

# HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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No. 1347

July 18, 1941

## WAR DEPARTMENT SPENDS MILLIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS

A substantial share of National Defense appropriations is finding its way into radio communications equipment for aircraft, tanks, armored cars, as well as for infantry. Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson told the Senate-Truman investigating committee this week.

Discussing the role of radio and wire communications in modern defense preparations, Mr. Patterson said:

"The Signal Corps functions have a far wider scope than the mere wig-wagging of flags implied in its corps insignia. The Chief Signal Officer is charged with the procurement of all communications equipment used by all branches of the Army, whether it be by radio, by wire, by carrier pigeon or by visual signal. It also obtains meteorological and photographic equipment.

"The most important and expensive materiel assigned to the Signal Corps relates to communication by radio, and one of the most important types of radio equipment relates to aircraft. Every airplane, except certain training planes, is equipped with a radio command set, a low power receiving and transmitting radio set which enables communication between airplanes for purposes of direction. All bombardment and transport planes, in addition, have a radio liaison set, a low or medium power receiving and transmitting radio set, which in one type has a range as great as 2500 miles, for use in communication with other airplanes, or with vehicular or other ground points. The bombardment, transport and advanced training planes are also equipped with a radio compass, which is a dual remote control radio set, to be operated by either pilot, for ascertaining the location of the plane with reference to ground radio stations. For use with aircraft there are also receiving and transmitting ground sets, some of which are built into trucks and trailers for mobile use, for communication from ground to plane. Airplanes are also provided by the Signal Corps with interphone equipment, for communication within the plane.

"In July, 1940, there was being delivered monthly \$500,000 in cost of aircraft equipment. There was no stock on hand, outside of insignificant amounts delivered to the services and installed in planes. The programs for the Fiscal Year 1941 called for an expenditure of \$103,742,000 for this type of equipment. By June 21, 1941, aircraft equipment costing \$11,521,475 had been delivered. The 1942 program, as thus far approved, will call for about \$208,000,000 more to be expended on this materiel, and it is expected to reach an ultimate rate of delivery amount to \$12,000,000 in value of aircraft radio and interphone equipment each month.

"In present-day warfare, radio equipment is also needed in combat vehicles. Tanks and armored cars are designed to be equipped with receiving and transmitting vehicular radio sets provided by the Signal Corps, issued to the Armored Force, Cavalry, Field Artillery, and Signal Corps units for communication between vehicles and with ground stations and aircraft. These sets are of varying power and able to communicate with each other in column or with headquarters located many miles distant. Tanks are also provided by the Signal Corps with interphone equipment.

"On July 1, 1940, there was no vehicular radio equipment on hand unissued to troops; new units were being delivered at the rate of \$115,000 per month. The programs for the Fiscal Year 1941 called for an expenditure of about \$41,000,000 for this type of equipment. By June 21, 1941, vehicular radio equipment costing \$5,270,230 had been delivered. The 1942 program as presently approved calls for \$6,825,000 more to be expended for this type of equipment, and an ultimate delivery is expected at the rate of \$3,000,000 in value of vehicular radio equipment each month.

"There is also need for portable ground equipment. Portable ground radio sets, both transmitting and receiving, are procured by the Signal Corps for issue to the Infantry, the Cavalry and the Field Artillery, etc. These sets vary in power and portability from the light weight sets carried by parachute troops to the heavier and more bulky set carried by man pack or by truck.

"On July 1, 1940, there was none of this equipment on hand other than that in hands of troops, and a monthly rate of delivery of equipment costing \$62,000. The 1941 Fiscal Year programs called for an expenditure of \$38,000,000 for this type of equipment, and by June 21, 1941, ground equipment having a value of \$4,881,895 had been delivered. The 1942 program thus far approved calls for the expenditure of an additional \$789,000 under this head, and it is expected to reach a delivery rate of \$3,400,000 in value of ground radio equipment each month.

"There remains a type of radio equipment which has received much public notice of late - aircraft and surface vessel locating equipment. Not much can be said of this important part of the radio equipment procured by the Signal Corps, because of the necessity for secrecy. Certain secret ground apparatus already under construction under the 1941 program is included in the figures given above for portable ground equipment. A further expenditure of some \$118,000,000 for aircraft equipment of this nature is included in the \$208,000,000 previously mentioned as already approved for the 1942 aircraft radio equipment program. Suffice it to say that the equipment now being delivered is the equal of that in use by any foreign power and is a powerful asset to the defensive system of this country.

"Communication by wire remains important to the Army, in spite of the great development of radio communication. Wire cable of various kinds is needed by front-line units, in addition to



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heavier types of field wire for communication over longer distances. In addition, there are various portable field switchboards and field telephones required. The switchboards vary in size from the small monocord type used by assault units to the larger portable type which approach in size those used in large commercial exchanges.

"On July 1, 1940, there was a stock of wire cable and wire communications equipment of \$1,500,000, with monthly delivery of \$66,000. The 1941 Fiscal Year program called for the expenditure of \$32,500,000, and by June 1st equipment costing \$3,853,248 had been delivered. A monthly delivery is expected of \$2,300,000.

"In addition, a considerable amount of miscellaneous equipment, such as flags, panels for signalling airplanes, codes, ciphers and wire cards and meteorological and photographic equipment has been ordered and received, while the homing pigeon, in spite of all modern inventions, is still a valuable messenger in charge of the Signal Corps.

"The entire programs of the Fiscal Year 1941 for procurement by the Signal Corps totalled over \$223,000,000, and the 1942 program, thus far approved, will add another \$221,000,000. To date material costing \$25,771,544 has been delivered, and a total monthly delivery rate of communications equipment costing \$21,500,000 is in sight. In estimating the progress in procurement in the communications field, it is the building up of the capacity for production of military equipment that is most important. It is noteworthy that the small existing stock of communications equipment has been increased by a delivery of \$25,750,000 in new equipment. But it is more significant that a capacity for production of such equipment amounting to less than \$750,000 a month in June, 1940, will shortly have become a capacity for \$21,500,000 a month. It is this rate of production which will eat up the balance of the 1941 fiscal year program and any increases which may be approved for 1942 and succeeding years.

"This result has been achieved largely by education of the existing huge communications industry to make equipment suited to military needs. Only one facility to date has been enlarged at public expense under the sponsorship of the Signal Corps; to wit, the erection of a plant for the construction of special type of radio equipment. In addition, a plant is under construction for the manufacture of Carbonyl Iron powder used in electrical cores, and 3 plants for the manufacture of the new light assault wire. Expansion is also planned for the ceramics industry in the manufacture of insulators. All told, the total cost to the public of the expansion in production capacity of the communications industry, so far as now planned, will probably not much exceed \$3,500,000."

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## NEWSPAPER HEARING GETS "GO" SIGNAL DESPITE OPPOSITION

The Federal Communications Commission was preparing to go ahead with its scheduled investigation of newspaper ownership and control of radio stations next Wednesday, despite a challenge of its authority by the American Newspaper Publishers' Association.

The hearing will be held in the auditorium of the National Archives Building, Pennsylvania Avenue at Seventh Street, N.W., with entrance on Pennsylvania Avenue. Daily sessions will open at 10 A.M. and close at 4:30 P.M.

Elisha Hanson, general counsel of the ANPA, asserted that the FCC is legally powerless to inquire into newspaper ownership of radio broadcasting stations and asked the Commission to call off the investigation.

In a formal motion filed with the Commission, Mr. Hanson said the Federal agency was "without authority under the statute governing its operations to conduct such an inquiry", or to adopt any policy or rules governing future application for newspaper radio stations.

Likewise, he said the Commission could not "conduct a general inquiry into the newspaper publishing business".

He moved that the Commission vacate its orders for the hearings.

The A.N.P.A., its counsel noted, comprises more than 425 newspaper publishers whose papers represent more than 80 per cent of all daily and Sunday circulation in this country.

Many association members, he went on, hold radio broadcast licenses, and others are applicants, and while many do not possess licenses, "all are vitally interested" in the question precipitated by the commission's questionnaire preliminary to the hearing.

The association, Mr. Hanson asserted, holds the Commission "without power under the Constitution of the United States, to lay down a policy, the purpose of which is to bar persons, firms or corporations engaged in the newspaper publishing business from engaging in the radio broadcast business."

The hearing is expected to continue a week or longer.

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## RMA MATERIEL BUREAU STUDIES RADIO SUBSTITUTES

The Radio Manufacturers' Association, alarmed at the prospect of the radio manufacturing industry being unable to get aluminum and nickel, has set up a Materiel Bureau to find substitutes for the metals taken over for National Defense.

The Materiel Bureau has set up several sub-committees to study particular problems, especially in connection with the manufacture of electrolytic capacitors, tubes, variable condensers, and permanent magnet speakers.

The objectives of the Material Bureau are explained in the following memorandum prepared by Dr. W. R. G. Baker, Director of the RMA Engineering Department:

"The Radio Industry, like other consumer goods industries, is beginning to feel the effect of priorities on materials. In certain instances such as aluminum and nickel, the limitations are such as, in effect, to withdraw such materials from the industry. Many other materials have been partially restricted due to priority action. In cases of other materials shortages have resulted from their increased usage as substitutes for materials under either complete or partial priority restrictions.

"The Board of Directors of RMA believes that the material situation will become increasingly difficult. It believes that there is required an immediate and continuous effort toward the conservation of materials. Such action is necessary not only for defense purposes but also in order that the radio industry may continue to manufacture its various products in quantity and with no decrease in quality.

"To that end the Board has instructed the RMA Engineering Department to establish a Materiel Bureau, whose function is to find substitutes for, or more effective use of, materials under priority regulations. This Bureau, with the cooperation of the engineers of the industry, is to undertake the problem of material utilization, not only through substitute materials, but also, from the viewpoint of mechanical design, circuit design, and standardization, both electrical and mechanical. It is planned that the Materiel Bureau will cover all product lines in which the members of RMA are interested, such as receivers, transmitters, tubes, and other component parts.

"Of the many projects sponsored by the RMA Engineering Department, the Materiel Bureau is one of the most important, and at the same time, undoubtedly, the most difficult. To function successfully and to bring to the industry the results anticipated by the Board, the Materiel Bureau will require the maximum in voluntary cooperation.



"The members of the Board were informed by the Director of the RMA Engineering Department that no important results might be expected of this Bureau, unless the executives of the various companies inform their engineers as to the importance of the project, instruct them to actively contribute to the work of the Bureau, and emphasize to them the absolute necessity for full co-operation. It was further pointed out that the efforts of the Bureau would be completely vitiated unless the industry accepted and acted on such findings of the Bureau as were deemed by the Advisory Council to be in the best interests of the industry. It is on this basis that the Materiel Bureau has been established.

"We have two approaches to the problem of material conservation. The first is through the better and more efficient utilization of such normal material as may be available.

"The second approach is through substitution of materials, and even in this instance, the utilization factor must not be neglected lest a shortage of the substitute materials results.

"Running through both the utilization and the substitution methods is the need for the maximum in standardization of types, sizes, shapes, values, etc. An immediate acceleration of our normal program of standardization, well planned and executed will, in itself, result in appreciable conservation of material."

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#### FCC WARNS AGAINST AXIS PROPAGANDA

The Federal Communications Commission has served notice on the broadcasting industry that it will "not tolerate hostile propagandizing in the interest of any foreign government which has repeatedly and flagrantly expressed its enmity to this country and to the continued existence of its basic system of government".

The warning came in a decision involving two New York stations. Station WCNW, licensed to Arthur Faske, had accused Station WWRL, operated by Long Island Broadcasting Corporation, Woodside, of pro-Nazi leanings. Investigation failed to establish the charge but the Commission took occasion to deliver an admonition.

FCC conceded that radio stations have "a recognized duty to present well rounded programs on subjects which may be fairly said to constitute public controversies of the day within our democratic system of government", but set bounds beyond which radio must not go if a licensee is to remain on the air.

Both licensees were granted renewals of their permits to continue present operations. The Long Island station had requested permission to assume the operating hours of WCNW, but this proposal was rejected. The controversy was part of the "Little Brooklyn Cases" which involved 11 Brooklyn radio stations or applicants.

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## DEFENSE PROGRAMS GIVEN PRIORITY ON ETHER

The broadcasting industry is going to give priority to those Government programs dealing with the essentials of National Defense, the National Defense Committee of the National Association of Broadcasters, announced Thursday, following the adoption of a "priorities" resolution for the guidance of the industry.

The Committee pointed out that governmental agencies had made so many requests for time on the air that many stations were finding it impossible to grant all of them and, at the same time, to preserve a balanced program service. Such a balanced program service was necessary, the Committee said, to continue to attract and hold the large listening audiences, without which governmental programs and announcements would be ineffective.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that all stations give priority to governmental programs in substantially the following order:

- (1) Enlistment of man power for both the armed services and National Defense industries.
- (2) Defense financing, such as the sale of Defense Bonds.
- (3) Morale building
- (4) Activities of government agencies not primarily connected with National Defense.

The Committee also approved the resolution adopted by the N.A.B. Executive Committee reaffirming "the industry's desire to continue its present practice of making its facilities available at no cost to government agencies engaged in promoting the National Defense program."

Among other aspects of the relationship between radio and the Defense program discussed at the Committee's two-day meeting was the development of an adequate supply of radio technicians for both the government and the industry. The Committee advised both the War and Navy Departments that the industry was ready to do its part in a large-scale training program to help fill any need.

According to the United States Civil Service Commission radio has contributed in large measure to prompt locating and securing of over 500,000 skilled workers for War and Navy Departments. A large proportion of these were for the field.

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"The British Grenadiers", a marching tune known all over the world, has become a signature-tune for the British Broadcasting Company's Empire Services. A recording specially made for the purpose by the Grenadier Guards Band now introduces each of the transmission periods of the day's broadcasting. In all the tune is heard by overseas listeners ten times each weekday and seven times on Sundays.

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## G.E. GETS TELEVISION CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

The Albany-Schenectady-Troy area was brought a step nearer commercial television service this week when the Federal Communications Commission granted a construction permit to the General Electric Company for such a station to operate on Television Channel No. 3 (66,000-72,000 kilocycles) to serve 3,320 square miles with some 572,000 residents.

The applicant proposes to remodel its present experimental television station, W2XB, in the Helderberg Hills, New Scotland, N. Y., for commercial purposes by September 1. Incidental experimentation with color television is contemplated.

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## BIDS ASKED ON COAST GUARD RADIO STATION

Bids have been solicited for the construction of buildings and accessories for a new Coast Guard radio station to be located at East Moriches, N. Y. This station will be the first of nine similar stations to be constructed in the near future, eight in the United States proper and one in Alaska.

The new station will consist of an operations building in which the actual radio communications work will be performed, two small transmitter buildings, an equipment building, which will house two radio communications trucks and a truck for radio testing in the field, a two-story barracks building, and a dwelling for the officer in charge.

The site for the station was selected after extensive radio tests on the basis of minimum interruption and interference by power plants, power lines, industrial plants, and other sources of interference. At the same time the new station is so located that radio communication of the Service may be carried on with the highest degree of efficiency.

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## FCC CAN'T STOP "THIRTY" SIGN-OFF

A New York radio listener has written the Federal Communications Commission on several occasions objecting to the use of the term "and thirty" at the conclusion of broadcasts by a certain news commentator.

The FCC has advised the complainant it does not have authority to order discontinuance of the use of this term. However, it explains that "thirty" is a term traditionally used by telegraphers. It means "that is all", "the end", or, in this

particular case, "goodnight". It is said to have originated in the following manner: In the early days of news reporting, Washington correspondents wrote by long hand, and their copy was transmitted by telegraph. Operators at the receiving end had to make as many as a dozen copies of each dispatch. To mark the end of an item they adopted the symbols "XXX". Since three X's constitute the Roman numerals for "30", this practice was not only popularized by telegraphers but by copy desk men as well. By the same token, the following numerals have special significance to old-time telegraphers: "4" (where?); "8" (wait); "13" (understood); "19" (railroad order); "31" (other order); "73" (best regards), and "22" (kisses).

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### THREE FM STATIONS AUTHORIZED BY FCC

Construction permits for two commercial FM stations in California and a non-commercial educational station in Illinois, were authorized this week by the Federal Communications Commission.

Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., of Hollywood, was granted a Class C station construction permit, for extended urban and rural service from an antenna planned atop Mount Wilson, Pasadena, subject to certain engineering and legal requirements. It is authorized to use the frequency 43100 kilocycles for this purpose.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc., proposes to locate a station in the Santa Monica Mountains to cover the Los Angeles metropolitan district and adjacent basis trading areas of Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties, as well as the western portion of Riverside County. More than 2,500,000 persons reside in this 7,000-mile service area. Pending approval of the antenna site by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, the applicant can arrange to use the frequency 46,100 kilocycles.

The University of Illinois was granted a construction permit for an FM station which will supplement its educational services. The station will operate on 42900 kilocycles, using power of 250 watts.

The university, which is at Urbana, Ill., intends to utilize the antenna of its present standard broadcast station, WILL, located south of Champaign, Ill., for the new service. Its non-commercial educational service will provide supervisory and administrative instruction as well as supplementary educational programs for the Champaign and Urbana elementary and secondary public schools supplement teaching in the rural schools of Champaign County, and augment the educational services of the University High School in the College of Education. Programs will be determined by the Dean of the College of Education in cooperation with the supervising head of the unit to which the particular program is directed but, in general, will embrace history, civics, economics, literature, music, and speech.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::  
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General Electric Company's profit available for dividends for the first six months of this year amounted to \$26,003,665 compared with \$25,981,572 for the same period last year, President Charles E. Wilson has announced. These earnings, which were equivalent in each case to 90 cents a share of common stock, were after provision for Federal income and excess profits taxes of approximately \$52,000,000 for the six months' period this year compared with \$19,000,000 for the same period a year earlier.

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The first citation ever made by the United States Treasury Department as the result of a television broadcast, was made this week by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau to Alfred H. Morton, Vice-President in charge of Television for the National Broadcasting Company. The citation reads: "In recognition of distinguished and patriotic services to our country rendered in behalf of National Defense on a nation-wide broadcast on the date of May 1, 1941, televised." This was the coast-to-coast broadcast ushering in the sale of Defense bonds.

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The fourth annual Spanish edition of the American Radio Relay League's "Radio Amateur's Handbook", the standard manual of amateur radio communication, made its appearance in the United States this week.

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William S. Paley, Columbia Broadcasting System President, has set Monday, October 6, as the date for the 1941 meeting of the CBS Adult Education Board. Invitations are going out to the 13 leaders in education and the country's public life who make up the Board's personnel, to convene at Columbia's New York headquarters for the annual session.

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Station WBAL, Blue Network outlet in Baltimore, is no longer synchronized with Station WJZ, New York, key station of the Blue Network, William S. Hedges, Vice-President in Charge of Station Relations has announced. Station WBAL is now on full time operation on the 1090 channel with 50,000 watts power.

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General Electric stockholders on June 27 totaled 217,340, an increase of 6223 over a year ago, W. W. Trench, Secretary of the company, has announced. The present number to whom the July 25 dividend will be paid is an increase of 1782 over the last record date, March 14, 1941.

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## MBS AND AFRA SIGN NO-STRIKE ACCORD

The Mutual Broadcasting System and the American Federation of Radio Artists have signed an agreement which will prevent strikes against programs transmitted by this network to a station engaged in a labor dispute with AFRA, providing the outlet agrees to arbitration of its local negotiations. This new pact, combined with earlier agreements between Mutual originating stations and the union, thus frees the network from involvement in the labor-talent disputes of its affiliated stations where arbitration is accepted, and leaves AFRA free to strike where the affiliate refuses arbitration.

The agreement, signed by W. E. Macfarlane, President of Mutual, and Mrs. Emily Holt, National Executive Secretary, and George Heller, associate secretary and treasurer of AFRA, marks an important step in network-labor relations.

Simultaneously it was announced by Fred Weber, General Manager of Mutual, that the servicing of network programs to all its affiliates continues without interruption, following settlement of differences between AFRA and radio station WKRC, Cincinnati.

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## DCB LAUDED ON INITIAL REPORT

The following editorial on the Defense Communications Board appeared in the Washington Post:

"A nation, like an Army, must be forever on guard lest its communications be interrupted. In time of trouble cables may be cut, radio circuits jammed, equipment damaged, power supply cut off, and there might be an overconcentration on particular methods of communication. In the original defense setup preparedness for these eventualities was intrusted to the Defense Communications Board. Little has since been heard of it, but this is because, under the energetic chairmanship of James L. Fly, it has been too busy to say much. Now we are told what the DCB has been up to. And the report on progress testifies to the industry of the DCB staff. Here are a few of the items: Cable repair ships have been surveyed and checked to make sure of their availability in time of emergency; arrangements have been made to add to their number; resources of cable, together with insulating material, have been tabulated, sources checked, and substitutes experimented with; interconnections among communications companies have been worked out, and each communications company now has appointed a liaison officer for this job; bottlenecks have been examined, and methods for dealing with them are under study. The DCB seems to be confident that none of the problems remitted to it is insoluble. For the release winds up: 'Our communications system can be kept operating at high efficiency through any future emergency without interruption and without necessary delay.' "

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