

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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No. 1388

December 16, 1941

PLAN FOR SILENCING STATIONS WHEN AIR RAIDS IMPEND

Plans have now been worked out to avoid further confusion and to assure the immediate closing down of broadcast stations if an air raid is threatened. It is the result of joint action by the Federal Communications Commission, the radio branch of the War Department's Bureau of Public Relations, telephone services and the Army air force's interceptor command.

Stations will be grouped by radio control areas within the regions of the interceptor commands. In case of an alarm, the interceptor command will order stations in given areas to shut down.

The orders apply to standard broadcast, high frequency, television and relay broadcast stations.

Officials said the plan should assure "speedy and accurate transmission" or orders to cease broadcasting and also should eliminate "unnecessarily imposed silences".

When all is clear, the interceptor command will advise stations in the control area to resume operations.

The department said the following, or a similar, announcement would be made when service must be temporarily suspended:

"At this time, ladies and gentlemen, radio station..... is temporarily leaving the air in conformity with the national defense program. Keep your radio on so that upon resumption of our service, we may bring you the latest information."

President Roosevelt told his press conference that newspapers and the radio should refrain from using war casualty lists in full; that is, compilations of names of those dead or wounded.

J. Edgar Hoover was appointed to coordinate censorship of all news and communications until a permanent censor is named. Attorney General Biddle explained that Mr. Hoover was merely assigned to coordinate and will not be the official censor when the system becomes effective.

In New York, the Navy took over censorship of outgoing communications within a few hours Sunday night. Twenty-five newspapermen, commissioned as ensigns and lieutenants are among 100 censors operating on four floors of the I. T. & T. Building, 67 Broad Street. The New York setup, occupying 90,000 square feet, is within a block of the principal cable and radio companies in the financial district. At the Press Wireless office, 1475 Broadway, a separate staff of censors is maintained.

At San Francisco a smaller staff handles about 10% of outgoing press, another at New Orleans 5%. The remaining outbound file is cleared through New York censors.

International telephone messages are handled by the Navy at the source in New York and San Francisco.

Addressed "To the press and radio" was the following from Chairman Emory S. Land of the U. S. Maritime Commission:

"The U. S. Maritime Commission, in adopting a wartime policy, requests all agencies of public information to refrain from publication or announcement of anything, or the use of photographs, which contains any information, either direct or indirect, concerning the movement, position, cargoes or destination of any merchant vessels in any waters."

Assistant Secretary of Commerce Robert H. Hinckley issued the following statement to the press and radio:

"Weather information may be of value to enemy aircraft or vessels operating near American shores. The United States Weather Bureau is cooperating fully with military and naval authorities in the effort to keep useful information from passing into enemy hands. To this end it may be necessary at times to curtail distribution of weather reports and forecasts, particularly over high-powered radio stations whose broadcasts could be immediately picked up by air-craft and ships at sea. Weather Bureau Offices throughout the country will be guided by the circumstances and the relative urgency of special warnings. In order to make this co-operation effective all agencies of public information are requested to refrain from publication or announcement of weather information from sources other than official Weather Bureau Offices."

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WAR CAUSES CBS, NBC, FCC SUIT POSTPONEMENT TO JAN. 12

War was one of the factors entering into the postponement of the FCC monopoly hearings in the New York Federal Court until Monday, January 12th. There were other reasons for the arguments being put off until that date, among them that of giving Charles E. Hughes, Jr., appointed as trial counsel, more time to familiarize himself with the case.

At the preliminary hearing last Friday, presided over by Circuit Judge Leonard Hand and District Judges Henry Goddard and John Bright, briefs were ordered filed by December 29th. The CBS motion for postponement was vigorously opposed by the Federal Communications Commission and MNS counsel.

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REPEATS RADIO TO BE DISTURBED AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE

There is still no need for the communications industry to be unduly apprehensive, Chairman J. L. Fly reassured inquirers at his press conference last Monday. When someone inquired about the Wheeler-Lee bill to amend Section 606 of the Act, by which the President through the Defense Communications Board took over radio control. The Chairman explained that the amendment was submitted at the initiative of the DCB but with the unanimous support of the Commission as well as the different departments represented on the DCB. He said it ought to be made clear that it is nothing more nor less than a defense measure. They are not strengthening the present section but rather broadening it to include wire and cable which were omitted in the statute. It will enable the Army and Navy to take over any particular facility or equipment as part of the fighting mechanism. He reiterated that there is no general plan to take over broadcasting or radio communication facilities; they will remain in private hands with the least interference as possible to their private operation. The recent Executive Order pertaining to Section 606 sets up a procedure for the Army and Navy to deal with specific problems in relation to specific facilities. As far as the question of censorship is concerned, Mr. Fly said it was hardly necessary to retell the press that the DCB is simply not going into censorship. It doesn't have that job under the Executive Order and has no plans or desire to censor.

In reply to the inquiry if Section 606 provisions included broadcasting as well as other forms of radio communication, the Chairman said that he had been speaking broadly of the whole field and was avoiding specific question of where military operations which might impinge. Serious problem on the Pacific Coast. The war has already interfered with broadcasting out there. The Navy may leave some operation in private hands or operate itself. So far as plans go and as far as he can appraise the situation, Mr. Fly's desire is to leave operation in private hands.

The FCC also has no statutory authority to engage in censorship. It might be authorized by law to do so but no one has suggested that. The current activity is in getting communications in state of preparedness and dealing with particular situations presented in particular areas. He said it was important that everybody in communications field "keep their shirts on". In the last war the Government took over the telephone system. The Chairman has yet to hear the suggestion that the Government do anything of that sort in this war. He said he speaks for both DCB and FCC in the thought that private operation should continue as far as practicable. He was simply undertaking measures and procedural means. and doesn't want any misunderstanding of what we are shooting at.

One correspondent didn't remember that telephone had been taken over in the World War. It was pointed out that telephone operation was then under the Wire Control Board. The Chairman said that there is general assumption that operation by the people running a business every day is preferable to wholesale taking over. The

former is what present plans provide. It doesn't mean that a particular line or switchboard might not be needed by the Army or Navy. Mr. Fly said that there seemed to be a misunderstanding in certain news and press services that censorship is involved in FCC-DCE plans. He denied this. Such a thing might happen somewhere else and it is not in the Chairman's province to say what the restrictions might be, but this question has no place in DCB-FCC procedure. Hence, wire services are unnecessarily alarmed and wasting energies in so interpreting our plans.

The Chairman continued that broadcasting has a close relation to public and to public psychology. For that reason broadcasters should not become unduly alarmed or spread alarm among people. "By and large, broadcasters have done an awfully fine job", Mr. Fly concluded. "Broadcasters are now probably reappraising their work in the light of not only military needs but public psychology as well. Best thing they can do is to stick to their job and keep in close touch with the problem in view of public service and other actual emergency needs."

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FCC BLAMED FOR NOT CLEANING OUT RED OPERATORS

In the debate on the Bland bill to purge the American Merchant Marine of subversive radio operators, Representative Fred Bradley, Republican, of Michigan, addressing Representative Schuyler Otis Bland, (D.), of Virginia, asked:

"And will the gentleman not join me in my personal belief and that of the other members of the committee that we felt that much of the danger in the merchant marine today from subversive radio operators is due to the fact that the Federal Communications Commission has not in the past used due diligence in cleaning out that nest of hornets?"

"I think that is true", Representative Bland replied. "I will say that we were in close touch with the results of the study of the Dies committee."

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SUGGESTS WARTIME MONOPOLY RULES COMPLIANCE

Asked if the monopoly regulations might be suspended during the war, Chairman James L. Fly said he thought that the simplest way to settle that situation under the emergency would be for the networks to write a one-paragraph letter to their affiliates to observe the regulations.

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12/16/41

TEN THOUSAND AMATEURS ALREADY ENGAGED IN WAR WORK

Hundreds of amateur radio stations are being returned to the air by the Defense Communications Board to furnish communications vital to the national defense, according to officials of the American Radio Relay League, national amateur organization at West Hartford, Conn.

All auxiliary and emergency communications services deemed necessary for OCD and defense uses will be in operation in a short time, it was stated.

Examples of the networks being authorized or planned include the civilian defense net of Westchester County, New York; the amateur communications section of the Florida State Defense Council; a communications chain of the state guard organization of California, sponsored by Governor Olson; and Connecticut's comprehensive state police network.

While normal amateur activities have been suspended due to the war, amateurs capable of performing necessary defense functions are being given special DCB authorization upon application by Federal, State and municipal officials. Where emergency networks of amateurs are already organized, activation of all stations in the net results from request and certification by the appropriate official. At the plea of local and State officials, other systems which will require the services of additional thousands of licenses amateurs are now being organized.

Nearly ten thousand licensed amateur operators are already engaged in the war effort in many branches, such as operating aboard battleships or in the Signal Corps, designing radiolocator equipment, as radio monitoring officers for the FCC, instructing Army pilots in radio communications, and similar tasks.

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BELIEVES WAR WILL ADVANCE TELEVISION

Contrary to the general opinion expressed, Chairman James L. Fly, of the Federal Communications Commission believes instead of being retarded by the war that television will continue to advance and parallel defense work.

Mr. Fly said he saw a long and successful future for television. "We cannot yet tell specifically about prospect of new stations", the Chairman added. "The problem has got to be worked out in view of emergency conditions. Television must be kept alive and ready to go when the time comes, with plenty of plant capacity and all that."

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12/16/41

LOUIS ISSUES SUMMONS TO MEET BAR ASSN. WARTIME HEAD

Keeping right up with the times, and as he usually does about this season of the Year. Louis G. Caldwell has issued the following summons to a party in honor of the newly elected president of the Federal Communications Communication Bar Association, Former FCC Chairman Judge E. O. Sykes.

Before the

Federal Communications Bar Association

A Quasi-Legal Tribunal

In the Matter)	
of)	ORDER TO SHOW UP
Hon. Eugene Octave Sykes)	
et Uxor)	

PROCLAMATION

I hereby proclaim that a state of limited emergency exists in the Federal Communications Bar Association beginning

Sunday, December 21, 1941
at 5 p.m.

at
2900 Cleveland Avenue, N. W.

and continuing thereafter until you hear the all-clear siren.

NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY

The emergency arises out of the rumored election of Honorable Eugene Octave Sykes as War-President of the Federal Communications Bar Association (which election may have taken place even by the time this notice reaches you) and the ouster of Herbert M. Bingham, Est.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Be present.
2. Don't use the A. T. & T. for your R.S.V.P. It has 42% more business than usual.
3. At your option, accompany your appearance (R.S.V.P.) with a declaration or reasons for and/or against the new president, and whether the emergency is sufficient, or sufficiently limited, to justify this step.

(Signed) LOUIS CALDWELL
(My commission expired four years ago)

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12/16/41

BELIEVED FLY WILL STAND SQUARELY BEHIND NEW NIB

George B. Storer, owner of Station WSPD, Toledo, WAGA, Atlanta, and several other stations, and L. B. Wilson, of WCKY, Cincinnati, two of the best known men in the business were elected president and vice-president of the completely revived and reorganized National Independent Broadcasters, Inc. Because of the war situation the proposed convention of the organization was cancelled and the election held by telegraph.

Harold A. Lafount was continued as Chairman, E. M. Spence, of WWDC, Washington, Secretary and Treasurer, and Andrew W. Bennett, Washington, counsel.

It is believed that Chairman Fly who already has given this group, which is known to be opposed to the National Association of Broadcasters considerable encouragement, will stand squarely behind the new officers. Mr. Storer is expected in Washington soon at which time it is believe he will outline future policies of the Association and very likely confer with members of the FCC.

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COMMISSIONER TAM CRAVEN PROMOTED TO COMMANDER

Congratulations are being received by FCC Commissioner Tunis Augustus Macdonough (sometimes referred to as "Tunis Algiers Morocco", but more generally as "Tam") Craven, has been promoted from Lieutenant Commander, Retired, to Commander. He has passed his physical examinations 100%. It is believed that sooner or later he will be called into active service.

Commander Craven comes from a famous Navy family. He once remarked: "There hardly was ever a time when there wasn't a Craven in the Navy."

The story is told of Admiral Craven, Tam's grandfather, if this writer's memory is correct, first Commandant of the Washington Navy Yard, who felt so completely in possession of the place that he willed it to a relative when he died.

Tam Craven was born in Philadelphia in 1893 and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1913. He was Fleet Radio Officer of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet and went right up the ladder and finally served in the same capacity with the U. S. Fleet. He retired after about 15 years' service and later became Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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A Christmas gift equivalent to one week's salary will be paid to the 6,000 employees of Hygrade Sylvania Corporation, it was announced by W. E. Poor, Executive Vice President. The order affects personnel in the executive offices in New York, all field salesmen and employees in plants at Salem, Ipswich and Danvers, Mass., and at Emporium, St. Marys and Towanda, Penna.

Five times a week NBC has set aside a five minute broadcast period for Civilian Defense instruction and news.

Wartime powers granted to President Wilson in the first World War and expected to be given to President Roosevelt by Congress include legislation which would permit him to centralize control of all communication and transportation systems.

The Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company announces that it has established radiotelegraph service between New York and Honolulu direct and between New York and Manila direct to supplement its regular service to these points via San Francisco. Permission for the direct operations was granted by the Federal Communications Commission last Friday.

Admiral Luke McNamee, President of Mackay Radio, says that these direct channels have been established in order to provide uninterrupted service to the Island Possessions during black out periods at San Francisco when the radio stations are inoperative.

Station KIRO, Seattle, has made arrangements to ship monthly a special complete set of records transcribed from KIRO's daily broadcasts of "Columbia's School of the Air of the Americas" to Station KFAR in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Richard G. Spencer, editor of the NBC Red Network News, has been named Photo Editor of the National Broadcasting Company, by John McKay, Manager of the NBC Press Department. Sid Desfor has been promoted to Head Photographer to succeed Tommy Webber, who resigned.

Turkish has been added to NBC's regular schedule of foreign language short-wave broadcasts over international stations WRCA and WNBI.

It was reported last week that John Paul Dickson, WCR-Mutual's representative in Berlin, Germany, had been interned, along with 14 other U. S. newsmen, by the German authorities.

George J. Vogel, Manager of CBS Manila affiliate KZPM, who returned to the United States a week before outbreak of war, compiled a pronouncing glossary of Filipino town and island names for the use of CBS war correspondents.

Suggesting Zenith portables for war emergencies, Davega who operates 30 retail stores in New York City took a half page in the New York newspapers to highlight this portion of an announcement by the Civil Defense authorities:

".....during the San Francisco alarms Monday night householders kept their radios going so as to hear any commands that might be given by defense authorities.

The Office of Civilian Defense wants you to do this, It may be of utmost importance for you to do it.

"With electric power cut off, your radio may be silenced.. in which case one of the trusty portable sets, with good batteries inside it, would be mighty handy to have around the house."

The Federal Communications Commission has granted the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company permission to establish direct radiotelegraph service between New York and Moscow, Russia, it was announced by Admiral Luke McNamee, President of Mackay Radio. All classes of messages will be handled over the new circuit to the U.S.S.R., the announcement stated.

Columbia's television station WCBW quickly entered the war work last week by televising representatives of the Air Raid Protection Service, the New York City Police, the Red Cross Motor Corps, the American Women's Volunteer Service and the Recruiting Section of the Army.

In addition, a copy of Mayor LaGuardia's "If It Comes" brochure was televised immediately after it was issued. The television cameras also picked up a diagram of an Air Raid Protection Service city block map prepared by Senior Post Warden Edward E. Georges, who described in detail precautions taken throughout the city.

After eight days of 24-hour, round-the-clock service, continuous since Japan's attack on Hawaii December 7, the Columbia Broadcasting System shut down at 3 A.M. as of Tuesday, December 16. This closing hour, two hours later than the pre-war 1 A.M. good-night, continues until further notice.

WABC, key station in New York City, however, continues its 24-hour broadcasting service to the Metropolitan area. Columbia's two international stations, WCBX and WCAB, also continue on 24-hour a day duty, with three half-hour lapses daily to shift positions on the wave band.

Applications Received by FCC: WGBI, Scranton Broadcasters, Inc., Scranton, Pa., construction permit to install new transmitter, directional antenna for night use, increase power from 500 watts day, 1 kilowatt night to 5 kilowatts; WJMO, WJMO, Inc., West Palm Beach, Fla., construction permit to change frequency from 1230 to 1430 kilocycles, increase power from 250 watts to 1 KW day and night; Ludington Broadcasting Co., Ludington, Mich., construction permit for a new broadcast station to be operated on 1490 kc., 250 watts, unlimited hours. Facilities WKBZ, contingent on WKBZ being granted changed in frequency.

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FCC HEAD ACKNOWLEDGES MUTUAL NETWORK PLEDGE

James L. Fly, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, has acknowledged the Mutual network's message pledging, "loyal and wholehearted cooperation" in a letter sent to the network's executives, Alfred J. McCosker, Chairman, W. E. Macfarlane, President, and Lewis Allen Weiss, Vice President, which follows:

"I read with pleasure your telegram of December 8 pledging to the government of the United States the loyal and wholehearted cooperation of the Mutual Broadcasting System in making its facilities available for whatever may be required in the public interest.

"I appreciate highly the patriotic considerations which dictated your telegram and which must now motivate all of us. Please be assured that in any contingency in which you would be helpful we shall avail ourselves of your offer without standing unnecessarily on any ceremony."

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CBS INCREASES WAGES OF ALL EARNING UNDER \$75 A WEEK

Salary increases ranging from \$104 to \$221 a year are to be given to employees of the Columbia Broadcasting System, earning \$75 a week or less, it was announced yesterday by William S. Paley, president.

The only exceptions are among CBS personnel whose salaries have been adjusted since last October 1 and those paid under a union wage scale. Formula under which the increases are to be granted: On all salary up to and including \$30.00 - 10%; On all salary between \$30.00 and \$40.00 - 7½% and on all salary between \$40.00 and \$50.00 - 5%.

The increases affect 980 employees. CBS has more than 2,000 employees, including executives, union members, and all other types of workers.

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SOUTH AMERICAN STATIONS QUICK TO BACK U.S.

"Until yesterday we collaborated. Today we offer you our alliance", was the message from Station CX14, Montevideo, one of many radiograms received by the National Broadcasting Company from its Pan American Network.

Station LR4 of Buenos Aires radioed that, "In keeping with the official attitude of our government we wish to express to you our warmest solidarity in this historic moment for the defense of liberty in America."

Officials of XEW in Mexico City said, "We are one hundred percent with you. All our facilities will be available when you call for them."

TGW of Guatemala City radioed, "You may count on our fullest complete support."

And Caracas, Venezuela's station YV5RA assured NBC that, "You can always count on us one hundred percent."

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NBC SELLS ARTISTS SERVICE TO EXECUTIVES

The National Broadcasting Company has sold its concert and talent divisions - including Civic Concert Service, Inc., - to Alfred H. Morton, D. S. Tuthill, O. C. Bottorff and Marks Levine, four veteran NBC executives.

A new company will be formed - the National Concert and Artists Corporation - to carry on the business. It will occupy offices at 711 Fifth Avenue, with branch offices in Chicago, Hollywood and San Francisco.

In a letter announcing the sale to the several hundred artists and instrumentalists under contract to NBC, including Kirsten Flagstad, Fritz Kreisler, Serge Rachmaninoff, Ezio Pinza, and John Charles Thomas, Neles Trammell, NBC President, stated;

"After several discussions with Mr. Morton and his associates I have every reason to believe that the new company will be in a position to perform even more valuable personal service to the many talented artists under contract to NBC, particularly as no substantial changes are contemplated in the personnel who have served so long and faithfully."

In the new set-up Mr. Tuthill will be Manager of the Popular Division, Levine in charge of the Concert Department, Bottorff continuing as president of the Civic Concert Service, Inc., and Morton, Chairman of the Board of Civic Concert Service, Inc., which will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Concert and Artists Corporation. The management and staff of the new company bring to it years of experience in supplying talent - the raw material of all forms of entertainment.

Mr. Trammell also pointed out that the present affiliation with S. Hurok Attractions, Inc., would continue as it has in the past. The Hurok organization has under contract such attractions as the Ballet Russe, the Ballet Theater, Marian Anderson, Jan Peerce, Mischa Elman and Artur Schnabel. NBC has had exclusive booking rights to all concert talent managed by S. Hurok Attractions, Inc.

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