcast the Naval Observatory time signals or transmit the signals received from other sources provided no mechanical relays are used and that announcement of the time signal is made without reference to any commercial activity. Each licensee receiving the signals from wire lines should obtain and be prepared to inform any inquirers as to the actual time delay in transmission."

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A new song, entitled "WPA", which purports to describe in swing-tune lyrics certain advantages of working for the Work Projects Administration, has been banned by NBC and CBS for reasons of bad taste, it was disclosed last week.

Described as a "song novelty", and written by Jesse Stone, Negro song writer, the work makes slangy references to sleep, and to passing away the time. Although the broadcasting companies will have nothing to do with it, one phonograph concern has made three separate recordings of the song, and another has made one.

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KRKO DENIED RENEWAL; OUTSIDE CONTROL CHARGED

Denial of the application for renewal of license for Station KRKO, located at Everett, Washington, operated by Lee E. Mudgett on 1370 kilocycles, with 50 watts power, sharing time with KEEN at Seattle, was announced this week by the Federal Communications Commission.

The Commission in its Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions held that "the licensee, in the conduct of business and the exercise of rights associated with the operation of Station KRKO, has been dominated and directed by various persons who have provided funds in substantial amounts for the original acquisition of the station in 1934 and for its subsequent maintenance and operation . . . and the granting of the application for renewal of license for KRKO will not serve public interest, convenience or necessity."

Action of the Commission with reference to the granting of applications for renewal of licenses of stations in the radio-broadcast service is by the express provisions of the Communications Act limited to and governed by the same considerations and practice which affect the granting of original applications.

"Neither the letter nor the spirit of the licenses heretofore granted to Lee E. Mudgett for the operation of Station KRKO has been observed", the Commission explained, and "inasmuch as he has not been free to exercise the rights conferred therein, or to accept the responsibility thereby delegated to him, without intervention of outside influences, the granting of the application for renewal of license will not serve public interest, convenience or necessity."

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STATION OVER-RULED ON ECONOMIC PLEA IN COURT

Justice James W. Morris, of the U. S. District Court last week ruled that a radio station has no right to have the Federal Communications Commission protect its revenue against competition from another station.

Justice Morris dismissed the suit of Station KTSA, San Antonio, to compel the FCC to allow it to intervene in the proceedings by which Station KMAC sought more power and a change in frequency. KTSA claimed that its business would be harmed if KMAC's petition was granted.

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TELEVISION-TELEPHONE DEMONSTRATED AT N.Y. FAIR

The first public demonstration of what is called "the telephone of tomorrow", a combination of television and telephone equipment in a single operating unit that enables the speakers to see each other was staged Monday at the New York World's Fair.

Charles F. Kettering, Vice-President of General Motors in Charge of Research, participated in the demonstration.

The apparatus is not a true television-telephone, in that it uses coaxial cable connections rather than transmitting over the air by television frequencies, according to the New York Times. But it was explained that it could be hooked up on a coast-to-coast basis, and might be adapted to emergency situations where it was imperative that a government official, in Washington, for instance, knew he was talking to the right person at the other end of the line. This suggestion arose when it was recalled that German successes in the North were attributed to the interception of enemy phone calls by Norwegian-speaking Nazis.

Without emphasizing this rather melodramatic possibility of the new device, General Motors pointed to the demonstration as hinting "how television may in the future be used for utilitarian as well as for entertainment purposes."

"The use of such an apparatus, according to engineers, would be of great value in transacting certain kinds of business, and particularly in transmitting information of a secret nature intended only for the ears of a specific individual", officials pointed out. "Voice impersonation would be futile over a telephone hook-up of this kind."

The apparatus was set up by RCA television and General Motors research laboratories engineers.

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ENGLISH TEST RADIO RELAY AIR-RAID SIGNALS

An air-raid warning system which is operated over radio relay service lines was demonstrated at Dudley, England, recently, according to the "Electrical Review", published in London. It is stated that through its use a saving of £10,000 yearly would be effected in Dudley alone. A warning signal is transmitted from A.R.P. headquarters to the radio relay station and then relayed over the network to loudspeakers in the homes of volunteers who, if they desire, can listen to the radio relay program, in which case the signal would be superimposed.

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WAR BOOSTS SALE OF RADIO SETS IN U.S. AND CANADA

The broadcasts of news on the European war apparently have boosted the sales of radio receivers in the United States and Canada.

A forecast that the first half of 1940 will set an all time high record was made by New York manufacturers and distributors, according to the business page of the New York Times. A minimum gain of 25 percent has been chalked up since the first of the year, the report stated.

"This volume has not been entirely profitable to either manufacturers or dealers, as a good many sets have been dumped on the market since the start of the year at low prices", the Times said. "However, a currently popular model, the three-way portable, has been well maintained in price and is providing a substantial portion of sales."

The American Commercial Attache at Ottawa states that Canadian sales of radio receivers during March, as reported by the Radio Manufacturers' Association of Canada, numbered 19,559, as compared with 20,515 units in February and to 12,165 units in March 1939, according to a tabulation based upon returns from all but two of the twelve manufacturers in Canada. Sales in the first three months of 1940 numbered 60,165 as compared to 34,479 in the same months last year.

Inventories of companies reporting to the trade association as of March 31, 1940, totaled 57,371 units as compared to 48,023 units on hand at the end of February and to 39,271 units at the end of March 1939.

Detailed sales and inventory data, based on the report of the Radio Manufacturers' Association of Canada, are given in the following tables for the month of March. These figures are based on returns from all manufacturers except one Canadian firm and the branch of one American firm.

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THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION LATE THIS AFTERNOON RELEASED FURTHER INFORMATION GOVERNING TELEVISION. DETAILS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS SERVICE.

R. D. H.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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A scale of prices averaging 10 percent lower than last year marks the 1941 line of Silvertone radios of Sears, Roebuck & Co., it was announced last week at a meeting of Sears store executives and radio department heads at the Hotel Commodore, New York City.

Federal Judge John P. Barnes was notified last week in Chicago that the required majority of the stockholders had approved the reorganization plan for the Majestic Radio & Television Corp. The court set June 22 for a hearing on confirmation of the plan, which provides for a new company of the same name, with \$165,000 working capital.

A. E. Nelson, Manager of Stations KPO and KGO in San Francisco has been appointed an Assistant Vice-President of the National Broadcasting Company, Niles Trammell, Executive Vice-President, has announced. Mr. Nelson will continue as Manager of the San Francisco stations and will assist Don Gilman, Vice-President of the Pacific Division, on all matters pertaining to Pacific Coast operations.

PM, the non-advertising daily newspaper that appeared in New York this week, will devote considerable space to news about radio and radio programs. Its radio staff comprises John T. McManus, editor, formerly of Time Magazine; Judy Dupuy, formerly of Station WNEW; Henry Lieberman, formerly of the New York Times; and Jerry Franklin, formerly of Billboard.

Louis Jutze, trading as Reliable Radio Company, 7710 South Bishop St., Chicago, in a Federal Trade Commission stipulation, agrees to desist from advertising that the "Tee-Nie" crystal radio set is designed to operate in one's pocket or without ground or aerial connections; that it gives clear reception, implying that reception is obtainable without earphones; that he has sold any number of Tee-Nie radios in excess of the number actually sold; that the instrument's principle of operation is new or different, or that the product is more effective than other types of radios.

Forty-eight million persons heard President Roosevelt's address Monday, June 10, from Charlottesville, Va., according to a nationwide survey conducted during the broadcast by the radio statistical firm of C. E. Hooper, Inc. The figures were released by the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Check-ups made between 7:15 and 7:40 P.M. disclosed that 16,000,000 families had tuned in on the broadcast, with an average of three persons listening in on each family set. This does not include persons who may have heard rebroadcasts of the talk.

A resolution requesting judges of the State and local courts to refrain from participation in sponsored broadcasts was adopted recently by the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Bar Association, according to Editor & Publisher. While no judge was mentioned by name, it was understood the resolution was directed toward Municipal Judge Leroy Dawson, who has "presided" on a "Quizz Court" program broadcast from a Los Angeles theater once a week, sponsored by P.D.G. gasoline. Judge Dawson does not accept payment for this service, but designates a charitable institution to which the gasoline company sends a check. The resolution suggested that the judge in question either discontinue his participation in the program, or cause the sponsor, announcers, advertising agency and all others in charge of the program "to refrain from using his name or the name or title of his judicial office, directly or indirectly, in any way or manner."

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TELEVISION TESTS PUSHED, JAPAN SAYS

Television research in Japan is being carried out at a number of institutes and laboratories, including the technical research laboratory of the Broadcasting Corporation of Japan; the Electric Laboratory of the Communications Ministry; the Higher Technical School, of Hamamatsu; and the Tokyo Radio and Electric Co., Ltd., according to the Broadcasting Corporation of Japan. Experimental broadcasts of television were made recently for the benefit of the general public in Japan.

"The Technical Research Laboratory of the Broadcasting Corporation of Japan (devoted to study of the theory and application of radio-telephone), established in 1937 an experimental television station (J2PQ), made a test transmission for the first time last May", the report stated, "succeeding in transmitting photographs to the Tokyo Broadcasting House, 14 kilometers distant from the laboratory.

"Ever since then, intensive study and improvements have been sought, with several test transmission made public to popularize television. And after a considerable experimental period, television has been put on the streets at last.

"Regular television broadcasts are to be put out shortly."

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PORTER, CBS ATTORNEY, LOANED TO DEFENSE COMMISSION

Paul Porter last week was appointed Executive Assistant to Chester C. Davis, member of the National Defense Advisory Commission responsible for accommodating national agricultural problems and policies to the defense program, particularly with respect to maintenance of the parity system of agricultural and industrial prices.

Mr. Porter, Washington attorney for the Columbia Broadcasting System, has been granted a leave of absence to join Mr. Davis' staff. He was Executive Assistant to Mr. Davis when the latter was Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Mr. Porter's responsibilities will involve close contact with various Government agencies such as - Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Surplus Commodities Corp., the Bureau of Agriculture Economics, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Reconstruction Finance Corp., and the Red Cross.

Harry C. Butcher, Vice-President of the CBS in Washington, received the following letter from President Roosevelt:

"The White House
Washington

June 6, 1940

Dear Harry:

I want to express to you, and through you to your associates of the Columbia Broadcasting System, my personal appreciation of your action in releasing Paul Porter to serve the National Defense Advisory Commission. I recall Mr. Porter's fine service with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and I am sure he can do important work in this new field.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt"

In a statement for the Columbia Broadcasting System, Mr. Butcher said: "All of us in Columbia regret the temporary loss of the services of Mr. Porter but are proud and happy to cooperate in this way in the furtherance of National Defense preparation."

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MACKAY OPENS DIRECT N.Y.C.-ROME CIRCUIT

A direct radio-telegraph service between New York and Rome was put into operation last week by the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, under special authority from the Federal Communications Commission, to handle the large volume of communications between this country and Italy.

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Permission to install the circuit was granted to facilitate traffic, which had to be moved on alternate routes since the interruption in the Italian cable to Rome. The Commercial Cable Company, which is affected by the break in the cable, turned over its messages to the Mackay company, with which it is associated, for transmission on the new circuit.

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POPPELE HEADS IMPORTANT FM COMMITTEE

J. R. Poppele, Chief Engineer of WOR, has been appointed Chairman of an important sub-committee of the Radio Manufacturers' Association on Frequency Modulation System to determine the proper polarization of antenna systems for FM receivers and transmitters.

Polarization has to do with the beaming or projection of ultra high frequency radio waves. There are two types of polarization: vertical and horizontal, with opinion divided between engineers as to the most effective. Mr. Poppele's committee will study the relative values of vertical antenna versus the horizontal antenna. FM transmitters now use the horizontal and the vertical systems of polarization.

Others serving on the committee are W. M. Angus, of General Electric Company; D. B. Smith of the Philco Radio and Television Corp.; R. M. Morris of the National Broadcasting Company; and D. E. Harnett of the Hazeltine Service Corp.

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RADIO-TELEPHONE SERVICE TO FRANCE BROKEN OFF

Following the French bid for peace Monday, radio telephone communication between New York and "all parts of France" was suddenly broken off, according to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, while R.C.A. Communications announced that throughout the day no messages from France had been received in New York City.

The radio telephone service, which had been restricted to United States Government calls, was operated through London, from which the calls were relayed to Paris, and, after its fall, to Bordeaux.

The RCA, Western Union and Commercial Cable organizations reported that operations to France were continuing on the basis established after the fall of Paris.

According to this announcement, contact with the French capital and German-occupied areas in France is still interrupted, and messages for other French points are subject to delay, since priority is given to the heavy volume of official government traffic.

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