

# HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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## INDEX TO ISSUE OF JANUARY 16, 1942

Taft Blocks Presidential Communications Amendment.....	2
Denies Radio Shut-Down Ordered.....	4
Aide To Radio Censor Named.....	5
Labor Leaders Given Plenty of Network Leeway.....	5
Press-Radio Hearings Enter Tenth Month.....	6
New FM Receivers Now Number 50,000.....	6
High Frequency Aviation Range May Supplant Beam.....	7
Fly Gives Blue Net His Blessing.....	7
Radio Censorship Code To Bar Spies' Messages.....	9
Dr. Jolliffe Is Mr. Sarnoff's New Assistant.....	10
Trade Notes.....	11
Senate Considers Anti-Liquor Advertising Bill.....	12

No. 1395

## TAFT BLOCKS PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT

Declaring that the matter was of such importance that it ought not to be considered under the 5 minute rule, Senator Taft of Ohio (R.), succeeded in blocking discussion of an amendment to the Communications Act having to do with granting to the President, in time of war, certain powers with respect to communications. Following Mr. Taft's objection, the bill was finally passed over.

Subsequently Senator Taft introduced an amendment of his own with regard to the President taking over the communications facilities of the country which read that if he does so, it be provided however:

"That except in case of invasion or in connection with the movement of military or naval forces no such authorization shall be given for the use and control of property costing more than \$10,000,000 without prior appropriation by the Congress."

"A reading of the bill as it now stands indicates to me that it would authorize the President to take over tomorrow the telephone, telegraph and radio companies", the Senator from Ohio declared.

"Of course that is true, as the Senator says", Senator Wallace White (R.), of Maine, replied, "that while we are in this war the President might, under the authority of this proposed legislation, take over the telegraph and telephone systems of the country. In that respect the bill is not essentially different from provisions which have been on our statute books for all of 30 years with respect to the radio communication facilities of the country. If my recollection is correct, in the 1912 Radio Act - the first radio act passed - we authorized the President to take over those facilities, or to close all stations, not only if we were in war but if there were a threat of war, or if a national emergency of any character were found and declared by the President. That provision was carried in the 1927 Act and it again had the approval of the Senate and of the House of Representatives when we passed the 1934 act.

"While it is true that the language of this proposed legislation is broad enough to do precisely what the Senator from Ohio says, the testimony before the committee was that the purpose is very much narrower than that general authority, although, of course, it is recognized that in time of war it may be necessary to do the whole thing.

"Today we find this situation: For instance, we are having maneuvers at various points in the country. Three or four or five hundred thousand men of the Army are engaged in maneuvers spreading over large parts even of a State. I think it must be recognized that

communication is vital to the efficient carrying-on of maneuvers of that character. It seems to me absolutely necessary that there shall be authority to subordinate for the time being the communication interests and even the public interests to this major and immediate requirement so that troops may be moved from point to point with intelligence and with efficiency. It clearly appears in the record that the Communications Commission has no purpose to take over these facilities generally. A limit of time is provided in the bill. I may say that the companies involved, or those which might be involved, offered no objection to the bill before the committee.

"I have the same reluctance that the Senator from Ohio has; but I regard the granting of this authority, if I may so express it, as a necessary evil. I think the authority should be and must be granted if the communication facilities of the Nation are to be mobilized in the Nation's interest."

"Of course," Mr. Taft replied, "the analogy to radio is not complete. A radio station may communicate during war with places outside the Nation, whereas today we certainly have complete control and complete censorship over the telephone and telegraph wires. I do not think the two are analogous. All I am concerned about is that it seems to me that, without further action by Congress, the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., say, might be taken over, at a cost of something over a billion dollars, as I remember, as the President took over the railroads in the World War. I do not know whether there is any necessity for such action; but it seems to me that this authority could be properly qualified so that the proper uses needed for military purposes might be authorized, and leave any question of taking over the telephone company or the telegraph companies until Congress itself should debate that question and determine it.

"I therefore object to the present consideration of the bill. I shall have no objection if the bill is modified. If that is not going to happen, if it is not intended to authorize that, and the bill says so, I certainly shall withdraw any objection to it."

"The bill passed the House December 19", Senator Barkley, of Kentucky, Democratic leader injected, "and it has been considered by the Senate committee. In order that there might be no fear or misapprehension with respect to the purposes of the bill, the committee specifically suggested to the chairman that in his report he set out certain excerpts from the testimony given by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Fly, regarding the purposes of the bill. Mr. Fly stated in his testimony that there was no intention to take over these facilities permanently or primarily or for any other purpose, except as it might develop from time to time to be necessary; and it is difficult to outline those necessities in a bill."

"I understand that; but I do not see why we should pass legislation giving broad authority on the statement of somebody that he is not going to use the authority", Mr. Taft replied. "It seems to me that is an unnecessary thing to do. I think qualifications could be made that would meet any objection I have to the bill."



1/16/42

"Of course", Senator Barkley concluded, "the Senator knows that in order to accomplish even a small purpose in regard to facilities of this kind or other kinds it is necessary to give broad powers, not that they will ever be exercised, but that it is almost impossible to write into a bill the exigencies or circumstances under which the President might make use of these facilities - not only take them over, but make use of them at all. The difficulty is in writing into a statute all the conditions under which the authority may be exercised without handicapping the Government in such a way as not to bring about the desired result."

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#### DENIES RADIO SHUT-DOWN ORDERED

Reports circulated in the press and by radio that OPM would shut down radio production in two or three months were declared by the Radio Manufacturers' Association to be inaccurate and misleading.

"The Office of Production Management has as yet made no announcement or order regarding curtailed civilian production of radio", said Bond Geddes, Executive Vice President of the Radio Manufacturers' Association. "The radio industry is already widely engaged on the very large program of vital radio and other military equipment and is going rapidly into increased military expansion.

"Reduced manufacture of civilian radio obviously is involved and an OPM order is expected shortly curtailing civilian radio by about 30 percent during the first three months of this year, but not a complete shut down. Further reduction in civilian radio later in 1942 is expected as the industry becomes more extensively engaged on the military program. Also it is understood the official policy contemplates supplies of tubes and other replacement and repair parts for radio sets now in the hands of the public, and we are not advised of any official plans for 'rationing' of radio."

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Notwithstanding the fact that many ways have been suggested for turning out the 31,000 street lights of the city in a blackout, nothing yet has been found that would do away with the necessity of having the lights turned off individually by hand by air raid wardens, it was said at the RCA laboratory in New York City where the ideas are being tested.

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## AIDE TO RADIO CENSOR NAMED

John H. Ryan, Assistant Director of Censorship in Charge of Radio, has announced the appointment of Stenley P. Richardson, Coordinator of International Broadcasting, as an aide in his Radio Division.

Mr. Richardson has been given a leave of absence by the American short-wave broadcasting stations to enable him to accept the Government post. The new appointee has acted for about a year as the representative in New York and Washington of the six companies engaged in international broadcasting, with particular reference to their defense activities.

Ninety-nine and ninety-nine hundreds per cent of the newspapers and radio stations approve voluntary censorship of information that might be helpful to the Axis nations, Byron Price, Director of Censorship said at a press conference yesterday.

Regarding possible violations of the newspaper code announced Thursday, he said:

"We are not crossing that bridge until we come to it - if we do come to it. There are bound to be slips and inadvertencies. No one can avoid these. But as for defiance of the code, I doubt if we will come to that."

Mr. Price said that radio, being world wide, would be under more stringent censorship than newspapers which are domestic. The radio industry, he added, understood the situation.

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## LABOR LEADERS GIVEN PLENTY OF NETWORK LEEWAY

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations made a total of 74 appearances on national network radio programs in 1941.

## National

In announcing this figure, the Association of Broadcasters pointed out that it did not include the many local labor programs aired by individual stations. Nor does it include the appearances made by national labor leaders on individual stations. The total includes only those appearances on the networks of the Columbia Broadcasting System, the Mutual Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Company.

Talks by labor leaders are carried without charge, as a public service by the networks and stations. In the event any speaker takes one side of a controversial public issue, a representative of the other side is offered an equal amount of free time for rebuttal.

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## PRESS-RADIO HEARINGS ENTER TENTH MONTH

Dragging along since last March - almost a year now - the Federal Communications Commission's investigation of newspaper-radio station relations hearings will be resumed Wednesday, January 21st. It was thought the war might put a crimp into the trial of the newspapers but if so there has been no sign of it as yet.

The Commission professes to see three possible uses for material being developed in its inquiry into joint ownership of newspapers and radio broadcast stations.

The Commission, submitting its report on 1941 activity to Congress, lists these alternatives:

1. Use of the expert knowledge thus acquired as an aid to subsequent determinations in particular cases.
2. Formulation of rules or statements of policy for the guidance of the Commission.
3. Recommendations to Congress for appropriate legislation.

Discussing the background of the probe into "The newspaper issue", the annual report says:

"The general question of joint control of newspapers and broadcast stations has long been a topic of interest in Congress and has arisen from time to time in connection with particular decisions of the Commission. Thus the Commission has been called upon to decide whether in a community with only one daily newspaper and no radio station the public interest will be better served by licensing a proposed station to the newspaper with existing facilities for gathering news and procuring advertising revenues, or to a non-newspaper applicant who will introduce an independent and competing medium for community service."

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## NEW FM RECEIVERS NOW NUMBER 50,000

Latest figures on sales of FM receivers, as compiled by FM Broadcasters, Inc., the national FM trade association, indicate that there were approximately 50,000 sets equipped for frequency modulation reception in the vicinity of New York City alone on January 1. The national total is close to the quarter million mark.

The New England states may now claim between 22,000 and 24,000 sets, while Chicago has reached 25,000 - most of which were sold in the past three months. Other large cities include Philadelphia with 12,000; Los Angeles, 15,000; Milwaukee, 6,500; Detroit, 12,000; Pittsburgh, 8,000.

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## HIGH FREQUENCY AVIATION RANGE MAY SUPPLANT BEAM

A two course ultra high frequency radio range development of a type which is expected to supplant the radio beam system now in use on the airways of the United States within the next few years was described at the New York convention of the Institute of Radio Engineers.

The new development operates on 125 megacycles, a wave length 400 times shorter than the wave length in use at present. Experimentation indicates that it eliminates static entirely and greatly diminishes the danger of multiple courses and the distortive effects which mountains, rivers, ore deposits and other influences of terrain exert upon radio beams; factors which have been held responsible for airline accidents. The new system provides precise and complete information to the pilot. It shows him whether or not he is to the left or right of his correct line of flight and whether he has flown beyond the radio range station or has not yet reached it, an extremely important point of information in bad weather.

The ultra high frequency range has been developed for and in collaboration with the Radio Development Section of the Civil Aeronautics Administration by the Laboratory Division of the International Telephone & Radio Manufacturing Corporation.

All experimentation and field work on the new development has been conducted at the C.A.A. Experimental Station at Indianapolis Municipal Airport where the apparatus has been inspected and flight tested with satisfactory results by airline administrators and pilots.

In addition to its safety factors and more complete information for the pilots, the new development points the way much further toward the automatic gyroscopic control of the plane. The instrument indicator actuated by the ultra high frequency range transmitter may in the future be used to direct the automatic pilot and thus keep the plane on its course automatically.

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## FLY GIVES BLUE NET HIS BLESSING

The one really responsible for the separation of the two networks - the Blue from the Red - Chairman J. L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission journeyed to Chicago to attend a meeting of the affiliates of the newly organized chain and to express his approval of the undertaking.

At the same time, Mark Woods, President of the Blue Network Company said it was news to him if Marshall Field was trying to buy the new chain. Mr. Woods said that no negotiations for the sale of the Blue were not being carried on with anyone. He said it might be some time before the network is sold. Mr. Woods said that the network



expected to show a profit during the first half year of operation. He added that RCA had advanced \$2,000,000 for operations.

The following resolutions were adopted at the Chicago meeting:

"1. - The Blue Network stations' planning and advisory committee is conscious that the success of the new Blue Network is dependent upon complete and wholehearted cooperation between the management of the network and its affiliates. It is only with absolute unity in the ranks of affiliates and their unqualified loyalty to the network, that the national mission of the Blue Network will be achieved. This unity and loyalty the committee commends to all Blue Network affiliates as their proper contribution to the success of all concerned.

"2. - The Blue Network stations' planning and advisory committee goes on record as having confidence in the capable and experienced management of the new Blue Network.

"3. - The Committee congratulates the Blue Network upon its announcement of a determination to increase its foreign and domestic news service. The committee also approves the announced purpose of programming new, bright shows of mass appeal. \* \* \* \*

"It is the further recommendation of the Committee that the Farm and Home Hour be immediately reduced to one-half hour.

"Realizing that the Blue Network is now the youngest of the national networks, although third in volume of business and old in experience, we feel it must carefully conserve its resources and watch expenditures closely. Otherwise the possibility that affiliates of the Blue Network might be called upon to pay the cost of overland lines, which should always remain a network obligation.

"4. - The Blue Network stations' planning and advisory committee disapproves the linking up of all national networks for any single program with the exception of those programs broadcast by the President of the United States or programs of extraordinary importance to the war effort.

"5. - The Blue Network stations' advisory committee recommends that a representative of the stations' planning and advisory committee be elected to the Board of Directors of the Blue Network Company, Inc. to serve for one year, and not be eligible for re-election."

The following directorate has been announced for the newly organized RCA subsidiary which will own and operate the Blue Network:

Mark Woods, Edgar Kobak, Lunsford P. Yandell, George S. DeSousa, John Hays Hammond, Jr., Joseph V. Heffernan and Dr. Charles B. Jolliffe, newly appointed assistant to Mr. Sarnoff.

In addition to Mr. Woods, previously elected President of the Network, the following executive officers were elected:

Edgar Kobak, Executive Vice-President; E. R. Borroff, Vice-President in Charge of the Central Division; Don E. Gilman, Vice-President in Charge of the Western Division; Lunsford P. Vandell, Vice-President and Treasurer; Phillips Carlin, Vice-President in Charge of Programs; Keith Kiggins, Vice-President in Charge of Stations.

Also Fred M. Thrower, Jr., General Sales Manager; George M. Benson, Eastern Sales Manager; E.P.H. James, Director of Publicity and Promotion; B. J. Hauser, Sales Promotion Manager; Earl Mullin, Manager, Publicity Department; Edward F. Evans, Research Manager; Murray B. Grabhorn, National Spot Sales Manager; Dorothy Kemble; Continuity Acceptance Editor; John H. McNeil, Manager, Station WJZ; George Milne, Chief Engineer; Tracy Moore, Western Sales Manager; John H. Norton, Jr., Station Relations Manager; Charles E. Rynd, Sales Service Manager; Robert Saudek, Assistant to the Executive Vice-President; James Stirton, Central Division Program Manager; and D. B. Van Houten, Office Manager.

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#### RADIO CENSORSHIP CODE TO BAR SPIES' MESSAGES

Regulations to keep enemy spies from broadcasting military data over radio programs were issued Friday (today) by John H. Ryan, Assistant Director of Censorship in Charge of Radio.

Radio stations were told that because they were being heard abroad by Axis intelligence operatives, "certain material which may appear on the news service wires as approved for newspapers may not be appropriate for radio".

Byron Price, Director of Censorship, explained that while printed matter is censored at the national borders, "no such post-publication censorship is possible in radio".

Mr. Price called on broadcasters to ban certain types of quiz and request programs and conduct forums and audience interviews with caution.

It was asked that no telephone or telegraph requests for musical numbers be accepted during the war, and that no given request be given at the requested time.

Request was made that "all audience-participation type quiz programs, originating from remote points, either by wire, transcription or short wave, be discontinued" with certain qualifications. It was noted that any program permitting the public access to an open microphone "is dangerous and should be carefully supervised" and that generally speaking "any quiz program originating remotely, wherein the group is small, and wherein no arrangement exists for investigating the background of participants, should be discontinued." When large groups are involved, "where participants are selected from a theater audience, for example, the danger is not so great".

In studio-audience quiz shows no individual seeking participation should be guaranteed participation, the code said.

Such quiz, request, interview and forum programs, the censorship office warned, might be used by Axis agents to communicate with their headquarters or with saboteurs through prearranged signals.

The code asks refusal of requests to call mass meetings or make emergency announcements, except when they come from official sources.

Sharp restrictions have been placed on weather broadcasts. The radio may use only such weather data as specifically approved for it by the Weather Bureau, and broadcasters have been asked to avoid reference to weather conditions in describing current events.

The code asks withholding from the air reports of information from unidentified sources as to ship sinkings, or reverses or successes of land forces.

Mr. Ryan advised radio to "steer clear of dramatic programs which attempt to portray the horrors of combat; to avoid sound effects which might be mistaken for air raid alarms".

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#### DR. JOLLIFFE IS MR. SARNOFF'S NEW ASSISTANT

Dr. Charles B. Jolliffe has been appointed Assistant to the President of the Radio Corporation of America. In making the announcement, David Sarnoff, President of RCA, who made the selection from the personnel of the RCA organization, said that Dr. Jolliffe, in addition to his new duties, will continue the position he has held for some time as Chief Engineer of the RCA Laboratories.

After serving as instructor of physics at West Virginia University, and from 1920 to 1922 at Cornell University, Dr. Jolliffe became associated as physicist with the Radio Section of the Bureau of Standards. His research was in radio wave propagation and the development and maintenance of standards of frequency.

Dr. Jolliffe was appointed Chief Engineer of the Federal Radio Commission in 1930 and continued in that capacity when that organization was changed to the Federal Communications Commission in 1934. He resigned from the FCC in 1935 to become engineer in charge of the RCA Frequency Bureau. He has attended many international radio conferences as delegate of the United States Government. Dr. Jolliffe is a member of several committees of the Defense Communications Board and for more than a year has been working on communication problems with the National Defense Research Committee of the Government office of Scientific Research and Development.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::  
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Donald M. Nelson, new Chairman of the War Production Board, is a Director of the Colonial Radio Corporation.

Named Assistant Chief Engineer of the Hygrade Sylvania Corporation, Radio Tube Division, is Walter L. Krah1, formerly Division Engineer of the Salem, Mass. Radio Tube Plant of the company.

The William Penn Broadcasting Co., Philadelphia, Pa., was granted a construction permit for a new FM station to operate on 47,300 kilocycles; 9,300 square miles service area.

Jubilant over its sale of \$75,000 worth of United States Defense Bonds and Stamps in less than an hour by appealing directly to its visual audience, CBS television station WCBW plans to repeat its "Buy A Bond" program.

Quite a crowd stood in front of the Star Radio Store at 14th and F Streets in the center of downtown Washington listening to a war bulletin broadcast direct from London over one of the new Zenith "Trans-Ocean Clippers" short-wave portables. Reception was excellent and quality about the same as if it had been heard over one of the domestic networks.

A series of twenty daily radio programs for Latin-America is scheduled by the Columbia Broadcasting System beginning Saturday, January 17, at 4:45 E.S.T., over WCRC and WCBX. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Nelson Rockefeller will introduce this new series from the Latin-American Fair of R. H. Macy and Company on Friday, Jan. 16 (WABC-CBS, 10:30 P.M., EST).

By the time this appears the President may have signed the Daylight Savings Bill. Congressional action on this bill was completed last Thursday and the measure will become effective 20 days after the President signs it.

Byron Price, Director of Censorship, will lead a discussion on this subject during the University of Chicago "Round Table" broadcast Sunday, Jan. 18 (NBC-RED, 2:30 P.M., EST.)

A new Renewal Tube Characteristics Sheet has been released by the commercial engineering department of the Hygrade Sylvania Corporation. It is a twelve page booklet and contains not only average tube characteristics, but also Panel Lamp characteristics and tube and base diagrams. It is available free, but, in view of paper shortages, it is requested that radio servicemen and others order for bare requirements only.

1/16/42

A six-month, 24,000-mile trip through Mexico, Central and South America and the West Indies, to visit 69 of the 74 affiliates of the Columbia Broadcasting System's Latin American network, has just been completed by Guy Hutcheson, CBS engineer.

Philadelphia's sixth FM station received a go-ahead from the Federal Communications Commission this week when the William Penn Broadcasting Co. (WPEN) was granted a construction permit to proceed with W73PH.

Beginning with the issue of January 31, Movie-Radio Guide, which has a circulation of 350,000 copies, will carry detailed listings of FM programs in the same fashion that regular broadcast schedules are presented in that publication.

William C. White, formerly an assistant to Dr. Irving Langmuir, has been appointed Director of an electronics laboratory in which will be centralized General Electric's advance development activities in the field of electronics. The new laboratory has been established as a division of the Radio and Television Department of the company.

Mr. White is a pioneer and authority in vacuum tube development work, and was engineer in charge of the Vacuum Tube Division of the Radio and Television Department of the company. He has been succeeded in this post by O. W. Pike as engineer, with R. W. Larson as assistant engineer.

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#### SENATE CONSIDERS ANTI-LIQUOR ADVERTISING BILL

The Senate has before it the House-approved bill to prevent advertising of retail liquor prices in the District of Columbia.

As passed by the House the District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Act is amended by inserting the following new subsection:

"(g) No holder of a retailer's license, class A, or retailer's license, Class B, shall, with respect to alcoholic beverages covered by such license -

"(1) advertise, by any means or through any medium, the price for which such alcoholic beverages are for sale;

"(2) distribute, sell, or give away any price list or information with respect to the price of such alcoholic beverages;

"(3) display in his place of business any price list or sign with respect to the price of such alcoholic beverages if any price on such list or sign is visible from the street; or

"(4) display, or leave in his place of business, in a place where customers may take it away, any price list or information with respect to the price of such alcoholic beverages."

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