

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.
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No. 1463

September 15, 1942

MR. FLY ASSURES CONTINUITY OF BROADCASTING SERVICE

At a press conference upon his return to Washington held yesterday (Monday) after an absence of several weeks, Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission discussed his trip and talked informally on various subjects.

"I had a very interesting trip", Mr. Fly said. "I was quite encouraged over the inspection of a number of our field stations, particularly the work of our Radio Intelligence Division in the field of monitoring and radio intelligence generally. I think we have succeeded in establishing a pretty comprehensive and efficient group of facilities and they are splendidly staffed. The people of those stations are on the job. They have their hearts and souls in it and are really doing a swell job and tied in well from the military point of view, and I am very optimistic about the work that is being done.

"Meanwhile a couple of the problems have been receiving attention and perhaps I ought to assure you that the two serious problems - one, as to manpower generally in the communications industry, and the other, as to the assurance of continuity of broadcasting service - that is, in terms of necessary equipment - they have been given very active consideration and a great deal of progress has been made. You are all familiar with the questionnaire on the tube supply which was sent out to all the standard broadcast stations by the Board of War Communications. Now, we have very splendid cooperation from the industry on that. The returns are in and they have been tabulated and a report is now in the hands of the Domestic Broadcasting Committee. I understand that that Committee will meet some time this week and will make recommendations to the Board. The data provided by the report is really very helpful because it goes pretty thoroughly into the status of tube supply amongst all of the broadcasters and will afford a very substantial basis for such action as the Board may take or such recommendations as it will want to forward. Needless to say, tubes are consumable and in substantial quantities, and there is the crux of a pretty serious problem. However, it ought to be made clear that up to the present time the WPB has been able to supply all stations with the necessary tubes. I think there is no doubt from informal information which we have that they can continue to do that for a limited period - perhaps I should say for a substantial period if the conservation of materials is practiced judiciously.

"However, there is our big question mark - that is, the ability of WPB to make tubes available indefinitely. Military requirements are great. Silencing of any station is not an immediate prospect but the need for conservation is immediate. It is present

and it is urgent. I cannot but feel some concern about the statements that have been made in places by subordinate officials as to what broadcast service is essential and as to what broadcast service is to be maintained. I think I can fairly say that you may safely disregard all such statements. I am confident that for a substantial period the means can and will be found to maintain all the present broadcast service, and in any case the substantial reduction of broadcast service is not to be decided by isolated subordinate officials. That raises a question of national public policy and it will be decided as a matter of national policy. I have every confidence that problems will be worked out and give industry the continuity and security which it deserves. As you know, different means have been suggested for the conservation of materials, and all of those will be considered by the Board of War Communications when it receives the recommendations of the Domestic Broadcast Committee.

"The problem of manpower for the entire communications industry has been given extensive study and received the cooperative attention of the industry and of the various Government agencies concerned - Board of War Communications, War Manpower Commission, Selective Service, U. S. Employment Service. As you know, a questionnaire covering this field was sent out by the BWC to all the companies, including wire, radio, and the communications companies in general. That information is coming in in pretty good shape. The biggest companies have, of course, the most extensive job, but they will all be in very shortly, and when that information is received and broken down, it will be referred to the respective committees of the BWC for their advice and recommendations.

"The problem of possible shortage and the rate of turnover, possibilities of recruiting the various training programs existing and those that may be possible, will be given consideration. I believe we will get some substantial and constructive results out of this whole study. The communications industry need not feel that this work will be slowed down. It will move along expeditiously and I hope thoroughly and constructively. As you know, the Commission has had a substantial inquiry of the conditions in the telegraph industry under way for some time, and I understand this work is gotten up in good shape and it ought to be before the Commission perhaps within a week."

"You say you did not have any immediate prospect of silencing radio stations?" Mr. Fly was asked.

"That's right", he replied.

"Is there a prospect of limiting the service?"

"None whatsoever", the Chairman answered. "I think some of the competitive sources might like to think so, but that is not true."

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JOLLIFFE PROMOTION TO RCA MFG. V-P SEEN AS GOOD MOVE

Washington friends of Dr. Charles B. Jolliffe welcomed the news that he had been appointed Vice-President and Chief Engineer of the RCA Manufacturing Company at Camden, N. J. Dr. Jolliffe, who despite his many achievements is only 48 years old, has been holding down two other very important jobs - Assistant to the President of the Radio Corporation of America, and Chief Engineer of the RCA Laboratories.

One looking at Dr. Jolliffe, large and jovial, very much like former President Taft at that age, would never take him for a technical man. Far from the dreamer type of scientist, Dr. Jolliffe always comes through with a clear cut reply which even such a writer as this one is invariably able to understand. Never known to seek publicity for himself, he is always most helpful to those desiring information in his particular field.

Dr. Jolliffe was born at Mannington, West Virginia, was graduated from West Virginia University with a B.Sc. degree in 1915, and achieved the M.S. degree at West Virginia in 1920, and the honorary degree LL.D. from his Alma Mater in 1942. He was awarded the Ph.D in 1922 at Cornell University where he was instructor of Physics from 1920 to 1922. From 1922 to 1930 he served as a physicist in the Radio Section of the Bureau of Standards, where he developed a standard for measuring the accuracy of broadcasting stations in holding to assigned wavelengths. He left that post in 1930 to accept the appointment of Chief Engineer of the Federal Radio Commission, the position he also held under the Federal Communications Commission in 1934.

Dr. Jolliffe resigned his FCC position in November 1935 to join the engineering staff of the Radio Corporation of America as Engineer in charge of the RCA Frequency Bureau. In 1941, he was appointed Chief Engineer of RCA Laboratories, and early in 1943 his appointment as Assistant to the President of RCA was announced. Dr. Jolliffe has attended many international radio conventions as a delegate of the United States and as a technical adviser. Presently he is serving on several Government wartime committees that pertain to radio communications and research. He is Vice-Chairman of Division C of the National Defense Research Committee of the Office of Scientific Research and Development; Secretary of the Industry Advisory Committee of the Defense Communications Board, and has served on other Committees of the Board. He is also a member of the Engineers Defense Board.

"Dr. Jolliffe enters the manufacturing organization of RCA at a time when the plants are geared to all-out wartime production", said G. K. Throckmorton, Chairman of the RCA Manufacturing Co. Executive Committee. "His valuable engineering experience in the fields of radio and electronics, together with his outstanding qualifications as an administrator are expected to contribute greatly to wartime radio manufacturing, and in planning for the post-war period."

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Dr. Jolliffe's home is at Princeton, N. J., where he lives with his wife and two daughters, Jane and Julia. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.

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KNOX AGAIN HOLDS RADIO AND PRESS CONFERENCES

After denying himself to them for such a long time that he was dubbed "Santa Claus" (who only appears in public once a year), Secretary of the Navy Knox is resuming his conferences with radio and press representatives. He will now see them twice a week. Mr. Knox had cancelled these conferences because of the criticism that Government high officials were talking too much.

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GANNETT ASKS "WHOLE TRUTH" COMMUNIQUES

Frank E. Gannett, publisher of the Gannett newspapers, said in a Blue Network broadcast last Sunday night that the people could depend on finding the truth in official statements but "what we cannot depend upon is that it is the whole truth".

Mr. Gannett declared that newspaper and radio people had "bent over backward in their effort to meet suggestions from the Office of Censorship, to avoid any appearance of hampering the military services" but that the editors were "irritated by partial reports, by reports withheld beyond the period when they could be any possible aid to the enemy."

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FTC CAUTIONS ON SHORT-WAVE DIATHERMY DEVICE

George S. Mogilner and James Walker, trading as Merit Health Appliance Co., 707 South Hill St., Los Angeles, engaged in the sale and distribution of a therapeutic device designated "Merit Short Wave Diathermy", have been ordered by the Federal Trade Commission to cease and desist from false advertising and misrepresentation of their product.

In advertisements in newspapers, by radio broadcasts and other means, the Commission finds, the respondents have represented that unsupervised use of their short wave diathermy device by the lay public for self-diagnosed conditions through self-application in the home constitutes a competent and effective means and method for the treatment of numerous ailments, including rheumatism, arthritis, neuritis, and other ailments and for the alleviation of pain resulting from such conditions, and that such use of the device is entirely safe and harmless.

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I. T. & T. GETS NEW RADIO BLIND LANDING SYSTEM

The International Telephone and Radio Manufacturing Corporation has secured the rights of a new system for blind landing of airplanes invented by Andrew Alford of New York (Patent No. 2,294,882). The plane is guided along an easy curve nowhere too steep, and the wheels touch the ground at the lowermost horizontal part of the curve. This guidance is provided by a radio antenna system located to one side.

These objects are obtained by an antenna system which spreads out the radiation in the form of a hollow cone, like the top of a funnel, and the radiation is narrowly confined to the surface of this cone.

According to the inventor his device provides the ideal path for a landing airplane. It is nearly straight and not too steep in the upper reaches, and curves gently to the horizontal near the ground. The aviator has only to keep his antenna in the radiation and when he reaches the lowest point his wheels, which are considerably below the antenna, will touch the ground. However, he must come in on the regular beam, which will guide him from afar to a position centrally over the runway. When he strikes the conical radiation, he will know it is time to descend.

Previous landing paths guided by radio, the inventor states, have either been straight, which means that the airplane strikes the ground at a sharp angle, or parabolic. This curve, he says, is all right at the landing end but too steep up above.

The Westinghouse Company has secured the rights to a cathode-ray oscilloscope invented by Donald G. Little of Baltimore (Patent No. 2,295,412). This gives the pilot of an airplane continual indication of the direction of incoming radio signals and of the proper functioning of the apparatus.

In the ordinary direction finder, the loop is turned until the incoming signal is reduced to a minimum or to silence, which might also mean that the receiver has ceased to function. In the present invention the loop is revolved continually, and a normal wave pattern of circular form is thrown on the oscilloscope screen so long as the apparatus functions.

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The Saint Denis and Tananarive radio stations operated by the Vichy French at Reunion Island and Madagascar have been following a pro-Axis line, according to a monitoring report received here by the Federal Communications Commission a few hours before the announcement that the British forces were attacking the western coast of Madagascar.

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FRONT SEATS AT PREMIUM FOR SENATE PETRILLO SHOW

Music will be dispensed with, nevertheless the "Standing Room Only" sign will be hung out early when the Senate Interstate Commerce sub-committee, headed by Senator Clark (D.), of Idaho, begins its preliminary Petrillo inquiry next Thursday, September 17. Mr. Petrillo, "himself, in person" is expected to be the biggest drawing card but the Senators, always the best showmen on the Hill, so as to sustain the interest, will hold him for one of the last witnesses. Petrillo will probably therefore not make his appearance on the witness stand until next week sometime.

The first witness Thursday will be Elmer Davis, head of the Office of War Information, who had his ears pretty well pinned down sometime ago when single-handed he tried to put the little music dictator in his place. Then Friday will come James L. Fly, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, who Petrillo likewise told where to get off. When Mr. Fly was asked about his forthcoming appearance, he said:

"Mr. Petrillo is still with us. You know the status of that matter. At least at the moment there is legislative consideration of it. The problem itself has become more extensive and, if anything, more serious. Under the present conditions there is a serious question as to whether our broadcasting services and other public services, which after all are a part of the over-all war machine, will be able to move along in the national public interest, or whether it is going to be continually hampered by monkey wrenches thrown into the machine room."

"Will you speak from a written statement before you are questioned? Or will you ad lib?" he was asked.

"Well, I generally prefer to move along informally. I just don't know what will be done in this case. We are getting up some data and exhibits which will be available. I doubt, however, if I will read a prepared statement", the Chairman replied.

In the meantime the music war appears to have opened on an entirely new front. Further broadcasting by the Eastman School of music at Rochester will not be permitted, because of the policy laid down by Mr. Petrillo, according to Dr. Howard Hanson, Director of the School.

Many members of the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra, composed of 120 instrumentalists, are students who do not belong to the Musicians' Union, Dr. Hanson said, and therefore are subject to the Petrillo radio prohibition.

At the same time Dr. Hanson revealed that the Eastman-Rochester Symphony Orchestra and the Rochester Civic Orchestra would be heard over the air in a series of concerts this season, beginning in October. Broadcasting by these orchestras without conflicting with the Petrillo policy was made possible, he said, by the fact

that the sixty members of both, some advanced students at the school, are members of the union. The Eastman-Rochester Symphony also records for Victor.

The newspapers continued to take a lively interest in the case, the Washington Post saying:

"The latest edict of James C. Petrillo, the A. F. of L. radio dictator, which would restrict the use of radio transcriptions, has radio people in the Federal service worried. In the first place, the Government is by far the largest user of radio transcriptions. The transcriptions are made by the hundreds here at Government studios. War bonds, Army and Navy openings and much other vital war information is publicized through transcriptions. Many of the transcriptions have music and Petrillo tells the radio stations what music it can play and when. You can be sure the Government will crack down on the labor czar if its toes are stepped on."

Someone wrote to the New York Times:

"Is nothing sacred from Mr. Petrillo?

"I find it almost impossible to believe that there isn't some one or something in our country that can stop such unbridled domination of what can be at least described as an educational aid. That he should dare to prevent an Army band from performing should surely have been enough to prove the danger to come from his power.

"Abroad we are fighting against dictators of another sort, who ban a particular composer or type of music. Here at home we can boast of a man who can, at will, ban not only any form of music but the musicians themselves."

The hearing on the motion for an injunction against the American Federation of Musicians and Mr. Petrillo scheduled in Chicago for September 16 in the Federal District Court has now been postponed until October 12.

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BBC INSTRUCTS GERMANS HOW TO GET SHORT-WAVE

A BBC German-language broadcast recently gave instructions on how to convert the standard German radio set, the "people's receiver" into a short wave receiver.

The Germans are prohibited under penalty of death from listening to foreign broadcasts, but the BBC said, "We have been asked repeatedly" for the necessary instructions. The only material needed, said the broadcast, heard in the United States by CBS, is a cardboard tube and a few yards of insulated wire. It promised to repeat the instructions periodically.

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SENATOR WALLACE WHITE MOPS UP OPPONENT

Senator Wallace White of Maine (R.), in the election yesterday (Monday), according to early returns, mopped up his opponent Fulton J. Redman (D.) by an almost 3-1 vote. With 461 of 625 precincts tabulated Senator White had 69,242 votes to Redman's 26,833.

Senator White, co-author of the Radio Act, is the best informed man on the subject of radio and communications in Congress. Serving as a member of the House from 1917-31, he has been in the Senate ever since. His connection with radio began when he was on the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries which handles radio matters in the House and of which he later became Chairman. In the Senate he is a member of the Interstate Commerce Committee which concerns itself with radio and communications in the upper body.

In 1924 Senator White was a delegate to the Pan American Electrical Communications Conference in Mexico City. The next year he attended the International Telegraph Conference in Paris. In 1927 he went to the International Juridical Conference in Wireless Telegraphy at Geneva, of which he was later elected President of the American Section. Senator White was Chairman of the U. S. delegation to the International Communications meeting in Copenhagen in 1931, also Chairman of the U. S. delegation at the Telecommunications Conference in Cairo in 1938.

It is a coincidence that with the return to the Senate for six years of Mr. White, comes word that former Senator C. C. Dill, co-author with Senator White of the Radio Act of 1927, has won the Democratic nomination for Congress in Spokane. The opinion seems to be that Mr. Dill has a pretty good chance to return to Washington.

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RCA DECLARES QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS

Quarterly dividends on the outstanding shares of Radio Corporation of America \$3.50 First Preferred stock and outstanding shares of "B" Preferred stock, were declared last week by the Board of Directors, and announced by Lieut. General J. G. Harbord, Chairman of the Board.

The dividend on the First Preferred stock is 87½ cents per share, and the dividend on the "B" Preferred stock is \$1.25 per share.

These dividends are for the period from July 1, 1942 to September 30, 1942, and will be paid on October 1, 1942 to stockholders of record at the close of business September 21.

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will deliver a brief talk on the first broadcast. One of the war messages each week will cover problems of the home front: rationing, control of the cost of living, labor supply, and similar subjects.

After nine months of war, 291 men from R.C.A. Communications, Inc. serve in the Nation's armed forces.

Creditors of the Don Lee Broadcasting System need never worry about getting their money. This concern is so punctilious about paying bills that it sends the checks by air mail.

OPA has postponed for a month, or until October 1st, the effective date of the machinery price regulation on sales or deliveries of storage batteries. The date originally was September 1, but the office wanted more time in which to complete studies of cost factors in the manufacture and sale of the batteries. Sales at the retail level are not involved, as they are covered by GMPR.

Shortwave radio programs in Swedish and Spanish are being beamed to South America in experiments conducted by the Swedish Broadcasting Company, to ascertain the best wavelength, direction of aerial, and strength of signal. Officers of Swedish ships engaged in safe conduct trade through South American ports, are checking on the reception. Swedes living abroad had asked that a more powerful sending unit be installed.

A contingent of 470 young women will be assigned to Madison, Wis., about November 1 to take a Navy radio training at the University of Wisconsin. The school will be the only one of its kind in the country, Lieut. Comdr. Elmer H. Schubert has said.

The students will be between 20 and 30 years of age and will enlist in the V-10 group of the new Naval Reserve. Qualifications call for high school graduates who are physically fit.

William B. Ziff, author of the new best seller "The Coming Battle With Germany", who was once publisher of Radio News, says:

"The only way we have of winning is to get at the enemy and hit him hard. The only way we can get to him is through the air."

A radio news report from Berlin giving full details, within 48 hours, of the seizure of a German business house in Managua, has given rise to a belief that a secret Axis radio station is operating in Nicaragua. If a clandestine radio is operating in this Caribbean nation, it is logical also to suppose that it relays all possible information on Caribbean ship movements.

Volume VII in the series of radio educational volumes by Dr. Carroll Atkinson, Director of the Nelson Memorial Library, Detroit, under title, "Radio in State and Territorial Educational Departments", is just off the press.

The other titles were published during the 1941-42 school year. The first seven have been by Dr. Atkinson with Volume VIII by Dr. A. A. Reed, Deputy Commissioner of Education for Nebraska, to be issued within a few months.

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DETECTOR SPEEDS RADIO TUBE PRODUCTION

Increased production of high-power radio tubes being built at the Westinghouse Lamp Division for the armed forces, has been made possible by the development of a mechanical detector that automatically sorts filaments by spectroscopic analysis, Dr. Harvey C. Rentschler, Director of the Division's Research Laboratories, has announced.

Known as a thorium detector, the device was invented by Dr. N. C. Beese, laboratory staff physicist. It is credited with cutting hours and guess-work from the necessary testing of wires before they are used in radio tubes.

"Government requirements for radio transmitters, detector and receiving tubes necessitate, in some cases, pure tungsten wire", Dr. Beese explained, "and in others thoriated tungsten wire. These filaments when heated produce the necessary electrons for power.

"If the tubes are made with the wrong kind of wire they fail by burning out in short periods of time", the physicist added.

Introduction of a small percentage of thorium into a tungsten wire increases its ability to emit electrons and gives increased efficiency to certain types of tubes, Dr. Beese said. The different tubes require the tungsten or thoriated tungsten filaments for maximum efficiency, but they are not interchangeable.

The thorium detector, with the aid of a spectroscope - the optical instrument used in observing visible images of the color spectrum - detects the presence of any appreciable amount of thorium in tungsten wire.

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BULB COMPANY ANSWERS FTC COMPLAINT

Duo-Tint Bulb & Battery Co., Inc., and Carrie Riggs, Helen Corts and Dalton W. Riggs, officers of the corporation, 4431 North Racine Ave., Chicago, have filed answer denying charges of misrepresentation made in a Federal Trade Commission complaint issued against them.

The answer admits importation of electric light bulbs from Japan in the past but asserts that none have been received by the respondent since June, 1941. All the bulbs imported from Japan had the word "Japan" stamped on the base part of the bulb but the answer denies that the respondents made a practice of assembling the bulbs in boxes or pasteboards in such a manner as to conceal from view of prospective purchasers that part of the bulb on which the word "Japan" was stamped or that the bulbs were distributed in commerce without any markings to inform purchasers that they were of Japanese origin.

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