

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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No. 1431

FINE RADIO WEATHER NOW WITH NO SUN SPOTS IN SIGHT

With one of the worst magnetic storms in the history of radio well in the background, atmospheric conditions have again returned to normal. There is no telling when there may be another such disruption of radio, telephone and telegraph communications. These sudden ionosphere disturbances, as explained by Dr. J. H. Dellinger, of the National Bureau of Standards, who probably knows more about the subject than any man on earth, are caused by sun spots. The latter are magnetic storms raging over the solar surface, and can be plainly seen from the earth.

Dr. Dellinger was the first to observe that when these sun spots appeared, they immediately played havoc with radio reception. As a result of his discoveries, these sudden ionosphere disturbances causing radio fadeouts are now known as "the Dellinger effect".

When Dr. Dellinger began studying the atmospheric disturbances, they came about every 55 days, but after the year 1935, they became more numerous. They don't go by seasons.

"These sudden ionosphere disturbances caused by eruptions on the sun occur so suddenly that a man operating a broadcasting station thinks he has blown a fuse or the listener thinks his receiving set has gone bad and tries to repair it", Dr. Dellinger said. "Reception goes out - bingo! - just like that."

There are two kinds of atmospheric disturbances (a) the ionosphere storm, and (b) the sudden ionosphere disturbance or "Dellinger effect". The ionosphere storm begins gradually and lasts for a day or two accompanied by weak and fluctuating signals. It is most pronounced in the higher latitudes nearer the poles. An ionosphere storm covers the whole earth. The sudden or "Dellinger effect" is only felt on the side of the earth towards the sun.

The last ionosphere disturbance became so serious that F. P. Guthrie, District Manager of R.C.A. Communications, Inc., in Washington said that about the only country his company was able to get through to without difficulty was Sweden. An unusual thing about that storm, showing how scientists are now watching this phenomena, was that it was forecast by several observers, among them. F. S. McGary, of the Buhl Planetarium in Pittsburgh, William H. Barton, Curator of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City, and William Henry, head of the Department of Astronomy at Brooklyn Institute.

Mr. McGary, for instance, sounded a warning in March by saying the strongest magnetic sunspots ever observed had reached the solar meridian and would be in a position to disrupt radio reception. When these spots reached the north-south meridian, he said they would hurl "trillions" of charged particles earthward every second.

Mr. McGary explained that the spots would be "in line" with the earth for half the sun's cycle - about 12 days.

"If conditions remain as of today", he said then, "the earth may be in for a stronger magnetic disturbance than took place last September 18 when radio and telephone communications went berserk over most of the world."

And that was exactly what happened.

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NEW YORK CITY STATIONS SILENCED IN AIR RAID TEST

Realism was added to an air-raid tryout when all of New York City's broadcasting stations were ordered to close down during the 19 minute daylight test which began at 11:06 o'clock last Tuesday morning. It wasn't until 11:17 A.M. that every station was off the air. "All clear" was sounded at 11:25 A.M.

"Radio stations were besieged by telephone inquiries, largely from persons who had tuned in during the silence and were curious to know why they could not raise any of the local stations", the New York Times stated, describing the test. "Station WOR reported that between 400 and 500 calls were received in the nineteen minutes they were off the air. The National Broadcasting Company said that double its usual number of switchboard operators would have been swamped.

"The warning was transmitted to the four major networks - NBC, Columbia, the Blue network and Mutual - over a direct wire that links them with the interceptor command. On receipt of the blue warning an announcer in each of the major studios cuts in with the brief announcement:

"This is station _____ now leaving the air at the request of the interceptor command."

"Without further explanation a master switch in the control room was thrown, putting each of the local network stations off the air within fifteen seconds of the warning.

"Some of the approximately twenty-five independent stations in the metropolitan area did not go off as quickly. The arrangement is that each independent station is supposed to remain monitored to one of the network stations, and to go off the air as

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soon as the network station does so. Some of them apparently failed to act at once, for it was not until 11:17, eleven minutes after the warning, that the last of them became silent.

"In New York City the yellow warning is transmitted to the Police and Fire Departments, the Board of Education, the Port of New York Authority and public service installations. The blue warning goes to these same agencies, but, unlike the yellow signal, it is a command to all radio stations in the area to go off the air.

"Just how the public was supposed to remain in ignorance of the confidential alert even after the radio stations had gone off the air and many thousands of school children had been sent home was a question that spokesmen for the Interceptor Command and the Army Information Service were unable or unwilling to answer."

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LID GOES DOWN ON QUARTZ CRYSTALS IN RADIO

Strict control over the products for which quartz crystals may be used was ordered by James S. Knowlson, WPB Director of Industry Operations.

Except by specific authorization, the crystals may be used only for these purposes:

Products for use in implements of war produced for the Army, Navy, or other Government agencies.

Oscillators and filters for use in radio systems operated by Federal agencies or commercial airlines.

Telephone resonators.

Purchasers must certify to the fabricator of products containing quartz crystals that the products will be used only for these purposes.

Holders of 25 pounds or more of quartz crystals, or ten pieces in a manufactured form not incorporated in a mounting, as of May 18, must report to the War Production Board by June 20. Consumers also must report monthly, by the 20th of the month.

Sales of more than 10 pounds of quartz crystals must be reported within ten days after the transaction.

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WSAM POWER BOOST AND FREQUENCY CHANGE FAVORED

The Federal Communications Commission this week announced its Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions, proposing to grant, conditionally, the application of Saginaw Broadcasting Co. (WSAM), Saginaw, Mich., for modification of license to change its operating assignment from 1230 kilocycles, 100 watts night, 250 watts daytime, specified hours, to 1400 kilocycles, 250 watts power, unlimited time.

The Commission concludes:

"1. Three stockholders of applicant whose combined holdings amount to a 40% interest in the licensee corporation have combined interests totaling over 95% in the licensee of Station WBCM. There is no common control of the licensees and the stations are operated independently of each other.

"2. Operation of WSAM as proposed will deprive approximately 19,691 of the service available from it during certain day hours and will deprive about 7,575 of the daytime service received from WJLB. Service is available to the areas in which these losses would be experienced from at least four other stations. A full time in lieu of a part-time local service would be provided to about 247,637 day and 99,950 night, while a population of about 11,820 would receive a new service at night.

"3. The granting of this application would tend toward a fair, efficient and equitable distribution of radio service as contemplated by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

"4. Public interest, convenience and necessity will be served by the granting of the instant application, on condition that the applicant deliver one set of crystals in its possession to a well recognized manufacturer or distributor and notify the Commission of the disposition made thereof."

At the same time the Commission dismissed applicant's "Petition for Grant filed pursuant to Memorandum Opinion of April 27, 1942", filed April 30, 1942.

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WAR RANK OF SHIP RADIO OPERATORS CREATED

The great growth and rapid pace of American war-time ship-building today caused the Federal Communications Commission to establish a new rank of ship radio operators. Examining standards for operating speeds and technical knowledge were relaxed to permit classification of Temporary Limited Radiotelegraph Second-Class Operator License. Holders of the new class of "tickets" will be restricted to operation of radiotelegraph keys and the license will be valid for the duration of the war and for six months thereafter.

Informal discussion with Coast Guard, Maritime Commission and Navy officials, as well as with representatives of the radio operator labor unions, showed desirability of these temporary licenses. All believed that creation of the temporary license would be of material aid in meeting an anticipated shortage of second and junior radio operators aboard ships.

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F.D.R. HAILS NEW CBS LATIN-AMERICAN NETWORK

President Roosevelt's "gratification" at "this linking together of radio networks throughout the Americas" was conveyed by Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles to William S. Paley, on the occasion last Tuesday night of the dedication in Washington of the new 76 station CBS Latin-American Network. Mr. Welles emphasized the importance of such a development in communication between the Americas in assuring distribution of accurate information.

Vice President Wallace, our first Spanish speaking assistant head of state, talking to the Latin-Americans in their own language, likewise praised the new network as a closer tie-up of the nations to the South.

President Manuel Prado of Peru spoke from New York, where he is continuing his official visit to this country. Presidents Gen. Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua, and Gen. Isaias Medina of Venezuela, spoke by short wave from their native Capitals.

Commenting upon the CBS dedication, the Washington Post said:

"Obviously, as Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, one of the speakers at the dedication, remarked, we now possess an important new means of enlarging the circulation of truth. And the network of the Americas should, indeed, help to reveal the palpable untruths and distortions specially broadcast by the Axis for Latin-American consumption. But it is also intended that the CBS programs shall help build up a community of common ideas and common moral objectives, of shared tastes and traditions. This, after all, is the major end in mind.

"Such a goal can be achieved only when an interchange of broadcasts on an equal basis is established, when there is also a network of the Americas originating to the south of us. In time, no doubt, there will be such a network. Meanwhile, however, the CBS programs will serve a worthy cause, if they promote a better understanding among our southern neighbors of what this country really stands for."

"This is not merely a war of armies against armies, of navies against navies, and of resources against resources. It is also a war of lies against truth", Mr. Rockefeller declared at the dedication.

"And, in a period in which the diabolical forces of a new international anarchy are seeking to win wars and corrupt governments and enslave peoples by lies, this network will be dedicated to the truth: The truth in news, and in information, and the truth of the ideals of human freedom and dignity for which this war is being fought, and in which the future fortunes of the men and women of the Americas are bound up.

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"There is no deeper compliment I can pay the men of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and this new institution they have built, than to say that by enlarging the circulation of truth, they are clearing the air for victory."

Especially important at this time, when the Axis radio stations in Berlin and Rome are subjecting the Latin-American countries to a barrage of propaganda, is the fact that news programs from the United States will be heard clearly at all times under the new setup.

The radio chain, "La Cadena de Las Americas", for the first time links the United States with its 20 neighbor nations and provides broadcasting coverage for every important population center in Latin America, ranging from the Mexican banks of the Rio Grande to the southernmost portions of Argentina.

Plans for the network began in 1940 when CBS President, William S. Paley, made a several week tour of South America, consulting with Government officials, radio station owners and others familiar with the listening habits of the countries concerned. He returned to New York with contracts affecting 64 of the Latin-American stations. The others, to make the present 76-station hookup, have been added since.

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SOLON SAYS PRESS AND RADIO FAIL TO GIVE NEWS FAIRLY

Representative Ramspeck, Democrat, of Georgia, the man who introduced the bill for pensions for Congressmen, and still apparently smarting under the criticism by the press and the general throwing of dead cats at this measure, charged that the Nation's press and radio are failing to present facts to the public in a fair way.

Mr. Ramspeck, addressing a banquet of Georgia Postmasters, charged there is a definite lack of information coming to the public through news agencies, and added they are doing some 'rotten reporting on what is going on on Capitol Hill'.

Mr. Ramspeck said that reporting of his pension bill for Congressmen was an example of not reporting facts, declaring that newspapers and radio did not cite the many benefits that Government employees would have received from the bill.

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RMA COMMITTEE DISCUSSES PARTS AND COPPER SITUATION

Provision for production of replacement parts and the new WPB copper order, were major subjects of a conference in Washington on Wednesday, between WPB officials and the Replacement and Repair Parts Committee of the Radio Manufacturers' Association, of which J. J. Kahn, of Chicago, is Chairman. President Galvin, of RMA, Chairman Fred D. Williams of the Association's Priorities Committee, Chairman H. E. Osmun of the Parts and Accessory Division, and L. C. F. Horle of the Association's Engineering Department participated in the conference with Chief Frank H. McIntosh of the Radio Section, WPB Communications Branch, and his staff.

There was complete official recognition of the war necessity to provide quantities of replacement parts to maintain public sets in operation, and details of the procedure for parts manufacturers to secure the necessary materials were outlined. Also there was special discussion of the Copper Conservation Order, requiring WPB approval for all uses of copper after May 31.

Radio manufacturers generally are filing appeals with the WPB Copper Section, required to continue use of copper after May 31, and also are generally proceeding with the Production Requirements Plan for additional copper supplies.

Relief from the copper order was urged by the RMA Committee to WPB Chief McIntosh, who will confer with Copper Section officials regarding the possibility of exemption from the copper order for the manufacturers of radio replacements. However, RMA members are again advised to promptly file their appeals from the copper order. The former WPB Administrator of the copper order, Sidney F. Tyler, has been transferred to the Automotive Section, and Michael Schwartz is now Acting Administrator, of copper order. For personal contact in Washington, the radio appeals are being handled by Mr. E. V. Humpstone, Assistant Administrator of the copper order.

The RMA has submitted preliminary data to Chief McIntosh of the WPB Radio Section regarding metal and other requirements for manufacturers of replacement parts. A plan for special and direct allocations of such materials to parts manufacturers, under the Production Requirements Plan or otherwise, also is under consideration. A complete list of types of replacement parts and their manufacturers is being compiled by WPB, with a view to future supply to parts manufacturers, probably on a 90-day inventory basis. Present inventories of replacement parts, from information discussed at the RMA-WPB conference, are regarded as adequate for the public replacement uses for several months.

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BELITTLES EDITORS' VOTE-GETTING POWER

Harold V. Hough, Chairman of the Committee representing newspaper-owned broadcasting stations, emphatically told the House Interstate Commerce Committee considering the Sanders bill to reorganize the Federal Communications Commission that in rewriting the old radio law, there should be no discrimination against stations owned by newspapers or "any other occupation or class".

Mr. Hough, who in addition to running the Fort Worth Star-Telegram station is Circulation Manager of the Texas paper, pooh-poohed the idea that there was danger of a publisher being able to control public opinion in his community if he also had a radio station. He said some editors had as much vote-getting influence as "the local high school football coach".

The House Committee was further informed that an editor "couldn't monopolize truth. In the first place, the folks listen to other radio stations and they read other newspapers - newspapers printed in other communities".

"It had never occurred to us", he testified, "that we had any different rights than any other citizens", and contended that the FCC has no jurisdiction to deny a publisher, or any other business man, a broadcasting license so long as the public necessity, interest and convenience would be served by it.

"I don't say that newspaper people should be preferred over other applicants", Mr. Hough asserted. "I do say, however, that there is nothing in the occupation of newspaper publishing or editing or reporting which should bar us from entering any field which is open to all other American citizens. Discrimination because of occupation just doesn't fit in with American democracy."

Representative Sanders said that he inserted the clause only because he wanted to bring the question of the FCC's policy-making authority "out into the open".

"I thought that the FCC was getting in deep water" on that question, said Representative Sanders. "This is a question which should be gone into very thoroughly before any action is taken, but unhesitatingly, I say that if there is to be any limitation over ownership of a radio, or any other form of business, it should be accomplished by congressional action rather than by a Commission's regulation."

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Headquarters of the Army's Fifth Corps Area at Columbus, Ohio, issued a call for radio operators and repair men for the Army Signal Corps. Operators must hold or qualify for a commercial or amateur operator's license and repair men must be members of the Radio Service Men of America and employed in radio service work. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 45.

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U.S. INTERVENES IN G.E. PATENT RIGHTS ACTION

Thurman Arnold's anti-trust division of the Department of Justice, which has deferred prosecution of two court actions against General Electric Company in wartime, moved in a new way yesterday (Thursday) in New York to obtain some of the results sought in the earlier cases, the New York Times reports. Through the local chief of the division, the Federal Court was asked to allow the Government to prevent General Electric from continuing an action against infringement of certain patents relating to fluorescent lighting equipment.

This activity was preliminary, and involved only the granting of an order directing General Electric to show cause why the Government should not be allowed to intervene in the patent infringement suit, which is now before Judge Vincent L. Leibell. Accompanying the petition for the order, however, was a "proposed answer" to General Electric's complaint in the infringement case, to which Hygrade Sylvania Corporation is defendant. This answer demands dismissal of the complaint on the ground that the patents involved have been used by General Electric in such a way as to violate the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Before the "proposed answer" can be considered, the Government must obtain the right to act as an intervening defendant.

Through agreements with American corporations, as well as with foreign organizations, General Electric has achieved a dominant position in this country over the "indoor" fluorescent lighting industry, according to this "proposed answer". The same document added that the two patents involved in the infringement case have been used in obtaining such domination.

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THINK OF FUTURE SHOLIS, CLEAR CHANNEL DIRECTOR, URGES

The challenge confronting Congress, the FCC and the radio industry in the post-war development of American broadcasting will involve atoning for the failure to spread the pleasures of radio equitably among all our people, Victor Sholis, Director of the Clear Channel Broadcasting Service, declared, in urging an extensive governmental study of rural radio service to the House Interstate Commerce Committee considering the Sanders FCC reorganization bill.

"Though the (radio) allocation structure is frozen for the moment, I feel it is still mandatory upon us to think of the future. It is ironic that although American genius has created the finest system of broadcasting in the world, we have failed to spread the pleasures of that broadcasting equitably among all our people. There still are too many forgotten men, as far as radio listening is concerned, among rural and small town Americans.

"Probably the greatest challenge that will confront us in the post-war development of American broadcasting will be to atone for this failure. It is a challenge confronting Congress, the FCC and the industry. We cannot sit back thinking wishfully that it will be met by picking up where we left off on the day of Pearl Harbor. To the contrary, events over a period of several years prior to the war tended to deteriorate radio service to Rural America instead of improving it. . . ."

"An important, extensive and expensive study must be made, therefore, before any more clear channels are deteriorated, and before impairment of rural service proceeds any further. . . ."

"No serious damage will be done to radio if the allocation structure is frozen until victory in the war allows us to make the kind of comprehensive engineering study of rural service necessary to the drafting of an intelligent long-range plan. Grave danger can result, however, if the Commission continues to nibble away at the allocation structure and duplicates clear channels on a piecemeal basis."

"Generally speaking, it is upon Clear Channel stations that over fifty million Americans living across 80 per cent of our country's area depend chiefly for radio reception at night - that is, between sunset and shortly after sunrise."

"Congress created the Federal Radio Commission, because it had a definite objective in mind. This was to make maximum use of the limited number of available channels so as to insure a fair, efficient and equitable distribution of radio service over the entire country - north, south, east and west - urban and rural."

"Considering the practical difficulties involved, some parts of this job have been rather well done. But the part that has not been well done - the part on which the Commission has fallen down ever since 1928 - is that of insuring a fair distribution of service to the rural population and of improving that service in areas where it is now unsatisfactory or non-existent. . . ."

"I want to make it crystal clear that I do not regard this technical problem as one of city listeners versus rural listeners. One group does not have to be discriminated against to provide service for the other. . . ."

"Today this technical problem of spreading radio service to all homes stands unsolved. To the extent that large segments of our population are barred from good radio reception - to that extent has the broadcasting industry and the Government's regulatory body failed in their duties and responsibilities to the public."

"To the families that can hear no radio, what does it matter who owns radio stations?"

"To the millions of Americans whose radio reception is an uncertainty of here today and gone tomorrow, what does it matter whether stations take too many or too few network programs?"

"To the millions of Americans whose radio reception is marred by static and interference, what does it matter how the economics of the industry are regulated?"

"In radio, freedom of speech involves more than just the right of all groups to be heard. It must also embrace the right of all Americans to hear. That right is being denied too many Americans.

"It is tragic that this technical problem of providing a good radio signal to every American home was not solved during the years prior to war. Not only does concentration upon our war effort make it impossible to do the job now, but radio cannot be used to its potential capacity as an instrument of information and morale building in furthering the war effort. ..."

"I hope the Commission (FCC) will assure you that without any further legislation, it is really going to make a thorough study of the problem, subject to the exigencies of the war effort.

"I hope, too, that the Commission will assure you that pending completion of such a study and the drafting of a program based on scientific conclusions, it will not permit any further deterioration of rural radio service.

"Given such assurances, which we are prepared to accept, there would be no need for legislation on this subject."

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::: TRADE NOTES :::

President Roosevelt in directing the Office of Civilian Defense to undertake an anti-sabotage protective program of essential civilian facilities ordered the Federal Communications Commission to develop and execute portions of the program which had to do with communications.

Station KDB, Santa Barbara Broadcasters, Ltd. (Assignor) Don Lee Broadcasting System (Assignee), Santa Barbara, Cal., has been granted consent to assignment of license of Station KDB, from Santa Barbara Broadcasters, Ltd. to Don Lee Broadcasting System. Television station W6XDL, Don Lee Broadcasting System, San Francisco, Cal., was denied application for extension of completion date to October 30, 1942.

Supposedly crusading for educational (non-profit) broadcasting, A. Ballard Walton of Lakewood, Ohio, who for years has harbored a large grouch against the broadcasters, sent each one of them the following postcard after the Cleveland gathering:

"It was the last convention of the National Association of Broadcasters - men who tell us what to buy when we smell bad. Commercial radio is on the way out."

Station WMBG of Richmond, Va., has been granted license to cover construction permit as modified which authorized changes in directional antenna; granted authority to determine operating power by direct measurement of antenna power. Granted authority to determine operating power by direct measurement of antenna power, for auxiliary transmitter.

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