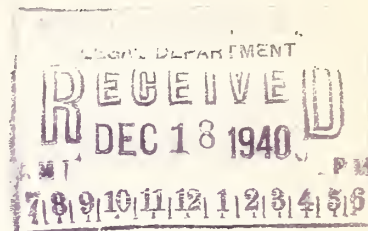


HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.



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December 17, 1940

BBC RECORDS AN ACTUAL AIR BATTLE

Part of the text of a radio record of an actual battle put on the air by the British Broadcasting Corporation and transcribed by Princeton University's Radio Listening Center, is reproduced below. Dots denote editorial deletion or unintelligible words:

Announcer - Tonight for the first time we present a radio record of an actual air battle in progress. Charles Gardner, the BBC air observer, had the luck to be on a south coast trip with sound equipment when this battle began. He at once started reporting, and the result is a feat of impromptu reporting unique in the history of the war today. While Mr. Gardner describes the action, the sounds of battle cut through his words; exploding bombs, anti-aircraft fire and bursts from the fighter planes. If you listen carefully, you'll hear the sounds of close fighting in the air. There's a noise like a kind of dit, dit, dit, that's the Messerschmitts and brrrrrrrrrt, that's the Spitfire guns. The shouting and cheering come from the anti-aircraft gunners, who are standing just by our observer. This is the first time since the war began that listeners have been able to hear an air battle described while it was actually going on, and by a man on the spot.

Charles Gardner - The Germans are dive-bombing a convoy out at sea. There are one, two, three, four, five, six, seven dive-bombers, Junkers 87's. There's one going down on its target now, but, but he missed the ships. He hasn't hit a single ship. There are about ten ships in the convoy, but he hasn't hit a single one (Shouts of the gunners in the background; steady thud, thud, of the anti-aircraft guns). There, you can hear the anti-aircraft going at it now. I can't see anything - no. We thought he got a German one... ..but now the British fighters are coming up.

Here they come! They come in an absolute straight dive (the Junkers, apparently) and you can see their bombs actually going like anything now. (Steady crump, crump of British guns.) I'm looking 'round now; I can hear machine-gun fire but I can't see our Spitfires. . . Oh, here's one coming down now! There's one coming down in flames! Somebody's hit a German and he's coming down in a long streak, coming down completely out of control, a long streak of smoke. . . The pilot's bailed out by parachute! He's a Junkers 87. He's going flat into the sea and there he goes! Sma-a-a-a-sh!

And there was a Junkers 87. There's only one man got out by parachute and presumably a crew of one in it.

Now, then - oh, there's a terrific mixup over the Channel! It's impossible to tell which are our machines and which are the Germans. There's one definitely down in this battle and there's a fight going - you can hear the little rattle of machine gun bullets (Sound of heavy explosion.) That was a bomb, as you may imagine. Here

comes this one Spitfire. (Rattle of machine-gun fire.) There's another bomb dropping. Yes, dropped - it missed the convoy. You know they haven't hit the convoy in all this.

The sky is absolutely peppered now with bursts of anti-aircraft fire and the sea is covered with smoke where the bombs have burst. But as far as I can see, there's not one single ship hit and there's definitely one German machine down. And I'm looking across the sea now; I can see the little white dot of the parachute of the German pilot as he's floating down towards the spot where his machine crashed with such a big thump in the water about two minutes ago. Now everything is peaceful for the moment. The Germans, who came over in about 20 dive-bombers, delivered their attack on the convoy, and I think they've made off as quickly as they came. The - I can see one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten Germans tearing towards France . . .

Well, that was a really hot little engagement while it lasted - no damage done except to the Germans, who lost one machine, and the German pilot is still on the end of his parachute, though appreciably nearer the sea than he was. I can see no boat going out to pick him up; so he'll probably have a long swim ashore . . .

Here's a Hurricane coming back to reload. The Hurricane seems to be smoking. The Hurricane's on - no, I don't think he's on fire. I think he's just opening his throttle on full, low down. I guess that's oil. No, that Hurricane's all right. No, he had to dive down low over the water for there were two or three machines after him. And here he comes now, along the harbor. Here is the Hurricane returning from the fight coming straight over our heads. (Prolonged roar of plane's motor as it passes.)

Announcer - Meanwhile, the Junkers finished their hit and run attack and made off towards France. But the fighter escort stayed behind to protect the bombers from our Spitfires and Hurricanes. Several fights developed in various parts of the sky while other British single seaters flew straight out after the bombers. While this was happening, Charles Gardner continued his commentary.

Charles Gardner - There's another fight going on, well up now, I s'pose about 20-25-30,000 feet above our heads, and we can't see a thing of it. The anti-aircraft guns have just put out one, two, three, four, five, six bursts, but I can't see the 'planes. (Steady crump, crump of guns.) There they go again.

Yes, there we just hit a Messerschmitt - oh, that was beautiful - he's coming down now and I think definitely that fellow's conquered. Ah, yes, he's coming down, he's almost crashed - Oh, he's coming down like a rocket now . . . Here he comes! He's down in a steep dive. We're looking for a parachute and - No! the pilot's not getting out of that one! He's being - followed down. There are two more Messerschmitts up there; I think they're all right. No, that man is finished. I think he's come down from about ten thousand or twenty thousand feet to about two thousand feet and he's going straight down. He's not stopping. I think

that's another German machine that's definitely put (out of action). I don't think we shall actually see him crash. (He's going into a bank of clouds. He's smoking now, I can see smoke and although we can't count him definitely behind the hill, he looks certainly out of control. (Anti-aircraft guns continue.)

Now there's another - another Messerschmitt. I don't know whether he's down or whether he's trying to get out of the anti-aircraft which are giving him a very hard time. Now there's a Spitfire - there are four fighters up there and I don't know - there are one, two, three, five fighters fighting right over our heads now, and here's one coming right down on the tail of what I think is a Messerschmitt and, I think, a Spitfire right behind him. Oh, damn! They've turned away, I can't see them - I can't see - I can't see! (Two salvos from anti-aircraft batteries.)

Voice in Background - One crashing, sir.

Charles Gardner - One . . . crashing - no, I think he pulled out. . . . You can't watch these fights very closely, you just see the . . . machines with the little burst of machine guns and by the time you pick up the machines - Oh, There are one, two, three, six machines wheeling and turning 'round - Hark at the machine guns going now - There's one coming right down on the tail of another! There they go - they're being chased home and how they're being chased home. There, look at them go! (Gun crews cheer.) And there's a Spitfire just behind. . . he'll get them - Ah - Yes! Oh, boy! I've never seen anything so good as this. Our air fighters have really got these. Our maching is catching up with the Messerschmitt now - it's catching it -.... You can't tell, but I think something's definitely going to happen to that first Messerschmitt.

Announcer - That Messerschmitt fighter, it was learned later, crashed on the French coast.

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LEAVES NEWSPAPER FIELD FOR RADIO

John A. Kennedy, publisher of the Clarksburg (W. Va.) Exponent, has announced his retirement from the newspaper field to devote his time exclusively to the State radio network which he heads as President and General Manager.

Mr. Kennedy said he had disposed of his interest in the Clarksburg Publishing Company to the Virgil L. Highland estate. The company publishes the morning Exponent, the Telegram, afternoon, and the Sunday Exponent-Telegram. The West Virginia network operates radio stations in Clarksburg, Charleston, Huntington and Parkersburg.

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COMMUNICATIONS DEFENSE MEETING CALLED FOR JANUARY

After an intensive organization period covering almost two months, the first general meeting of the Defense Communications Board will be held in Washington on Monday, January 6, 1941. The chief function of this group is to coordinate the relationship of all branches of communications to the National Defense. Jurisdiction of the Board, in addition to broadcasting, takes in commercial radiotelephone, radiotelegraph as well as other telephone, telegraph and cable facilities. No consideration is being given to radio programs as the Board has no power of censorship.

The Chairman of the Board is James L. Fly, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and the members are Major Gen. Joseph O. Mauborgne, Chief Signal Officer of the Army; Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes, Director of Naval Communications; Hon. Breckenridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State in Charge of the Division of International Communications; Secretary, Herbert E. Gaston, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in Charge of the Coast Guard.

There is a Coordinating Committee composed of E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer, Federal Communications Commission, as Chairman; Francis C. de Wolf, State Department; Maj. W. T. Guest, War Department and Commander J. F. Farley, Chief of Communications, U. S. Coast Guard, Treasury Department.

There are eleven sub-committees, two of which deal with broadcasting, one domestic, and the others international.

Because of the large number of representatives of the industry, the hearings will be held in Room A, Interstate Commerce Commission Building, where the larger radio meetings take place. General policies and procedure will be discussed at the January gathering and individual meetings of the various committees will be held in the afternoon for the purpose of electing committee chairmen and secretaries, and also to consider tentative agenda of work.

None of these sessions will be open to the public, admission being limited to members and their accredited representatives.

The Board also announced that the following companies have been added to the membership of Committee II (Aviation Radio Committee) to represent wire telegraph interests:

American Telephone and Telegraph Co.
Postal Telegraph, Inc.
Western Union Telegraph Co.

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PHILIPS ONLY U. S. COMPETITOR IN PANAMA

Owing to the small per capita radio population and the increasingly favorable employment situation, Panama should afford encouraging sales possibilities, Commercial Attache Ashley B. Lowell, of Panama, reports.

With the exception of a receding interest in Philips and Telefunken sets, the Panama radio set market is dominated by United States sets of several popular makes. Philips is believed to be the only set now being offered in competition with United States sets. Other communication equipment is almost exclusively from the United States.

The weather being tropical the year round in Panama, there are no special selling seasons except the stimulus that may result from the introduction of new models. Also the Christmas season usually occasions more activity. Competent trade authorities estimate that there are about 12,000 receiving sets in use in Panama and the Canal Zone, although statistical data on the subject are not available. Some of the Canal Zone market is supplied through the commissaries, while mail order houses also account for some business.

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RADIO EDITORS' GROUP TO MAKE AWARDS

Radio Editors of America is a new organization set up as a clearing house for information to aid newspaper radio editors and to make annual awards of cash and plaques for radio authors, artists, programs, etc., in 20 different classifications. J. E. (Dinty) Doyle, formerly Radio Editor of the New York Journal-American, is secretary of the group with offices at 509 Madison Avenue, New York City. Philco has provided the money for the organization as a "Foundation" but, according to Mr. Doyle, will have nothing to do with either the administration of the organization or any awards the radio editors make.

Awards are to be announced at the first annual dinner of the group to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, Feb. 15.

On the Organization Committee are Dorothy Doran, Akron Beacon Journal; Ben Kaplan, Providence Journal-Bulletin; Mary Little, Des Moines Register and Tribune; Robert Locke, Kansas City Journal; Jack McManus, New York PM; Leo Miller, Bridgeport Herald; Si Steinhäuser, Pittsburgh Press; and Don Trantor, Buffalo Courier-Express.

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CONSENT DECREE MAY END ASCAP-NAB DISPUTE

Negotiations between the Justice Department and the American Society of Composers, reported in this column last week to be underway, apparently have moved a step nearer an armistice. They have reached a tentative agreement under which the anti-trust prosecution of ASCAP will be dropped on condition that the Composers revise its music fee structure. The agreement will be embodied in an application to the Federal Court of New York (Southern District) for a consent decree dismissing the Government's six-year old charges that ASCAP's fee constitutes a monopoly.

The Justice Department said last Monday that the negotiations which represent a compromise between the Composers and the Broadcasters provided that ASCAP would no longer receive payment from programs not containing the Society's music and the networks in turn would pay the Society fees on chain broadcasts instead of apportioning the cost among the stations that carry the program. The main argument of the Broadcasters has been that they want to pay ASCAP only when they use its music, whereas ASCAP has been insisting that the networks should bear a part of the cost of all music.

The statement of the Justice Department confirmed in part the first four points of a program that was understood to be the basis of a possible consent decree in settlement of the suit.

The Department refused to confirm or deny the specific ten points in the program, which follow:

That ASCAP would discontinue blanket licensing of radio stations for the use of its music; that payment to ASCAP would be on a per program basis; that ASCAP would not seek any minimum guarantee; that music would be cleared at its source; that there would be no discrimination between stations; that composers and publishers would have an option on whether they wanted to vest their catalogues in the Society; that the ASCAP Board would be reorganized to provide for the election of new members; that the ASCAP method of distributing fees received would be revised; that the requirement that a new songwriter must have five songs published before joining ASCAP would be eliminated, and that publishers would pay ASCAP a regular fee for clearance of their catalogues.

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A construction firm which would like to establish temporary radio communication for one of its lighters is advised that this would constitute a "radio station licensed for ship service and located on board a ship which is not permanently moored", the Federal Communications Commission rules.

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NAVY STARTS DRIVE FOR 5,000 RESERVE OPERATORS

The Navy is seeking 5000 radio operators for the Naval Communications Reserve and in this is turning to operators of amateur radio stations.

The key station in the Navy program is NAA, which is the Naval radio station at Arlington, Va. The program includes four two-hour periods from 8 to 10 P.M. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. During these periods officers of the Naval Reserve on active duty in the Washington naval area man the Arlington station. The work was begun November 1 by Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes, Director of Naval Communications, and since that time 334 amateur stations have established communication with the Navy Department.

"The value of the plan is evident because of the shortage of approximately 5,000 communication ratings in the enlisted personnel of the Naval Reserve", Admiral Noyes said. "The results have been beyond expectation and their value is inestimable."

At present there are about 1,000 officers and 5,000 enlisted men who have voluntarily joined the Naval Communications Reserve. They are all amateurs who have signed up for service in the communications arm of the Naval Service.

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RADIO NOTABLES AT GRIDIRON

Among the prominent men identified with the radio industry who attended the famous Gridiron Dinner in Washington last Saturday night were:

H. Leslie Atlass, Columbia Broadcasting System, Chicago, Ill.; Gene Buck, President, American Society of Composers, New York City; Thomas Burke, Chief of the Division of International Communications, State Department; Harry C. Butcher, Vice-President, Columbia Broadcasting System, Washington; Theodore Granik, American Forum of the Air; Irving Herriot, counsel for the Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago; Edward Klauber, Vice-President, Columbia Broadcasting System, New York City; Thomas P. Littlepage, radio counselor, Washington; Eugene F. McDonald, Jr., President, Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago; Frank E. Mullen, Vice-President and General Manager, National Broadcasting Company, New York City; Hugh Robertson, Treasurer, Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago; Louis Ruppel, In Charge of Press Relations, Columbia Broadcasting System, New York City; David Sarnoff, President, Radio Corporation of America, New York City; A. A. Schechter, In Charge of News Events Division, National Broadcasting Company, New York City; Niles Trammell, President, National Broadcasting Company, New York City; Frank W. Wozen-craft, Assistant General Counsel, Radio Corporation of America, New York City.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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An increase to 10 KW has been applied for by Station KNOW of Austin, Texas, and 5 KW by WMIN, of St. Paul.

A stronger, lighter and more durable glass is being produced by a factory in Toledo, Ohio, by the use of a "radio beam" to control the degree of flow of the molten glass.

A charge was made by Irving Cesar, President of the Song Writers' Protective Association, that after a year's activity and the investment of nearly \$3,000,000, BMI, the music bureau set up by the Broadcasters, has not turned out a single song hit.

Ezio Pinza, opera singer, instead of having guests register in a book, makes a recording of their voices.

Station KLRA at Little Rock, Ark., now transmitting with 5 kilowatts seeks to join the 50 KW class according to an application received by the Federal Communications Commission.

Much of the realism of RCA Fantasound, developed especially for Walt Disney's "Fantasia" after years of effort, may soon be available to neighborhood houses as well as downtown theatres through the medium of RCA Panoramic Sound.

At the request of Senator Tom Stewart, of Tennessee, the letter addressed by President Roosevelt to David Sarnoff, President of the Economic Club in New York, was reprinted in the Congressional Record of December 12

Articles in the Bell Laboratory Record for December are:
 "Thermistors, Their Characteristics and Uses," by G. L. Pearson;
 "Devices for Combining DB" Levels, K. G. Van Wymen; "Analysis of Losses in Magnetic Cores", C. D. Owens; "'Information' in Less Space", A. C. Gilmore; "Carrier and Pilot Supply for the J2 Carrier System", L. R. Cox; "Metallic Bridges Between Contact Points"; "A Coupling Unit for Telephotograph Transmission", D. W. Grant; and "Measuring the Air Flow of Small Fans".

The call letters KHASB have been assigned the radio station in the private plane (non-scheduled aircraft) of Robert Taylor, the movie star, operating from Culver City, Calif. The last three letters - ASB - are the initials of the reel Taylor's real name, Arlington Spangler Brough.

As a result of the increased recording activity in Washington, due to national defense work and other programs produced in connection with NBC's contract with the Federal Government, the NBC Radio-Recording Division has established an office in the Capital in the Trans-Lux Building.

An application was filed last week with the Federal Communications Commission for a construction permit to build a new 100 station in Nashville. The station would be powered with 1,000 watts, and would broadcast on a frequency of 1,380 kilocycles, unlimited time. Officers of the company were James G. Stahlman, Chairman of the Board; Silliman Evans, President; E. G. Stahlman, Jr. Vice-President, and E. P. Charlet, Secretary-Treasurer. Messrs. Stahlman and Evans, respectively, are Chairman and President of the Nashville Banner and the Tennessean.

A firm which proposes to broadcast a telephone conversation directly from the telephone lines is informed that the Federal Communications Commission has promulgated no rules or regulations with reference to programs of this nature. However, the tariffs of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company on file with the Commission prohibit the use of the company's regular telephone lines for the purpose described. It is further pointed out that Section 605 of the Communications Act provides privacy for wire and radio communications.

Dr. Harry B. Summers, an instructor in the Department of Public Speaking at Kansas State College since 1932, has been appointed Program Director of the NBC Public Service Division. For the past eight years, Dr. Summers has taught classes in radio broadcasting, program production and research in fields related to broadcasting.

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FAKE "SOS" WAS ONLY AN AMATEUR'S SHOW

A fake "SOS" marine distress call has been traced by the Federal Communications Commission field inspectors to a New England amateur radio operator. Investigation developed that the signal which caused useless concern and wasted valuable time was part of a dramatic program reproduced by the amateur in question to give his fellow hams "code practice". The Commission warns the amateur that transmission of this danger signal is inappropriate for code practice, or in any other situation when an actual emergency does not exist.

On the other hand, the Commission has taken cognizance of the valuable contribution by amateurs in providing emergency communication during the recent Texas flood, when regular wire facilities were temporarily disrupted.

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SUPREME COURT REFUSES RECORD BROADCAST REVIEW

The Radio Corporation of America and Paul Whiteman lost a plea to continue control of recordings of his orchestra's music after sale to the public when the Supreme Court declined to review a decision of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Suit to enjoin broadcasting of the records was asked by Mr. Whiteman and RCA in the lower courts. They pointed out that the records bore notices supposedly restricting them to non-commercial use in private homes.

A trial court agreed with this argument. Judge Vincent Liebell held that Mr. Whiteman had a common-law property right to control the use of his work. The Second Circuit Court, however, decided that any common-law property rights ended with the sale of the records.

The injunction was sought against Station WBO and Elgin, Inc., a sponsor of a program.

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ARMY CAMP BANDS WIN LABOR APPROVAL

The military training camp bands may now go on the air as the result of an agreement reached in New York yesterday by James C. Petrillo, President of the American Federation of Musicians, and representatives of the three major broadcasting chains.

Mr. Petrillo explained that the problem arose when the Federation was asked for "a blanket waiver" to cover any program of any camp band at any time. He voiced the Union's fear that such a procedure might have dispensed with programs requiring the services of studio musicians to a large extent. Mr. Petrillo asserted that the Union had gladly granted individual waivers.

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QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR FCC LEGAL PRACTITIONER

Numerous lawyers who would like to practice before the Federal Communications Commission are informed:

"The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure provide that attorneys at law admitted to practice before any court of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the highest court of any State or Territory, upon application may be admitted to practice before this agency. An attorney at law from any place other than the District of Columbia may, in the discretion of the Commission or the official presiding at any hearing, be admitted for a particular case in which he may be employed. The rules of practice and procedure and those pertaining to the various classes of radio services are not made available for general distribution. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at nominal cost."

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KGEI TO FLASH "TIME" NEWS TO FAR EAST

Royal Arch Gunnison, well known American newspaperman each Friday morning at 4:30 o'clock, San Francisco time, will read the latest issue of "Time" to listeners in faraway lands. When it is 4:30 A.M. in San Francisco, it is 8:30 P.M. (the same day) in Shanghai.

KGEI, General Electric operated, is the only American broadcasting station which can be received regularly in the Orient. The station broadcasts daily to Asia, the Antipodes and South Africa; also to Mexico, Central and South America.

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GEN. HARBORD REMINISCES ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

Gen. James G. Harbord, Chairman of the Radio Corporation of America's Board, contributed an article to the first issue of the magazine "Philippines", published by the Philippine Resident Commissioner to the United States. General Harbord at the age of 36 went to the Philippines as a Captain of U. S. Cavalry. He was appointed Chief of Constabulary and later organized the Moro Constabulary in Zamboango and Sulu. He saw much fighting and became acquainted with a young lawyer named Manuel L. Quezon, then running for Governor of Tayobos and now President of the Philippine Commonwealth. General Harbord wrote of Quezon:

"This was the beginning of a friendship that has endured for 35 years. Nothing in his distinguished career since then has made me regret that I did everything consistent with my duty as a Constabulary Officer to help him."

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MORE PRAISE FOR TROUBLE SHOOTER McGRADY

Frederic William Wile wrote in the Washington Star last week:

"Throughout national defense quarters liveliest satisfaction is expressed over appointment of Edward F. McGrady as Special Labor Consultant to Secretary of War Stimson. The former Assistant Secretary of Labor, now in charge of labor relations for the Radio Corporation of America, will serve without pay. Probably no one in the labor movement enjoys so widely the confidence alike of the rival big union organizations, rank and file of workers, and higher powers in the Government. "Ned" McGrady particularly knows his way about Capitol Hill, because of long A. F. of L. legislative service.

"Author of the Toledo Peace Plan for averting industrial strife, he is considered to be peculiarly the right man in the right place at the War Department at this time, because danger of labor conflict like the recent strike in the aircraft industry is regarded perhaps the most menacing bottleneck in the whole defense picture. Mr. McGrady long ago won his spurs in the field to which Secretary Stimson has just called him, having served in a similar post under World War Secretary Newton D. Baker."

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