

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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July 23, 1940

FLY DEFENDS NEW FCC INVESTIGATING DIVISION

Coincident with the appointment of David Lloyd, former Chief Counsel of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, as head of a newly created investigating unit of the Federal Communications Commission, Chairman James L. Fly explained the reasons for its establishment at a press conference this week.

Chairman Fly said that it will consist of only a half dozen investigators at the beginning but will be able to call upon the Engineering and Accounting Divisions for assistance whenever necessary. It will be under the direction of the Legal Division.

The FCC Chairman said he had considered the investigating unit essential ever since he joined the Commission and had been surprised that it had operated without one in the past.

The FCC must make sure of the credentials of applicants for radio facilities in the future, he said, and not rely merely on affidavits and sworn testimony.

The Communications Act, he said, clearly gives the FCC authority to set up an investigating unit, and Congress has approved the plan by appropriating the necessary funds.

Chairman Fly said he thinks the FCC also needs an expert on labor problems as an aid to the Commission. The labor controversy that arose over the recent wire merger plan, he recalled, illustrated the need for such an advisor.

Chairman Fly announced that he and Lieut. E. K. Jett, FCC Chief Engineer, will go to New York July 31st to confer with the National Television Systems Committee sponsored by the Radio Manufacturers' Association.

Reiterating his approval of the efforts of the radio industry to settle the television controversy, Mr. Fly said he believed the industry is in a good frame of mind to reach an agreement.

From New York the FCC Chairman will go to the Pacific Coast to attend the convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in San Francisco and to confer with leaders in television development in that area. He said he expected to inspect the Don Lee and DeForest television equipment.

Chairman Fly also said he welcomed the opportunity to talk with the nation's broadcasters at this time in an informal and face-to-face fashion.

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BROADCASTERS DISTURBED OVER "NON-POLITICAL" TALKS

Somewhat puzzled over President Roosevelt's announcement that he will conduct no political campaign this year for reelection, the broadcasting industry is awaiting the first "periodic talk" on the state of the nation before deciding whether to label it commercial or sustaining.

Presidential addresses, such as the fireside chats, have been carried as sustaining features up to this time.

The major networks have already spent or lost due to cancellation of commercials more than \$500,000 by covering the Republican and Democratic conventions. The G.O.P. Convention cost the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Mutual Broadcasting System \$365,000. The bill on the Chicago meeting has not as yet been tabulated.

While this convention coverage is considered a public service, the broadcasters anticipate getting much more than they have lost by selling time for political addresses between now and November.

In 1936, the Republicans spent about \$850,000 and the Democrats \$600,000 on radio, and this year the Republicans are expected to spend at least \$800,000. The networks alone received nearly \$1,275,000 of this amount, according to Broadcasting Magazine, trade organ.

While the 1936 campaign presented the broadcasters with some difficult problems with regard to the addresses of the President, there were a number of speeches at rallies which were clearly political and could be charged for according to the number of stations in the hookup.

President Roosevelt, in his address of acceptance, which was considered a sustaining feature, stated that he would be unable to conduct a regular campaign because of pressing duties of state.

"I do expect, of course, during the coming months to make my usual periodic reports to the country through the medium of press conferences and radio talks", he said.

The President's "fireside chats" which, incidentally, were given this name by Harry C. Butcher, Vice-President of CBS, have been recognized by all broadcasters as sustaining programs. The question that worries the broadcasters now is whether the "periodic talks" during the campaign can be labeled sustaining or commercial.

Wendell Willkie, because he holds no public office, will have to pay for all his radio time.

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Four years ago the Federal Communications Commission was confronted with a delicate problem when several stations on one of the networks refused to carry one of Mr. Roosevelt's addresses, which the network had considered a sustaining program and the stations insisted was a political talk. The stations were upheld, however, in their refusals.

The self-imposed code of the National Association of Broadcasters prohibits its members from charging for carrying controversial talks, in which both sides must be treated equally, but permits stations to charge for political talks.

"This exception is made", the NAB points out, "because at certain times the contending parties want to use and are entitled to use more time than broadcasters could possibly afford to give away."

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OVERTIME FOR RADIO INSPECTORS PROPOSED IN BILL

An amendment to Section 4(f) of the Communications Act to provide for extra compensation for overtime of inspectors in charge and radio inspectors of the Field Division of the Engineering Division of the Federal Communications Commission has been introduced by Chairman Bland, of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

The measure authorizes the FCC to fix a reasonable rate of pay for overtime services, which would cover services after 5 P.M. and before 8 A.M. daily or on Sundays or holidays.

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RESUMPTION OF BROWN HEARING EXPECTED THIS WEEK

A fourth hearing on the renomination of Commissioner Thad H. Brown was expected to be scheduled this week by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.

Attaches of the Committee said that a time will be set as soon as Senator Tobey (R.), of New Hampshire, makes the request.

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D.C. AND N.Y.C. TELEVISION OUTLETS SPEEDED

New television stations for the National Capital and New York City were speeded by action of the Federal Communications Commission in confirming previous tentative approval of applications by the Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, Inc., for such outlets. The Commission also authorized DuMont and Columbia Broadcasting System to start television broadcasts under the new promotional rules from their Passaic and New York stations respectively.

DuMont's new Washington station will operate on new television channel No. 1 (50,000-56,000 kilocycles) with 1 kilowatt power for aural and visual transmission, and its New York station will use television channel No. 4 (78,000-84,000 kilocycles) with like power.

DuMont's present television station W2XVT, at Passaic, N.J., is enabled to increase power to 5 kilowatts, aural and visual, and transmit on channel No. 4. Columbia Broadcasting System station W2XAB, at New York, can use channel No. 2 (60,000-66,000 kilocycles), $7\frac{1}{2}$ kilowatts power, aural and visual.

These new authorizations closely follow Commission action last week in speeding construction of San Francisco's first television station, to be operated by Don Lee Broadcasting System, and, at the same time, giving the "go" signal for Don Lee station W6XAO, at Los Angeles, and National Broadcasting Co. station W2XBS, New York, to use new television channel No. 1 (50,000-56,000 kilocycles), which the proposed San Francisco station will likewise employ.

Opening additional television facilities throughout the country is made possible by the Commission's new rules encouraging experimental operation to promote the art. Approvals in all cases are contingent upon programs to foster research and development.

The DuMont Washington and New York stations, for example, will inquire into the advantages of various types of film projectors, experiment with mobile pick-up utilizing wire links and radio links, and will seek public cooperation on various types of program material. Coaxial cable will be used in transmitting programs between Washington and New York, and the Washington station will test the practicability of providing satisfactory service to Washington and Baltimore from a single transmitter.

The program of research for DuMont's Passaic station embraces tests of various antenna systems utilizing both vertical and horizontal radiators, experiments with systems other than RMA and DuMont, and investigating the effects of phase-shifts, noise, field patterns, etc.; test of transmitter equipment, including power tubes; ultimate experiments in the possible use of FM (frequency modulation) for television broadcasting on the ultra-high frequencies.

In seeking to develop uniform transmission standards of acceptable technical quality, CBS station W2XAB proposes to make comparable investigation of all synchronizing pulses for which generating equipment is available, make comparative study of different combinations of lines and frames, investigate the effect on allocations of using different polarizations in certain adjacent areas, and work with the general public in determining reaction to various changes in program technique.

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NAB TO CONSIDER FM AND TELEVISION AT CONVENTION

Two developments which are likely to affect the status of standard broadcasting will be given serious attention at the forthcoming convention of the National Association of Broadcasters at San Francisco, August 5-8. They are frequency modulation and television.

A demonstration of FM has been arranged by John Shepard, III President of FM Broadcasters, Inc., and Paul de Mars, one of the engineers sponsoring the new form of radio transmission, will talk on "Practical FM Broadcasting."

Ted Smith, Manager of Television Transmission Sales for the Radio Corporation of America, will talk on "Apparatus Requirements for Television Stations", while Harry R. Lubcke, Director of Television for the Don Lee Broadcasting System, will speak on "Television Station Operation and Telecast Pickups".

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WCPO PETITION DENIED

The Federal Communications Commission has denied the petition of Scripps-Howard Radio, Inc., licensee of Station WCPO at Cincinnati, for hearing or rehearing on the grant to WCOL, Inc., on June 3, of a license authorizing WCOL, at Columbus, to operate on 1200 kilocycles with 250 watts power, unlimited time, which facilities are also permitted WCPO. On March 29, the Commission denied a similar petition of Scripps-Howard Radio, Inc., in connection with the grant of WCOL's construction permit October 10 of last year.

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FM APPLICATIONS START POURING INTO FCC

With the initial problem of an intricate application blank apparently solved, applications for frequency modulation licenses are pouring into the Federal Communications Commission.

Chairman James L. Fly explained that there was no disposition on the part of the Commission to slow up the applications but that the applications had been made difficult deliberately. The FCC, he said, wanted all the information possible from the applicants because of the newness of the industry.

Meanwhile the FCC sent out a supplemental release defining requirements for contour maps in establishing service areas for high frequency broadcast stations.

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BROADCASTERS AID IN NATIONAL DEFENSE DRIVE

Under the sponsorship of the National Broadcasters' Association, the nation's broadcasters are offering their assistance in rounding up 100,000 skilled civilian workers for the War and Navy Departments and the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Neville Miller, President of the NAB, in a letter to all members, pledged the industry to help locate these workers by broadcasting announcements as to definite jobs that are open in the section of the country from which the broadcasts will be made.

"The National Defense needs of the United States require the immediate employment of 100,000 skilled civilian workers in the War and Navy Departments", Mr. Miller wrote. "the Civil Aeronautics Authority and in several other departments.

"To locate these men speedily is an urgent and patriotic duty that radio can perform best. It is a duty that the National Association of Broadcasters, on behalf of all broadcasting stations, has accepted.

"Radio can do the job with the vigorous help of every individual broadcaster. The task is not easy; for the highways and byways must be combed for recruits. It is believed that a large number of qualified men will be found working in other capacities.

"These men must be reached and urged to return to their former trades else preparedness plans may bog down. . . .

"Every week NAB will confer with the United States Civil Service Commission about jobs throughout the country. It is expected that needs at certain points will change frequently. As they change, superseding announcements will be sent.

"Therefore, in the interest of efficiency, in this hour of emergency, we shall operate on the assumption that stations will continue to broadcast an announcement until it is killed or modified to meet the changing conditions."

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MONOPOLY BRIEF ISSUE STILL UNDECIDED

The Federal Communications Commission has not yet decided whether it will accept briefs from the networks in response to charges carried in the monopoly report.

The matter was scheduled to have been discussed at the meeting last Friday, but officials said it was not reached because of the vast amount of routine business. It is due to come at a meeting on Wednesday, but an FCC spokesman said there may not be a quorum present.

The Columbia Broadcasting System has asked permission to file a brief, and the Mutual Broadcasting System has submitted proposals to remedy some of the evils of network broadcasting as alleged in the monopoly report.

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MBS AWAITS NAZI DECISION AFTER "BLACKLISTING"

The Mutual Broadcasting System was barred from picking up broadcasts from Berlin or Nazi occupied territory this week at least temporarily after been "blacklisted" because of the action of 31 Pacific Coast stations of the Mutual-Don Lee Network last Friday in cutting off Hitler's address to the Reichstag.

Dr. Otto Dietrich, personal press chief of the German Chancellor, temporarily barred MBS from further broadcasts out of Nazi territory.

Dr. Dietrich notified Siegrid Schultz, Mutual representative in Berlin, that he wanted a complete report and explanation of the incident and pending receipt of the report and its approval as satisfactory he was suspending all Mutual broadcasts from Germany and German-controlled areas in Europe, according to a cablegram received by Arthur Whiteside, Mutual Production Manager, in New York.

Mr. Whiteside cabled back that, to the best of his knowledge, although he had no way of checking, the Hitler speech was carried by the rest of the 140 stations of the network and that it was the prerogative of each station or chain in the network to accept or reject all or any part of any network program, since the individual station and not the network controlled its broadcast.

Executives of the system believed it was the first time that a major radio network had had its broadcasting facilities suspended by a totalitarian country as a counter-move to criticism of that country originating in the United States, according to the New York Times. In radio circles the move was looked upon as an effort by the censors in Berlin to control expressions of opinion by United States citizens over their own radio facilities to audiences within the United States.

The network supplied the Hitler speech in full on a program taking ninety-five minutes. The thirty-one stations cut it off after ten minutes, and Station KHJ in Los Angeles broadcast a statement in explanation that its management did not consider the speech "in the public interest" or "in harmony with the attitude of this government." It also expressed its opinion that Herr Hitler "should not be permitted to use our American facilities to justify his crimes against civilization itself."

On several instances recently Balkan countries coming within the Nazi orbit have been required to carry Herr Hitler's speeches and other broadcasts in the interest of German foreign policy.

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Work on WOR's Frequency Modulation transmitter, W2XOR, at 444 Madison Avenue, New York City, is expected to be completed and the set-up ready for formal dedication by the first week in August, according to J. R. Poppele, Chief Engineer for the station.

The Federal Communications Commission has granted the application of Harold Thomas for a construction permit to erect a new station at Bridgeport, Conn., to operate on the frequency 1420 kilocycles, with power of 250 watts, unlimited time, upon condition that permittee shall file an application for modification of construction permit specifying exact transmitter location within two months after the effective date of the order.

Dr. Henry B. Kranz, of Columbia's short-wave listening station, who daily tunes in on 25 foreign stations which broadcast in five different languages, starts a three-week lecture tour of Summer camps July 28. Dr. Kranz, author, former Viennese journalist and dramatic critic, contributor to many magazines of public opinion, claims he is the first lecturer to choose "Inside Radio War Propaganda" as a subject. His itinerary includes Pine Brook Lodge, Connecticut, week of July 28; Camp Copake, New York, week of Aug. 4, and Camp Tamiment, Pa., week of Aug. 11.

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FM RECEPTION FAR BETTER THAN AM, SAYS G.E.

The area of good broadcast reception area with frequency modulated radio is 33 times greater than with amplitude, or present type, broadcasting, according to a report on tests and calculations announced by General Electric engineers.

These calculations were made by I. R. Weir, G-E radio engineer, using two amplitude and two frequency modulated transmitters operating on the same wave length and placed on level ground 15 miles apart. First the two amplitude transmitters each operating on 1 kilowatt were calculated to operate simultaneously. The area served without interference about either transmitter was limited to a radius of 1-1/2 miles. Next the two frequency transmitters on the same 1 kilowatt of power were calculated. The area covered without interference was 33 times greater.

In the second condition the power was increased to 10 kilowatts on one transmitter and remained at 1 kilowatt on the other. With amplitude, the clear reception area of the 1 kilowatt station was reduced by interference from the stronger station to one-third its size, and the area of the 10-kilowatt station increased to about 3 times. When a switch was made to frequency modulation, under the same conditions, the clear area for the 1-kilowatt station was reduced one-fourth, whereas with the 10-kilowatt station the area was increased about 3 times.

The third and final calculation was made with the power of the transmitter at one point increased to 100 kilowatts with the other transmitter remaining at 1 kilowatt. With amplitude modulation, the clear area of the 1-kilowatt station was reduced to one-eighth area, and the 100-kilowatt station area was increased approximately 3 times. With frequency modulation, the area of the 1-kilowatt station was reduced to about one-tenth its size and the area of the 100-kilowatt station increased about 4-1/2 times.

These calculations, according to Mr. Weir, give added proof that frequency modulation permits more stations to operate on the same channel. The same frequency can be assigned to a large number of stations which do not have to be separated by very great distances, and at the same time the stations can cover a greater area with good reception than is possible by amplitude modulation.

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POLICE HELD TURNING TO FM RADIO EQUIPMENT

Police Departments are turning to FM as a better means of coordinating law enforcement work, according to FM Broadcasters, Inc.

FM's freedom from reception noises, particularly ignition and electrical devices encountered in heavily-populated districts and along highways, makes it highly adaptable for use in patrol

cars for two-way communication, the organization insists. In addition, so-called "dead spots" and reception fade-outs are almost non-existent with FM. Its low level of reception noise gives a much greater area of service.

The State Police of Connecticut are currently installing the first State-wide FM system in the country. Under the guidance of Professor D. E. Noble of the University of Connecticut, who is Consulting Engineer for the Connecticut State Police, the new set-up has been designed and is now being installed. It will comprise 10 fixed location FM transmitters, 250 watts each, at various headquarters stations, and a total of 225 two-way mobile units in patrol cars.

Two fixed transmitters are already in operation and two more will be established by August 1. The 10 stations of the completed system, together with 225 mobile units, will be operating by September 1.

The Chicago Police Department has issued specifications for equipping 200 squad cars with two-way FM installations and establishing 16 fixed location stations. The bids subsequently received were opened in May, but as yet no award of the contract has been made.

Meanwhile other police organizations throughout the nation are contemplating a switch to FM as a greater aid in their work of law enforcement. In addition to its other advantages, FM will eliminate the frequency inter-State and inter-city interference which occurs when a number of police departments all operate their transmitters on the same channel. Distant signals cannot disturb FM reception in its primary area, due to the discriminating properties of FM receivers.

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CBS MAKES NETWORK AVAILABLE TO ARMY

While the Government builds the greatest peacetime Army in United States history, the Columbia Broadcasting System has made its full network facilities available in a new program series to help authorities conducting the recruiting campaign.

The Army itself, through officers, enlisted men and the families of soldiers will have an opportunity to tell the human interest story of the nation's defenders in a series of broadcasts starting Saturday, July 27 (WABC-CBS, 1:30 to 2:00 P.M., EDST). There will be talks with recruits, mess sergeants, army technicians, infantrymen, artillerymen, and fliers.

High-spotting the program from a musical viewpoint will be the famous United States Military Academy band, broadcasting directly from West Point.

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MC DONALD PROPOSES GLIDERS TO TRAIN YOUTH

A simple and inexpensive scheme to train aviators for National Defense has been evolved by Eugene F. McDonald, Jr., President of Zenith Radio Corporation, who is a gliding enthusiast. The plan involves mass production of gliders and financial assistance from the Federal Government to young men wishing to learn to fly them, according to the Chicago Tribune.

"Training pilots is one of the immediate problems of defense", Commander McDonald said. "It will do little good to build 1,000 planes a week if we do not have pilots to fly them. Until now the use of gliders for training purposes has been overlooked here despite the remarkable success Germany had with them", he asserted.

Germany's success is the chief recommendation for adoption of the plan here, he pointed out. Treaty restrictions forced the Nazis to learn to fly in motorless ships, he explained, and as a result the world's best gliders and sailplanes were developed there. All records for distance, altitude, and duration of flight were shattered by the Germans.

The most important result, however, is described in the statement of Ernst Udet, German flying ace, quoted by Mr. McDonald: "Germany's greatest flyers came from the 250,000 to 300,000 youths who were made air conscious and trained in gliders."

Maj. Al Williams, an American aviation authority, also endorses glider training, Commander McDonald asserted. He said that Major Williams had told him a glider trained pilot knows how to conserve energy and use air currents in a manner that most motor trained pilots never learn.

There are fewer than 1,000 gliders and sailplanes in the United States, Mr. McDonald said, and most of the better ones are imported from Germany. Prices range upward from \$700. Negotiations for mass production have already been opened with large manufacturers, Mr. McDonald said, and he has begun a campaign to interest the Federal Government in providing funds for glider training.

The principal advantages of gliders as trainers, listed by Commander McDonald, include low expense, safety, speed, and availability. He said that he had learned to fly a glider in less than an hour. He estimated that 10 hours' instruction would be enough to train a glider pilot to use a motor plane.

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