

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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February 14, 1942.

DIES RINGS BELL WITH AXIS SHORT-WAVE PROPAGANDISTS

Confirming a story that has been going the rounds for some-time, Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission has advised Representative Dies, Chairman of the Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, that our listening posts have found that Mr. Dies has received as many favorable references in Axis propaganda broadcasts as any American. It was revealed in the following letter written by Mr. Fly to the Texas investigator:

"I have your telegram of yesterday (Feb. 10) advising me that you are informed that the publication News Week for January 5, 1942, contained the following statement: 'The FCC's short wave monitoring service has found that Representative Martin Dies is the American most frequently quoted by the Axis radio in programs beamed to the hemisphere'. I was not aware of the statement in question and have not seen the January 5 issue of News Week. You ask in your telegram to be advised whether this statement is correct, and if any report, official or otherwise, issued by this Commission was the basis for this statement in News Week.

"Before answering your inquiry, let me say that I have noted an account in the New York Times of today commenting on what appears to be a statement made by you on yesterday (Feb. 10) raising a question as to how the Commission comes into possession of 'inside information' on axis propaganda. I had assumed that the Congress long since had fully understood the work of our Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, which is devoted completely to the job of monitoring, recording, translating and analyzing radio propaganda aimed at the Western Hemisphere by any and all countries. In that way, we necessarily have more than the 'inside information' - we have all the information on incoming radio propaganda and much of the foreign domestic propaganda. This includes the propaganda from foreign countries not merely the foreign enemies. However, greater attention is given to the propaganda of our enemies, which is most carefully analyzed and reported to the several government departments and agencies to whom this information may be of value in the war effort.

"In October, 1941, the staff members of the Commission's Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, as part of their routine analytical functions, undertook a study of the use of American sources by Axis propagandists in their broadcasts beamed to this hemisphere during the months of August and September (October being later added as the study ran into November). The study was never completed and exists only in draft form. It was never presented to the Commission, officially or otherwise, and I therefore had not seen it until after receipt of your telegram.

"The draft study sets forth at the outset that, to gain support and confirmation for its propaganda to this country and to South America, the Axis radio draws heavily and purports to quote liberally from accounts of leading American news services, newspapers and magazines and from statements by American public figures. These American sources upon which the Axis draws may be arbitrarily classified as 'approved' by the Axis and 'unsympathetic' to the Axis, according to the respective roles they play in Axis propaganda. 'Approved' sources are rarely if ever criticized by the Axis, but are consistently quoted to support some political or ideological view. It seems apparent that Axis propagandists regard the statements and activities of certain American public figures and institutions, even though known to be anti-Axis, as more generally useful than otherwise to them in their propaganda warfare and they therefore are willing to ignore hostile sentiments and endeavor to build such figures and institutions into authoritative symbols. 'Unsympathetic' sources are most often criticized or ridiculed for statements the the Axis dislikes, but, on the other hand, are quoted frequently for confirmation of Axis claims, apparently in the thought that such Axis claims must necessarily be true since even 'unsympathetic' American sources admit them.

"At the outset the draft of the study stated: 'It must be continuously kept in mind that these alleged quotes and reports of American statements over the Axis radio are frequently distorted, even completely perverted, in order to achieve Axis propaganda aims'. A footnote at that point indicates several startling examples of the complete reversal of the position of American sources.

"In lieu of a summary, I think it better to quote the actual language of the draft respecting yourself:

'Representative Dies-- Representative Dies, ardent supporter of Americanism and opponent of subversive propaganda, received as many favorable references in Axis propaganda to this country as any living American public figure. His opinions were quoted by the Axis without criticism at any time. In several broadcasts, Rome reported that Dies had sent a letter to President Roosevelt demanding "the dismissal of the Federal Price-Controller, Henderson, and of four of his intimate collaborators", whom Dies accused of being Communists. Berlin quoted statements by Dies that there never had been religious freedom in the Soviet Union, and that: "Sending war materials to Soviet Russia is absolutely useless now because it will only fall into German hands". This latter statement soon afterwards became a common theme in German propaganda. The remarkable thing, however, is that Congressman Dies should be presented to Americans by Nazi and Fascist propagandists as an authority whose opinions should be heeded.'

"The study was, of course, not intended for publication, and I am unable to state how the periodical in question came into possession of its somewhat garbled version. However in view of the suggestion contained in the New York Times article that Dr. Goodwin Watson

may have had something to do with this study, I might add that the study was made before Dr. Watson joined the staff of this Commission, which was November 17, 1941. I am advising you completely of the facts insofar as you are concerned. I do not believe it would be appropriate to reveal other American sources quoted by Axis propaganda as determined by the study."

Introducing into the Congressional Record the letter Chairman Fly wrote to Congressman Dies, Representative Thomas H. Eliot, of Massachusetts, said:

"Under leave to extend my remarks, I include a letter, which has been made public, from the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to the Chairman of the so-called Dies Committee.

"The letter points out that in Axis propaganda broadcasts the utterances of the Chairman of the Dies Committee have been quoted with approval many times by the Nazis.

"It would be most unfortunate to have a committee supposed to uphold Americanism become instead, however inadvertently, a vehicle for the propagation of Nazi-ism."

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FCC PROPOSES TO DENY MORE TIME TO WNYC

Holding that the proposal is inconsistent with Commission's rules and, further, is contrary to equitable distribution of radio service, the Federal Communications Commission announced intended denial of the application by the City of New York Municipal Broadcasting System to increase the hours of operation of its station WNYC on the frequency 830 kilocycles with its present power of 1 kilowatt.

This licensee sought to operate from 6 A.M. to 11 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, using directional antenna, instead of daytime until sunset at Minneapolis, as at present.

The Commission is of the opinion that such a grant would not serve the public interest, convenience and necessity. The Commission's Rules Governing Standard Broadcast Stations provide that only one full time station may be assigned to the frequency in question (now used by Columbia Broadcasting System station WCCO at Minneapolis on an unlimited time basis) and that the power of such station shall not be less than 50 kilowatts (which is the power of WCCO). Simultaneous operation would result in interference detrimental to both stations. Also, grant of the application as proposed "would not tend toward an equitable distribution of radio service to the several states and communities" as contemplated by the provisions of the Communications Act.

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ASSERTS MOST SOUTH AMERICANS LISTEN TO LOCAL STATIONS

Despite the improvement of short-wave broadcasting, Don Francisco, Director of Communications, in the Rockefeller office of Inter-American affairs, discussing the South American broadcasting situation, expresses the belief that in any country, including our own, most people listen to their local stations. An address on this subject by Mr. Francisco was reprinted in the Congressional Record by Senator Lister Hill of Alabama.

Mr. Francisco said further in connection with the Rockefeller problem of covering Latin-America:

"To reach the maximum audience we must develop network broadcasting on an international scale. Already three broadcasters have created inter-American networks through the retransmission by local stations of programs broadcast from the United States.

"To insure reception the most important programs, speeches, and events are also being transmitted by point-to-point communications to the other republics for rebroadcast by local stations. Recent speeches by President Roosevelt, transmitted in this way, have been rebroadcast by as many as 200 local stations in the southern countries.

"Through these networks we of the Americas can listen together to the tangos of Argentina and the rumbas of Cuba, to educators in Lima and Montevideo, to the statesmen of Brazil and Mexico, to voices from Washington, Bogota, Santiago, and a hundred other places."

"The words of President Roosevelt reverberated around the world as have the words of no other man in all history. No man before him has ever commanded so great an audience.

"While the Chief Executive is speaking to the world, translations are beamed southward, to Brazil in Portuguese, to the other Americas in Spanish. In the short-wave broadcasting studios of America's great radio nerve centers, eager hands rip the speech, paragraph by paragraph, from chattering tickers. Heads bend low over typewriters, and soon the President's words appear in German, French, Italian, Swedish, Finnish, Turkish, and a dozen other languages, transposed by specialists who fashion their words to fit the language pattern of their foreign audience."

"With incredible speed, while the President is still speaking, in English, his words, in many languages are winging their way over directional radio beams to the far corners of the earth. Before the day is out his voice has rolled over the pampas of the Argentine and across the snowy peaks of the Andes. His words have left their impact in the Land of the Kangaroo and the so-called Rising Sun. From the Rio Grande to the Straits of Magellan, into the war-torn capitals of Europe, and down into the tiny settlements of the African jungle men and women have heard the President of the United States speak in accents they can understand.

"This was no one-time achievement. The international broadcasting of important speeches and events has now become routine."

"For more than a year we have been working closely with the radio industry."

"What has been accomplished? Let us first examine some figures on the short-wave broadcasting activities of our 11 United States international stations.

"On an average day a year ago our short-wave stations were on the air a combined total of 79 hours. Today their combined time averages 132 hours per day, in 19 languages.

"In the last year the total number of short-wave news broadcasts by all stations, on an average day, has increased from 72 to 209 per day. The time utilized by all stations for daily news broadcasts on average days has increased from 18 to 52 hours per day.

"Thus by better facilities, improved programs, advanced publicity, and perhaps by more receiving sets, our short-wave audience is being increased."

"Our office is producing 52 transcribed programs in Spanish and 52 in Portuguese. These programs range from informative material, such as Ripley's Believe It or Not in Spanish and Portuguese, to American folk songs and a dramatized series on national defense. It is expected that hundreds more will be made during the year. These will be sent to the other American republics for broadcasting over local stations.

"Special live-talent programs devoted to inter-American friendship and understanding are being sponsored by local organizations in several countries, and others will follow.

"One of the helpful activities of the United States advertisers in the southern republics has been the use of news of our great press associations as program material for their sponsored broadcasts. The best answer to Axis propaganda is a wider dissemination of the facts.

"We have knowledge of 132 stations carrying such programs, and doubtless there are many others that do not appear on our records."

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WOW SUES ASCAP FOR ROYALTIES DAMAGES

The Woodman of the World Life Insurance Society, operators of radio station WOW, filed suit in District Court in Omaha Thursday against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, asking \$298,319 in triple damages alleged to have been suffered through payment of ASCAP royalties.

The petition was in behalf of "all others similarly situated" in Nebraska and lawyers said claims would total almost a million dollars.

A Nebraska law passed May 7, 1937, barring alleged monopolistic practices of ASCAP, was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in May. Payments during that period for songs and music originating in Station WOW to ASCAP under protest amounted to \$87,724, but under the statute ASCAP is liable to triple damages plus interest, the petition asserted.

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BAN ON NEW RADIO STATION CONSTRUCTION

The Defense Communications Board has recommended to the War Production Board and the Federal Communications Commission that, effective immediately, all new construction for standard broadcast facilities be limited in accordance with the following:

- "1. No critical materials shall be allocated by the War Production Board or further authorizations issued by the Federal Communications Commission for the construction of any new standard broadcast station where all or a substantial part of the proposed primary service area is already provided with primary service from one or more standard broadcast stations.¹
- "2. No critical materials shall be allocated by the War Production Board or further authorizations issued by the Federal Communications Commission for construction in order to change the transmitting facilities of any existing standard broadcast station unless the change will result in a substantial new primary service area no substantial part of which is already provided with primary service from one or more standard broadcast stations.¹
- "3. No critical materials shall be allocated by the War Production Board for the construction, under outstanding authorizations of the Federal Communications Commission:
 - (a) Of any new standard broadcast station where all or a substantial part of the proposed primary service area is already provided with primary service from one or more standard broadcast stations; or
 - (b) In order to change the transmitting facilities of any existing standard broadcast station unless the change will result in a substantial new primary service area no substantial part of which is already provided with primary service from one or more standard broadcast stations.¹

It is understood that this matter has already received consideration by the Federal Communications Commission, as evinced in that Commission's public statement of January 30, and by representatives of the War Production Board in conferences with the Priorities Liaison Committee of the Defense Communications Board.

1/ In general, the Federal Communications Commission's Standards of Good Engineering Practice will be used as a guide in the determination of primary service.

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PAPERS FAIRER ON NEWS THAN RADIO, STAHLMAN CLAIMS

James G. Stahlman, publisher of the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner, told the Federal Communications Commission Thursday he believed that newspapers "in 999 cases out of 1,000" gave a fairer presentation of the news than radio broadcasts.

On the advice of Elisha Hanson, counsel for the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, Mr. Stahlman several months ago failed to answer a Commission subpoena. The United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia recently upheld the Commission's right to subpoena him but said the Commission had no power under the Communications Act to bar newspapers from owning or operating radio stations.

Before Mr. Stahlman took the stand, Mr. Hanson, who has contended the investigation is unlawful, called the Commission's attention to the Appeals Court decision and asked that it be made a part of the record.

Chairman James L. Fly did not allow it to go into the record, remarking that members of the Commission already had read it.

"I am glad that they did and I hope they understood it and enjoyed it as much as I did", Mr. Hanson commented.

Mr. Stahlman remarked that he always had opposed commercially sponsored news broadcasts and that he had not changed his opinion.

The publisher told of offering a resolution at the April, 1933, meeting of the Associated Press to permit newspaper members of the cooperative, non-profit organization to make available news reports to local stations, but not for chain broadcast. He said his motive in offering the resolution, which was adopted, was to make "legitimate news" available to radio stations.

Mr. Stahlman now is on active duty with the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander. He appeared in uniform yesterday, Mr. Hanson explaining that regulations required this. Mr. Hanson added, however, that Mr. Stahlman was testifying as an individual and "not as an officer of the Government".

After hearing Mr. Stahlman, the hearings recessed to an indefinite date. FCC attorneys predicted the hearings would be completed shortly.

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Looking to relieve the amount of paper work required for renewal of standard broadcast station licenses, the FCC approved a revised draft of Form 303, "Application for Renewal of Standard Broadcast Station Licenses". The form has been shortened from 10 pages to 5, and in other ways has been simplified to meet the cooperative suggestions made by various licensees.

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RADIO SET OUTPUT TO BE CUT OFF WITHIN THREE MONTHS

The radio set manufacturing industry, whose civilian output has already been cut to 40% below last year's total, was told today (Friday) by the War Productions Board that it is next in line for conversion to the production of war material.

Speaking before a meeting of the representatives of fifty-five radio set manufacturers, R. R. Guthrie, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Industry Branches, said the radio manufacturing plants will be converted as rapidly "as is technically possible".

While no dead line has been set, it is expected that the major part of the job will be done within three months. A program for conversion will be drawn up at conferences between the representatives of the industry and the Government.

"The problems of your industry in the war effort are at once difficult and pressing", Mr. Guthrie said. "The strategical objectives and the broad dimensions of the task before you are clear. It should be as gratifying to you as it is to me that these objectives and dimensions are no longer subject to change with the fortunes of war. We are, thank God, out of the period in which succeeding military reverses met a revision of our estimates of what we must do. We are demanding the utmost of your industry and every other industry now.

Mr. Guthrie said that the present output of radio manufacturers would be converted to the manufacturing for military purposes radio sets, signal corps detectors, and similar equipment needed in enormous volume.

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WIRELESS OPERATORS GIVE MEDAL TO PRESIDENT

Chairman Fly of the Federal Communications Commission, at the invitation of the Veteran Wireless Operators' Association, presented a medal to President Roosevelt at the White House Thursday afternoon in recognition of the latter's outstanding contribution to the advancement of the wireless art in peace and war. The gold token of the Association's appreciation was presented in advance of the Association's annual dinner in New York on February 21st.

In conveying the message of the Veteran Wireless Operators, Mr. Fly said the medal was in commemoration of the President's sixtieth birthday and "in tribute to him grand use of wireless communications to the greatest advantage in peace and in war".

Life members of the VWOA in Washington were invited to attend the presentation. They were Neville Miller of the National Association of Broadcasters, George W. Bailey of the American Radio Relay League, Admirals S. C. Hooper and Leigh Noyes, FCC Assistant Chief Engineer E. M. Webster and William D. Terrell, Chief of the FCC's Field Division.

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FCC WARTIME SURVEY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE BROADCASTS

A Federal Communications Commission wartime survey reveals 200 standard radio stations in the United States broadcasting in 29 foreign languages for a total of 6,776 hours during the first 30 days after Japan began hostilities on December 7th last.

A pre-war survey, conducted by the Commission in 1940, showed 199 stations broadcasting in 31 foreign languages for a period of about 1330 hours a week. Previously an additional 57 stations had broadcast in foreign tongues. The current survey indicates a decrease of 67 hours as compared with foreign language broadcast time for the 30 days preceding the outbreak of war.

Italian, Polish, and Spanish still predominate the domestic foreign language broadcasts directed at local foreign-born populations. A comparison of foreign language broadcasts for the 30-day period before and following the Pearl Harbor attack shows from November 7 to December 6, 1941 - 6,843 broadcasts and from December 7, 1941 to January 5, 1942 - 6,776.

No domestic station broadcasts in foreign tongue exclusively. Only three stations broadcast 300 hours or more of foreign languages in the 30 days mentioned. Two stations broadcast 200 to 299 hours, 3 from 160 to 199 hours, 3 from 120 to 159 hours, 11 from 80 to 119 hours, 22 from 40 to 79 hours, 25 from 20 to 39 hours, 36 from 10 to 19 hours, and 95 for less than 10 hours.

Few high-power stations broadcast in foreign languages. Only one 50 kilowatt station does, and no 25 kilowatt station. Lesser power stations engaging in foreign language broadcasts include three 10 kilowatt stations, 38 of 5 kilowatts, 48 of 1 kilowatt, 8 of 500 watts, 94 of 250 watts, and 8 of 100 watts.

As in the case of foreign-language newspapers, most of these stations are in areas with considerable foreign-born populations. Since the outbreak of war, and under increased surveillance, the foreign-language stations have themselves jointly and individually acted to guard against subversive broadcasts. Many programs are being devoted to the United States war effort, and various Government agencies are utilizing this media to inform and enlist the support of our foreign-born in the battle for democracy. In particular, foreign-language stations have broadcast information about the alien registration and other matters pertaining to aliens within our borders.

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Radio's use in education, by adults as well as in the classroom, is to be demonstrated before more than 20,000 principals and other school executives by the CBS Department of Education at the annual meeting, February 21-26, of the American Association of School Administrators in San Francisco.

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RCA OPENS DIRECT CIRCUIT TO IRAN

A new direct radiotelegraph circuit between New York and Teheran, Iran, was opened last Tuesday by R. C. A. Communications, Inc.

Until now, all radiotelegraphic traffic from the United States to Teheran had to be routed by way of London, where, under war conditions, there was a considerable time lapse before clearance. The new 6000-mile circuit will eliminate serious delays.

With the addition of Iran, R. C. A. Communications operates direct radiotelegraph circuits to four countries of the Near East. The other three link New York with Beyrouth, Svria; Istanbul, Turkey, and Cairo, Egypt. RCAC direct radio circuits connect the United States with a total of more than forty countries.

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MILE O' DIMES STILL COMING IN

Contributions to the national fight against infantile paralysis continue to be received at Washington's NBC studios, despite official closing of the Mile O'Dimes campaign which netted approximately \$30,000 this year.

Part of the proceeds already have been delivered to the White House, where the money taken in through this part of the annual President's Birthday Celebration, was received on behalf of President Roosevelt by his Military Aide, Major General Edwin M. Watson, U. S. Army.

The Mile O' Dimes stand in front of the NBC studios was host from January 12-30 to Government officials, motion pictures stars, and thousands of Washingtonians and out-of-town visitors. Included among the notables were Jesse Jones, head of the R.F.C.; Paul McNutt, Federal Security Administrator, and Secretary of Agriculture, Claude Wickard.

Milk bottles on the Mile O' Dimes stand represented every State in the United States, and also about 12 foreign countries. Contributions credited to Uruguay totaled over \$51. Boy Scouts assisted by accenting contributions from passing motorists.

A minimum of two broadcasts were conducted from the Mile O' Dimes stand daily. Many citizens participated on special programs.

Bryson Rash was conductor of the Fifth Washington Mile O' Dimes campaign, assisted by NBC Staffmen Don Fischer and Dorian St. George, who was Eastern Regional Director.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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Marshall Orr, principal attorney and head of the Marine, Aeronautical and Emergency Section of the Law Department of the Federal Communications Commission, has been called to duty as a major in the Air Corps. Long a flyer, he was in the Navy air service during the World War.

Thomas Rishworth, Director of the NBC Public Service Division, will be one of the principal speakers at the 72nd annual convention of the American Association of School Administrators, opening a six-day conclave in San Francisco on Saturday, February 21st. His subject will be "Radio and Recordings".

The Commission denied a petition by Portsmouth Radio Co. requesting a grant without further hearing of its application for a new station in Portsmouth, Va., to operate on 1490 kilocycles with 250 watts power, unlimited time. The Commission directed that further hearings on the application be held in the light of the existing situation on the availability of materials.

At the same time, the Commission denied the application of R. N. Wallace and G. E. Schnibben, doing business as Norfolk County Broadcasting Co., for like facilities at Norfolk, Va.

Sally's Furs, Inc., 17 West 44th St., New York City, in a complaint issued by the Federal Trade Commission, is charged with misrepresentation in the sale of ladies' fur coats, through advertisements in newspapers, business papers, the radio and other media.

William J. Slocum, Jr., CBS Director of Special Events and Sports, has returned to New York after five weeks in San Francisco, where he supervised the setting up of a complete news bureau and shortwave listening post to handle the increasingly important news from the Far East.

A new "Danish Hour" has been added to NBC's regular daily short-wave schedule. It will be beamed to Denmark from 12:30 to 1:00 P.M. EWT. Danish is the tenth language now included in NBC's daily language pattern.

WCKY, L. B. Wilson, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, has been granted a license by the FCC to cover construction permit which authorized changes in directional antenna system, and use after sunset at Sacramento, Calif.

K53LA, Standard Broadcasting Co., Los Angeles, Calif., has been granted extension of special temporary authority to operate commercially on 45300 kilocycles, 1 kilowatt to not later than March 9th.

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