

# HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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## WORK BEGUN TO INSURE RADIO REPAIRS IN EVERY HOME

A broad plan to reduce the large number of replacement radio parts now required to service civilian home radios, is under way at the behest of the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration.

Through this program to simplify and standardize radio parts, it is expected that for the duration enough replacement parts will be made available to insure radio repairs for every American home that would otherwise be without a radio set.

The new standardization project is being conducted in accordance with the American Standards Association's War Standards procedure, by the ASA War Committee on Replacement Parts for Civilian Radio, of which O. H. Caldwell, New York editor and former Radio Commissioner is Chairman.

This Civilian Radio Committee's work was undertaken at the request of the OPA (Leon Henderson's office) following consultation with Ray Ellis, Director of the Radio and Radar Branch of the War Production Board. The Committee's responsibility is to represent the radio industry's point of view in seeing that enough types of units and the most suitable units are made available, despite the cutting-down process, so that the widest variety of home receivers can be repaired with the limited replacement parts that will be manufactured.

The Committee's work is entirely distinct from that of the standardization of military radio components now in progress by the War Committee on Radio - under the chairmanship of S. K. Wolf, of the Radio and Radar Branch, WPB.

The War Production Board at Washington is, of course, in close contact with the project through its liaison representatives and through its WPB Radio Parts Industry Advisory Committee which is furnishing the initial draft specifications and simplified parts lists to the ASA Committee for review.

Following action by the ASA Committee, the proposals of simplified parts lists will be circulated to set manufacturers, design laboratories, parts distributors, service organizations and others concerned, for comment. After review of the comments, desirable revisions in the specifications will be made after consultation with the appropriate sub-committee of the WPB Radio Parts Manufacturer's Advisory Committee. After final review by the ASA Committee, the standards will be officially promulgated.

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It is expected that these standards will serve as basis for a limitation order by WPB and for allotment of materials for manufacture by the War Production Board. At the same time they will give the Office of Price Administration a definite foundation for an order fixing the prices of these standard parts of standard quality.

The final radio standards are expected to contain performance, dimensional and construction requirements for a limited but fully adequate line of replacement parts designed to service practically all of the modern home receivers in use today. Radio tubes are not included in the project.

In the design of these standard parts, every effort will be made to provide units that will be mechanically interchangeable with present parts, with a minimum of difficulty. In addition, non-critical or less critical materials, and less of these materials, will be used wherever possible in these wartime parts as compared to their peacetime prototypes.

Through simplification of the number of varied ranges now in use and the use of multi-purpose units when practicable, the actual number of parts will be held to an absolute minimum. This will further serve to reduce the amount of strategic materials kept in inventory, by minimizing the stock of parts on hand on shelves of jobbers and service men.

The simplified standard line of parts will also make more efficient use of manufacturing facilities, since there will be quantity production on the standard units instead of limited production on a large number of different types of each part as in the past. Facilities thus freed can then be devoted to direct production for the Armed Forces.

The complete personnel of the ASA War Committee on Replacement Parts for Civilian Radio consists, in addition to Mr. Caldwell, of John Borst, John F. Rider Publisher, Inc., New York City; M. M. Brandon, Underwriters' Laboratories, New York City; J. D. Filgate, Hazeltine Service Corp., Little Neck, N. Y.; Earl A. Graham, OPA, Washington, D. C., Frank A. McIntosh, Radio Branch, WPB, Washington, D. C. (Alternate - Samuel Weisbroth, WPB, Washington, D. C.); G. Montjoy, RCA License Laboratories, New York City; M. J. Schinke, Radio Manufacturers' Association, Stewart-Warner Corp., Chicago, Ill. (Alternate - P. R. Butler, General Electric Co., Bridgeport, Conn.).

Liaison - K. S. Geiges, Simplification Branch, WPB.

Dr. P. G. Agnew and H. P. Westman of ASA consult with the Committee and S. L. Chertog of the ASA staff acts as secretary, with headquarters in Room 801, Engineering Societies Building, 29 W. 39th Street, New York City.

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## RADIO NOT QUESTIONED IN ALASKAN CENSORSHIP ROW

The big blow-up in the Senate on the censoring of communications between United States, Alaska and Porto Rico, which resulted in putting Byron Price, Director of the Office of Censorship on the grill last Wednesday, concerned postal censorship only. Not a radio question was raised.

"The majority view of the committee", said Senator Van Nuys, of Indiana, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, "is that the Office of Censorship has authority only to censor communications between the United States and foreign countries, as distinguished from communications between this country and its possessions or Territories."

After a three-hour examination of the policies and activities of his office in a closed session with the Committee, Censorship Director Byron Price insisted:

"The mandate to the Commander-in-Chief to prosecute the war certainly includes a mandate to control communications in and around combat areas."

Nine hundred out of 1000 of these letters, declared Senator Van Nuys, "are on purely personal or domestic affairs." Mr. Van Nuys said that one letter was from a wife in America to her warworker husband in Alaska, in which she asked if she could legally travel to Alaska to be with him. The information went in an "intercept" to officials of the FBI and the War Production Board, said Senator Van Nuys, on the ground that those agencies were interested in what type of persons wanted to go to Alaska.

"What the hell is the United States spending the people's money on that stuff for?" Senator Van Nuys asked.

"It's all been illegal up to date. I don't think the Commander in Chief has any more right to censor mail between Alaska and the United States than he has to censor mail from California to any other State."

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## THOUSANDS OF ENEMY OWNED RADIO PATENTS AVAILABLE

There will be thousands of enemy-owned radio communications and television patents available to the manufacturers of this country who apply for these grants, it was said as Leo T. Crowley, the Alien Property Custodian, announced plans Wednesday for making enemy-owned patents "readily and freely available forever to American industry, and to encourage the research necessary to develop" them.

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Unless American firms hold exclusive rights to their use, granted before the war, licenses will be issued on application "to any legitimate business concern on a royalty-free basis for the life of the patent."

Any radio or television manufacturer or manufacturer of communications equipment may secure information regarding these patents by addressing the Division of Patent Administration, Office of Alien Property Custodian, Washington, D. C.

Patents held by citizens of the occupied countries are to be treated similarly, except that if they are used after the war emergency has ended, reasonable royalties will be collected.

In cases where exclusive-use licenses are already in existence, the royalties involved will be collected by Mr. Crowley's office. But, the licensee will have the option of canceling his exclusive contract, and taking instead a standard non-exclusive royalty-free license.

In a letter to the President, Mr. Crowley said that by December 31, his office will have taken control of 50,000 foreign-owned patents. These, he added, represent "some of the finest research achievements of modern science".

Manufacturers both large and small are to be apprised of the nature of these patents through classified lists which in the case of the enemy-owned patents are now ready for distribution.

"Every effort will be made", Mr. Crowley said, "to bring these patents to the attention of small business as well as large, thus building up our national productive capacity and stimulating the fullest use of modern techniques."

He said his office would use its full authority to eliminate "restrictive provisions governing production, use, price or market area" involved in any outstanding patent license, and:

"If it appears that a broader use of the invention is essential to the war effort, we reserve the right to issue additional licenses under any vested patent."

It was planned, he said, to protect the patent rights of citizens of occupied lands, now unable to manage them, or pursue patent applications. Mr. Crowley's office will prosecute pending applications. Announcing his intention to put such patents to work, he said, he believed their owners "would have to turn their patent rights into an active weapon of warfare for the defeat of their oppressors."

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## OPPOSES U.S. AND FOREIGN RADIO AND WIRE MERGERS

Charging that passage of legislation that would permit consolidation and mergers of domestic telegraph carriers and mergers of international radio telegraph and carrier (S. 2598) would "inevitably result in a complete breakdown in the communications system of the greatest nation in the world", Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York explained his reasons for objecting to consideration of the legislation in a speech inserted in the Congressional Record.

Mr. Marcantonio centered his attack on provisions of the bill which he indicated would permit the merged company to abandon communications facilities vitally needed to handle wartime traffic, as well as on the labor provisions of the bill which he claimed showed a complete disregard for the interests of the workers in the communications industry.

The Congressman further charged that objections of the Navy to a merger of international communications interests had been ignored by the House Committee which considered the bill. Citing testimony of Admiral S. C. Hooper and Captain Joseph R. Redman, Mr. Marcantonio demanded an investigation of the foreign holdings of the international radio and cable companies by the House prior to consideration of the merger bill.

Congressman Marcantonio said:

"Admiral S. C. Hooper, in his testimony before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, pleaded with Congress not to repeat the British experience, where British radio was held back due to the merger of cables and radio in the Empire.

"I think -

"Said Admiral Hooper -

radio must be kept separate; otherwise we will find up under the domination of Europe.

"We know that the companies engaged in international communications, such as the International Telephone & Telegraph Co. have extensive foreign holdings in Axis countries.\* \* \*

"If we examine the communications situation at the present time, we find the following picture:

"Telephone is being called upon to carry a greater and greater load. But telephone cannot expand without the use of enormous amounts of critical materials such as copper, which simply is not available for this purpose. Radio communications has been curtailed because of the danger of enemy interception. Air mail has been severely limited. In telegraph we find that there are facilities available which are being permitted to deteriorate just because it is claimed that the companies engaged in the telegraph

industry are not financially able to make the best use of these valuable facilities.

"This legislation proposed to remedy this situation, not by making the best use of these facilities, but by junking them so that a monopoly company, operating on a smaller scale than the two present companies, will be in a position to make a greater profit. Such a program might receive serious consideration by Congress in peacetime, but in a period of war the submission for serious consideration of such a proposal represents, to my mind, a scandalous situation."

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### THOMAS P. LITTLEPAGE, PIONEER RADIO LAWYER, DIES

Thomas P. Littlepage, Sr., prominent attorney in the National Capital, died last night (Thursday) at the age of 69. Mr. Littlepage was among the first lawyers in the country to interpret the radio laws following the passage of the Radio Act and the creation of the Federal Radio Commission, forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Cited by the Cosmopolitan Club as during the year of 1934 "the citizen who performed the most outstanding and unselfish service to the city", he was nevertheless a very modest man. This writer recalls at a radio hearing back in the days when Judge E. O. Sykes was Chairman, the latter addressing Mr. Littlepage as "Congressman". Mr. Littlepage, who was of distinguished appearance, however never sailed under false colors on any occasion and quickly replied: "Mr. Chairman, I am not a Congressman. Nevertheless I appreciate the compliment you evidently intended to pay me."

Mr. Littlepage was once President of the famous Alfalfa Club and long an active worker in civic and charity pursuits. He was at one time President of the Washington Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Littlepage was a kindly man and was deeply devoted to his native Hoosier State. He was born in Spencer County, Indiana. He attended the State Normal at Terre Haute. His farm, where he made his home near Bowie, Maryland, one of the finest in that section of the country, fairly breathed Hoosier hospitality. Mr. Littlepage raised prize winning products and in the Autumn "when the frost was on the punkin" and the fodder was in the shock" used to favor friends with huge baskets of apples and other things he knew so well how to grow.

His business interests extended to banking as well as to law, and he was Vice President of the Bank of Bowie and a Director of Liberty National Bank. He was a member, too, of several Masonic organizations, including Temple-Noyes Lodge.

Mr. Littlepage received the LL.B and LL.M degrees from George Washington University Law School in 1904 and immediately began the practice of law here.

He is survived by his wife and five children: Mrs. Willard L. Hart, Mrs. William B. Fletcher and John M. Littlepage of Washington; Thomas P. Littlepage, Jr., of the U. S. Navy, and James H. Littlepage, Richmond, Va.

Funeral services for Mr. Littlepage will be held in Washington Saturday afternoon and burial will be in Rock Creek Cemetery.

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### FCC FINDS TELEGRAPH "X" AND "RX" MESSAGES DISCRIMINATORY

The Federal Communications Commission on December 8th adopted a Proposed Report which referred to "X" and "RX" telegraph messages. In its Proposed Report the Commission finds and concludes:

(1) The practices and regulations of the telegraph carriers according priority to messages marked "X" and "RX" have not been justified, are unjust and unreasonable and unjustly and unreasonably discriminatory, give undue and unreasonable preferences and advantages, and subject persons to undue and unreasonable prejudices and disadvantages;

(2) The telegraph carriers should cease and desist from such practices and should cancel and delete such regulations from their tariffs.

Messages classified "X" and "RX" are at present given special handling and priority at no extra charges over other messages. "X" messages take priority over "RX" messages and relate to "Exchange messages", including instructions to buy or sell bonds, grain and cotton, the price of which is governed by fluctuating market conditions. "RX" messages are described by the telegraph companies as those messages which indicate in their contents that their purpose will be served only by transmitting them ahead of less urgent messages. Messages in this category are those requesting funds, money order messages, messages pertaining to shipment of perishable products such as fruits, fish, livestock and poultry; messages filed by financial institutions pertaining to transfer of money; the quotation of prices of investment offerings; messages addressed to passengers on trains and aircraft; messages to and from airports pertaining to departure or arrival, movement of, and forced landings of aircraft.

"The application", it is said in the Report, "of the "X" and "RX" symbols to different types of messages without an extra charge therefor creates discrimination, preferences, and advantages in favor of the customer whose messages are accorded priority in handling and discriminations, prejudices, and disadvantages against the customer whose messages are paid for at the same rates but are not given priority."

## SAYS RADIO IN POWER OF GOVERNMENT

Declaring "the time has come again when those of us who would undertake to save the "four freedoms" and all the others not mentioned in the Atlantic Charter and on the home front better realize what we are up against and fighting for, in comparison, so far as loss of liberty is concerned, Representative Charles A. Plumley, (R.), of Vermont, paid his respects to the New Deal in a lengthy speech Thursday.

Of the radio he said:

"The Government already holds the power of life and death over radio. It has gone so far as to suggest it should control the discussion of controversial issues over the air. Think of it! This, in a free country."

Quoting Stanley High in the Reader's Digest, Mr. Plumely said:

"Last June, after some 20 separate and equally fruitless Government investigations and many times that number of contradictory official statements had brought the rubber situation to an epochal state of muddle, Fulton Lewis, Jr., Washington reporter-commentator for the Mutual Broadcasting System, set out on his own to turn on the light and heat. He got the facts, named the names, asked his radio audience to make a fight of it, and, as a result, loosed on Congress and the administration the largest outpouring of mail protest and demand since Father Coughlin's heyday. Lewis now cherishes several off-the-record letters which indicate that his goads and prods - with those of the supporting press - were the necessary precursors of the Baruch committee.

"Newspapers, with the same unpalatable single-mindedness, ended the LaGuardia-Eleanor Roosevelt era of civilian defense -

"That was no joke except that the people were the goat", Congressman Plumley observed.

"The movies take their orders, and are the source and supply of New Deal propaganda, turning out Government pictures by the trainload, to influence popular opinion."

"I believe the day of our deliverance is well nigh at hand", he concluded. "Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition."

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Permanent licenses as radio announcers in Mexico have been granted 132 persons, eight of them women, and eight others, five of them women, as radio newscasters and chroniclers, by the Ministry of Communications and Public Works.

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## OWI PLANS SMALL STATION INQUIRY

Gardner Cowles, Director of Domestic Operations for the Office of War Information, said Wednesday that the Government was preparing to investigate the plight of smaller non-network radio stations which have lost most of their sponsored programs since the outbreak of the war.

Mr. Cowles said he understood that only the smaller stations in the Rocky Mountain area have run into financial difficulties, but that his study would not be confined to that section of the country.

"I do not know how serious the situation is nor how widespread", he said. "We are on the verge of making a fact-finding investigation to find out which stations are suffering and whether it is national, regional or local advertising that has shrunk."

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ALL SET FOR A. T. & T. PROBE DEC. 16

Usually in such matters, there are several postponements, but there is every indication that the A. T. & T. Long Lines hearings, including the costs of tolls to broadcasting stations, will begin Wednesday, December 16th, as scheduled. They will be held in Hearing Room "B" of the Interstate Commerce Commission and a record crowd is expected.

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## CONDEMNS CANADIAN RADIO MONOPOLY

Fascism in Canada "is here to stay" unless the Canadian Government's monopoly over radio is broken, Arthur Meighen, retiring leader of the Conservative party said in Winnipeg Wednesday.

Mr. Meighen's attack against the government-controlled Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, was based upon the corporation's refusal to broadcast convention speeches. He said that CBS uses its network to broadcast its own propaganda, and added, "parliamentary government in this Dominion is but a memory".

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More encouraging reports came from Frank Cuhel, who broadcasts from Australia for WOR and Mutual.

"It is estimated", Cuhel cables, "that there are more than 70,000 receivers in Australia with shortwave bands." Australians, reveals Cuhel, always have been most eager for news from other countries and listened a good deal to Radio Rome and Berlin before Allied stations perfected their overseas programs. "Now", says Cuhel, "these Axis stations have few listeners here."

Cuhel concludes with the suggestion that an even better job could be done if the OWI would record more local programs and fly them to Australia for rebroadcast, thus assuring better reception and greater audiences.

From Honolulu, Owen Cunningham of WOR-Mutual reports he has noticed some muttering among service men about "soldiers on the mainland receiving free food, drink, entertainment, kisses from movie cuties. However, it is no big issue as yet."

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#### A. T. & T. COMES THROUGH WITH ROLLING RADIO STATION

To provide in mobility for the Bell System emergency radio telephone sets, engineers of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company have developed the 140-RT radio telephone trailer. It is a two-wheel vehicle designed to house the equipment and to shelter the operator. When fully loaded with radio and other equipment, the trailer weighs about 2000 pounds. Fittings on the trailer permit towing by passenger car or truck.

It takes only a few minutes after the trailer is uncoupled to establish an operating radio terminal. At its location the trailer is steadied by adjustable pipe supports at its four corners; and its doors are thrown open. Using the materials it carries, a fifty-foot mast is quickly erected and the proper connections are made to the radio equipment. Following this the normal ground connections are made and the gasoline engine-driven generator, which is located in the rear compartment of the trailer, is started to provide the necessary power supply. Immediately the radio operator calls the distant station and makes known the availability of the radio terminal. Connections from the trailer station to the nearest telephone line are made and the central office is advised that communication over the emergency radio channel is available for service.

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