

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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No. 1386

December 9, 1941

JAP ATTACK GIVES RADIO GREATEST NEWS BREAK

Never in the history of radio have the broadcasters had such a news break as the Japanese attack on Hawaii. If they had timed it themselves, they could not have done it more perfectly. With every newspaper office in the country closed that quiet Sunday afternoon, the broadcasting stations had the field entirely to themselves. Furthermore, the stations were not hampered by military censorship as they will be now and could go on the air immediately with dispatches received direct from Hawaii, Manila and other red hot news centers.

An hour before any newspaper extra made its appearance, eye-witness accounts were being flashed direct from Pearl Harbor and Honolulu. One of these, an NBC commentator whose broadcasts were frequently interrupted by the fighting, said that a bomb had dropped within 50 feet of the tower of Station KGU, where he was talking. He reported that two Honolulu radio stations announced the attack but that residents were skeptical until bombs began falling in various parts of the city.

Newspaper extras finally began to appear but in Washington people seemed to be buying them more to see what they were hearing about actually in print or for a souvenir to preserve for future reference rather than for their news value. Never before has the radio out-distanced the press so far on a great news event. Everybody was at home on that particular day or was within hearing of a radio and that was the way practically everyone received the news.

It wasn't until about eight hours after the first flash came from the White House regarding the Pearl Harbor attack that restrictions on all outgoing radiograms and cables from the United States and its outlying possessions was placed in effect by the Army and Navy. The censorship was covered in two actions, the War Department order which gave rules limiting the reporting of Army matters, and the Navy action which set in motion control over all cable and radio messages addressed abroad and originating in this country.

Naval personnel had been trained and distributed to the control points for its part of the program, it was understood, and censorship of outgoing messages had been started before the Navy announced the procedure in the evening.

The War Department plan was based on a law known as the Espionage Act of 1918, which in itself represented an amendment of a law first passed in 1798. Under authority of that law, the War Department made the following announcement:

"All information relative to strength, location, designation, composition and movement of United States troops or Army transports outside the continental limits of the United States are designated by the War Department as secret and will be so considered under the law."

The Army and Navy order with regard to scrutinizing outgoing messages was received by F. P. Guthrie, District Manager of R.C.A. Communications, Inc. in Washington at 10 P.M. Sunday night. Mr. Guthrie explained that several very simple rules had been laid down in connection with the censorship.

1. That all messages should be in plain English and that the text should be clear.
2. Registered addresses prohibited - that is code addresses.
3. All messages should be fully addressed with the name entirely written out and the street number.
4. Messages should be signed by the full name of the sender.

Mr. Guthrie explained that the British censorship in the beginning had not allowed code messages to be sent but had later relaxed this ruling to the extent of allowing commercial messages to be sent in code if the sender used a standard code and told what code-book he was using. Mr. Guthrie said that under the U.S. censorship now in effect, the telegraph companies were not guaranteeing the sender time of delivery of message because of necessary delay involved in censor examining the messages.

Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission immediately announced that special restrictions had been placed upon all international communications pending a more complete determination of censorship. The order affects 50,000 amateurs in the continental United States, its territories and possessions.

All amateur radio operators, except those with specific Government authorization were barred from the airways by order of the Federal Communications Commission.

The Commission gave out the following statement yesterday afternoon (December 8):

"Following special meetings this morning of the Defense Communications Board and the Federal Communications Commission, the ban imposed last night on amateur radio communications in the United States, its territories and possessions was tightened by the Commission to include all amateurs except those who may be permitted to function in a special national defense category upon specific recommendation of the Defense Communications Board.

"Until further notice the Commission has canceled all monitoring schedules by broadcast stations heretofore maintained after midnight hours for the purpose of checking frequency stability of such stations. This was done in order that full use may be made of broadcast stations for defense purposes. Previously, each station was required to maintain silence during periods after midnight so that frequencies of stations sharing the same channel could be monitored effectively."

Burke Edwards, of Chevy Chase, Md., a member of the Army Amateur Radio System said "hams" last week received special Government questionnaires requesting information on types of sets, amount of equipment and operating frequencies. This, he said, was apparently done in preparation for calling qualified operators to emergency duty.

Roy Cordeman, also of Chevy Chase, emergency coordinator for the Potomac Valley Relay Radio League, reported that many amateurs are currently busy improving their equipment in order to meet emergency operation requirements.

"We expected this prohibition", said Cordeman, and he agreed with Edwards that all local amateurs stood ready to serve in any way possible.

Edwards interpreted the FCC order as a move to thwart alien agents who might attempt to communicate with their home countries by "hiding" in the amateur frequency bands.

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BROADCASTERS STAND READY FOR WAR SERVICE

Neville Miller, President of the National Association of Broadcasters, last Monday (December 8) sent the following telegram to President Roosevelt:

"The broadcasters of the United States place their services at your command. We stand ready to serve in every way possible."

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The Directors of the Network Affiliates, Inc. called in a group at the Federal Communications Commission shortly after war was declared to make a general offer of cooperation and service.

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ROCKEFELLER ENLARGES COMMUNICATIONS UNIT FOR WAR

Strengthening his Communications Division for war service, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, has added three key men.

Russell Pierce was appointed Associate Director of the Communications Division, in charge of administration and projects of the New York office.

John W. G. Ogilvie was named Associate Director of the Communications Division with special radio responsibilities.

Merlin H. Aylesworth continues as Chairman of the Radio Section, and Sylvester L. Weaver becomes Director.

All three of the new appointees will be on the New York staff of Don Francisco, Director of the Communications Division.

Mr. Pierce helped organize the South American operations of the J. Walter Thompson Company. He was Manager for Argentina and later Vice President of the domestic company.

Mr. Weaver was formerly Advertising Manager of the American Tobacco Company. On September 1, he obtained leave of absence to serve as Associate Director of the Communications Division in Washington. He was formerly Manager of the Radio Department of Young and Rubicam. A native of California, Mr. Weaver graduated from Dartmouth College in 1930.

Mr. Ogilvie assumes the position formerly held by Mr. Weaver but will be located in New York. He has had long experience in the other American Republics, traveling extensively on business in Argentina, Chile, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. He was recently Director of Radio for the International Telephone and Telegraph Company. From 1935 to 1938, Mr. Ogilvie was President of Radio Corporation Puerto Rico. He was a Spanish post-graduate student at Queens College, Oxford, England, after finishing at Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., in the class of 1924.

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CLAIMS NEW AMATEUR SET ELIMINATES STATIC

Karl E. Pierson, an amateur radio operator of Los Angeles, has developed a receiver which he claims is more effective in eliminating static than any now available.

Dr. Lee DeForest was quoted by the Associated Press as saying:

"Pierson employs special silencers which possess the unique quality of cutting out or reducing in their intensity to an outstanding degree all sorts of interference." Dr. DeForest said tests showed the receiver can pick up messages through interference noises four times the intensity of the signals themselves, exceeding in this respect frequency modulation sets.

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SAYS NO ALARM IN PRESIDENT'S WAR EMERGENCY POWERS

Reassurances were given by James L. Fly, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission that there should be no alarm on the part of the broadcasters about taking over properties wholesale by the President under his war emergency powers in the Communications Act. Only the essential things needed would be taken, he said, and certainly there was no prospect of taking over broadcast facilities generally.

Chairman Fly, when asked if an Executive Order is necessary to transfer these communications war emergency powers to the President, said he was not sure that such an order is essential to accomplish it. Evidently this power goes to the President automatically with the declaration of war. He said the Navy undoubtedly will need some properties. However, the Navy has already talked such things out with the companies concerned, he told questioners. The taking over would be accomplished by contracts.

Chairman Fly said he had talked with communications company heads and there was complete cooperation in the desire to help the Government. Any taking over of circuits and transmitters would be by agreement with companies. The war emergency powers of the President in the Communications Act read:

"Section 606 authorizes the President during the continuance of a war in which the United States is engaged, if he finds it necessary for the national defense and security, to direct that communications essential to the national defense and security shall have preference or priority with any carrier subject to the Act. Any carrier complying with such order is thereby exempt from any and all other provisions in the existing law regarding preference or priority. During such war, it is declared unlawful to obstruct or retard communication, and the President is authorized to employ the armed forces of the United States to prevent any suba obstruction or retardation of communication. Paragraph c provides that upon proclamation by the President that there exists war or a threat of war or a state of public peril or disaster or other national emergency, or in order to preserve the neutrality of the United States, the President may suspend or amend, for such time as he may see fit, the rules and regulations applicable to any or all stations within the jurisdiction of the United States as prescribed by the Commission and may close any station for radio communication and have its apparatus and equipment removed or authorize its use or control by any department of the Government. The Senate bill contained a provision authorizing the President in time of war or public peril to take over wire and radio offices and stations, but the provision concerning wire communications was eliminated. In all cases, just compensation shall be paid to the owners. These provisions, adopted from Sec. 6 and 7 of the Radio Act, grant necessary emergency powers and are self-explanatory."

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WHITE HOUSE AND MILITARY TAKE OVER CENSORSHIP

It was made clear that neither the Defense Communications Board nor the Federal Communications Commission was exercising censorship. Presumably this was being exercised solely by the Army and Navy with outgoing short-wave broadcasts being scrutinized. Actually the main restrictions were being exercised by the White House. The lid was clamped down on news at about 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon and since then outside of routine announcements the Executive Mansion - probably from the President himself - has been the source of all important communiques.

Reports filtered into Washington Monday night and Tuesday that West Coast broadcasting stations, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and Spokane had been closed down temporarily for fear that Japanese planes might be guided in. All the Federal Communications Commission said they knew about this was what they read in the newspaper dispatches.

According to these reports all stations but one in the Pacific Northwest region will go off the air nightly at 7 P.M. The broadcaster to remain on later is to be selected by the War Department.

The Navy disclosed that it would enforce the Espionage Act of 1918, providing heavy penalties for wilful disclosure of such information.

The War Department extended its ban on military information to include information relating to the routes, schedules and destinations of troop movements within or without the continental United States.

In a memorandum to the press, the Department said:

"Information tending to disclose the number of troops, designation of units and disposition of forces overseas is restricted.

"Information as to movements of transports within or without territorial waters is restricted.

"Casualty lists will, if possible, include home addresses, but will not include designation of units."

Both the Defense Communications Board and the Federal Communications Commission are constantly holding special meetings but their role, they say, is making communications facilities to other government departments and it is for them to say - not the DCB or the FCC, - what, if any censorship is to be exercised.

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MUTUAL PLEDGES WARTIME COOPERATION

The following wire was sent Sunday night following the Pearl Harbor attack to James L. Fly, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission by officials of the Mutual network:

"Dear Mr. Chairman:

In the face of this great national emergency the Mutual Broadcasting System offers and pledges to you and through you to the United States its loyal and wholehearted cooperation in making its facilities available for whatever may be required in the public interest.

Alfred J. McCosker, Chairman Board
W. E. Macfarlane, President
Lewis Allen Weiss, Vice-President"

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W. G. PRESTON, JR., OF NBC, ENDS LIFE

Walter G. Preston, Jr., Manager of the Public Service Division of the National Broadcasting Company, ended his life early Sunday morning by taking an overdose of sleeping tablets, in his apartment in New York City. Mr. Preston was 39 years old and was former assistant to Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago.

Mr. Preston was born in Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada. He entered Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass., where he stayed two years before entering Yale University, from which he was graduated in 1925. At Yale he was business manager of The Daily News, student newspaper.

When Dr. Hutchins became President of the University of Chicago in 1929, Mr. Preston was appointed his assistant, which post he held until 1932, when he became administrative vice president and director of the Bankers Reserve Life Company.

Mr. Preston joined the National Broadcasting Company in 1935 as Assistant to the Vice President and Treasurer. The following year he was made Director of the General Service Department of NBC, and in 1938 was appointed Assistant to the Vice President in Charge of Education. Later he became manager of the Public Service Division, which arranges radio forums and does other promotional work.

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WAR BRINGS BIG I. T. & T. MANUFACTURING EXPANSION

International Telephone and Radio Manufacturing Corporation, I. T. & T. subsidiary, has moved its selenium rectifier manufacturing facilities from 137 Varick Street, New York, to its new plant in East Newark, N. J. Production of the rectifiers has been divided between the two plants pending consolidation at the new premises at East Newark.

This rectifier is an important item in certain electrical apparatus and is being used in aircraft, tanks, battleships, destroyers, submarines, range finding apparatus, field communication equipment and other military purposes in addition to a wide application in normal industrial fields.

Present plans call for quadrupling the 1941 output of I. T. & T. rectifiers in 1942.

Although the selenium rectifier was introduced in the United States only three years ago and until this year was manufactured on a small scale, the new division in East Newark is the largest air conditioned rectifier plant in the world.

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JOHN C. WILSON, TELEVISION ENGINEER, DIES

John C. Wilson, English television engineer, who resided in recent years in the United States, died in New York last week after a protracted illness. He was only 32 years old.

Mr. Wilson was born in London, son of the late A. J. Wilson of the British Patent Office. He early showed an interest in television, and in 1928 joined the Baird Television Development Company. He was engaged in research and development work there until 1935 when he transferred to Ferranti, Ltd., continuing in the same field. The next year Mr. Wilson came to this country to assist the Columbia Broadcasting System which was then inaugurating a substantial program of television development.

Mr. Wilson's textbook "Television Engineering", on which he had worked for some years, appeared in the Autumn of 1937.

Mr. Wilson joined the Hazeltine Service Corporation, Little Neck, L. I., where he continued his work as an engineer and inventor. His patent related to various branches of the television art, including scanning, improvement of picture quality, and color television.

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 :::: TRADE NOTES ::::
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Don Flamm, former owner of Station WMCA, New York, came back into the radio field this week by applying for a construction permit for a new broadcast station in New York to be operated on 620 kilocycles, 5 kilowatts, unlimited time, using directional antenna.

 Station WRUL, short-wave station, World Wide Broadcasting Company, of Boston, seeks to increase its power from 20 to 60 KW.

 Leonard Hole, Manager of CBS television operations, takes over the last six in a series of fifteen lectures on television at New York University. The first nine lectures in the series were given by Tom Hutchinson, who recently joined Ruthrauff & Ryan, Inc.

 Apropos some discussion to the reported sinking of the Battleship OKLAHOMA at Pearl Harbor, Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission remarked that he had once served as an Ensign on the OKLAHOMA. Mr. Fly is a graduate of the Naval Academy.

 Finland got its first-hand information over the radio from America in its native tongue beginning last night (Dec. 8) when NBC's International Division broadcast the initial daily Finnish program over its short-wave facilities, 50,000-watt stations WRCA and WNBI, from 1:30 to 2:00 P.M., EST.

 A system for using frequency modulation in telegraph operation has been developed by Western Union Telegraph Company engineers and is being used in the Western Union network. While telegraph lines are not affected by static, sharp weather changes sometimes throw sensitive carrier currents out of balance, and this has been remedied by the use of FM.

 Among the letters of congratulations addressed to Marshall Field which his new paper, the Chicago Sun, printed in its first issue, were a number from broadcasters including David Sarnoff, President of RCA, Harry C. Koff, Vice-President, NBC, Chicago; Jules Herbeuveaux, NBC Program Manager, Hal Totten, CBS, Chicago, and Todd Hunter, WBBM.

Mr. Sarnoff concluded: "May the faith and high purposes of those behind the new paper be reflected brightly in the sunrise of each day."

Mr. Koff said: "Freedom of speech is the keystone of our democracy and a fearless, unbiased editorial policy the foundation of every abiding conveyor of news."

Mr. Totten wrote: "The very might of our country is based upon a full presentation from all sides of every issue, controversial or otherwise."

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RCA PAYS 20 CENTS ON COMMON

Following the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Radio Corporation of America held yesterday in New York, David Sarnoff, President of the Corporation, announced that the following dividends had been declared:

On the outstanding shares of First Preferred stock, 87½ cents per share, for the period from October 1, 1941, to December 31, 1941, payable in cash on January 1, 1942, to the holders of record of such stock at the close of business December 18, 1941.

On the outstanding shares of "B" Preferred stock, \$1.25 per share, for the period from October 1, 1941, to December 31, 1941, payable in cash on January 1, 1942, to the holders of record of such stock at the close of business December 18, 1941.

On the outstanding shares of Common stock, 20 cents per share, payable in cash on January 28, 1942, to the holders of record of such stock at the close of business December 19, 1941.

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MUTUAL NOVEMBER BILLINGS APPROACH MILLION MARK

Mutual Broadcasting System billing figures just reported for the month of November, 1941, and the 11-months cumulative, toppled two records:

1) The November, 1941, figure of \$958,935 is the highest ever reached in one month since the network was organized in 1934. This represents an increase of 52.8 percent over November, 1941, when the billings were \$627,562. (Without political revenue, November, 1940, billings were \$516,338, bringing the increase up to 85.7 percent.)

2) The 11-months 1941 cumulative figure of \$6,352,457 was also the highest in the network's history, topping 1940's similar period (\$4,017,189) by 58.1 percent. (If 1940's political revenue is deducted, last year's 11-months total would be \$3,905,965, jumping the increase to 62.6 percent.)

Mutual's 11-months' total of \$6,352,457 exceeds 1940's full year's billings of \$4,767,154 by \$1,585,403.

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RCA VICTOR AD RECOMMENDS COMPETITORS

"Of course, we know you're disappointed, madam, but our competitors make good phonograph-radios!" is the heading of an RCA Victor ad which will appear in the Dec. 20 issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

Part of a plan to help RCA Victor dealers do more business during the period of the national emergency, the full-page ad urges "If you can't get a Magic Brain RCA Victrola, we suggest you follow your dealers' advice on other good phonograph-radios he has in stock.

The Post spread explains in the text that RCA Victor is cooperating to the full with national defense requirements, and that consequently the Company does not have sufficient manufacturing facilities and materials to take care of the greatest demand for RCA Victorla models in its history.

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NBC DEFENSE ADVISORY GROUPS ELECTED

A major development in the formation of the NBC Stations Planning and Advisory Committees on National Defense was reported by Niles Trammell, NBC President, when he announced that final returns from the elections held by NBC affiliated stations for permanent members for the Blue and Red network committees have been received from 13 out of the 14 districts.

Members elected to the permanent committee representing the NBC Red Network are:

Paul W. Morency, Station WTIC, Hartford, Conn., District 1; James D. Shouse, Station WLW, Cincinnati, O., District 2; Stanley Hubbard, Station KSTP, St. Paul, Minn., District 3; Harry Stone, Station WSM, Nashville, Tenn., District 4; O. L. Taylor, Station KGNC, Amarillo, Texas, District 5; Ed. Yocum, Station KGHL, Billings, Mont., District 6; Arden X. Pangborn, Station KGW, Portland, Oregon, District 7.

Members elected to the permanent committee representing the NBC Blue Network are: (District 6, as yet unreported)

Harry Wilder, Station WSYR-WTRY, Troy-Syracuse, N.Y., District 1; Allen Campbell, Station WXYZ, Detroit, Mich., District 2; Earl May, Station KMA, Shenandoah, Ia., District 3; Henry P. Johnston, Station WSGN, Birmingham, Ala., District 4; Harold Hough, Station KGKO, Fort Worth, Tex., District 5; Howard Lane, Station KFBK, Sacramento, Calif., District 7.

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