

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.
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No. 1548

July 27, 1943

FCC PROBE JUST GETTING GOOD - NAME COX KIN ON PAYROLL

Although temporarily adjourned, the investigation of the Federal Communications Commission by the Special House Committee headed by Representative Eugene Cox (D), of Georgia, is just beginning to get good. Never has there been a more spectacular curtain-raiser but if the promises of those in charge of the hearings are to be relied upon, some of the most sensational charges are yet to be uncorked. The hearings which are to reconvene week after next (August 9) in Washington, following a special sub-committee matinee performance in New York next week, may run along for a month or more.

If they have not concluded by the time Congress reconvenes the Committee will make a progress report to the House and then or later will introduce several bills calculated to clip the wings of the FCC - legislation to transfer the war activities of the Commission to the Army and the Navy as was said to have been recommended by Army and Navy officers who were prevented from testifying by President Roosevelt.

In the meantime both sides continue to bang away at each other in the public prints. A couple of depth charges have been exploded by Drew Pearson, noted columnist, who is "agin" Representative Cox and has been for sometime. Last week he wrote:

"The Cox Committee investigating the Federal Communications Commission, having set one record for violating the American spirit of fair play, now is out to beat its own record.

"First, its Chairman, Representative Eugene Cox of Georgia, having been accused of illegally taking a \$2,500 lobbying fee, is now placed in the unique position of sitting in judgment on his accusers - the FCC.

"The Georgia Congressman at one time had so many relatives on the Government payroll that the total take of himself and family was \$56,500. This is nearly four times greater than the salary of the Vice President, nearly three times the salary of Chief Justice Stone. Nevertheless, when the FCC sent the matter of Cox's alleged lobbying fee to the Justice Department for criminal prosecution, Cox flew into a tantrum and started a congressional probe of his accusers.

"Now, his committee has gone one step further and has devised a system of trying to shut up any rebuttal from the Federal Communications Commission, so that only one side can be heard. (It might be a good idea for the public to remember this in reading news about the FCC investigation.)"

A few days later Mr. Pearson followed that little tribute with:

"Congressman Eugene Cox of Georgia has now set the all-time high for helping himself and family at the expense of American taxpayers. Other Congressmen from time to time have put their relatives on the Government payroll, but none has ever come anywhere near Cox's record for getting so many feet in the feed-box.

"At present he has six relatives on the payroll, for an annual total of \$30,120, including his own congressional salary.

"In addition he has now secured from Congress a handout of the taxpayer's money to the tune of \$60,000 to investigate the Federal Communications Commission after that Commission unearthed a check for \$2,500 allegedly received by Cox for lobbying.

"It is a criminal offense for a Congressman to lobby with a Government bureau, so the FCC referred the matter to the Justice Department. Whereupon Cox persuaded his brethren on Capitol Hill to investigate his FCC accusers and make him 'impartial' chairman of the probe.

"Here is the detailed breakdown of Cox's nepotism:

"Rosa Robinson, Cox's secretary, is his sister - \$3,380 a year.

"J. Chaney Robinson, her husband and Cox's brother-in-law, is assistant House bill clerk - \$3,120 a year.

"Grace Cox, wife of the Congressman, is a clerk in his office - \$3,120 a year.

"Robin Cox, Sr., a brother, postmaster at Donalsonville - \$2,400.

"Mrs. Jim Cox Hoggard, a sister, postmistress at Camilla (Cox's home town) - \$2,550.

"Charles M. Cox, a nephew, senior administrative officer of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration's special program division, who says he got his job without Cox's aid - \$5,600 a year.

"Congressman Cox's yearly salary - \$10,000."

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A radio circuit for transmission of photographs will be opened soon between the United States and the South Pacific war theater, the Army has announced.

Signal Corps experts are in Australia installing equipment and completing preparations for the service, which will be started "in the immediate future.

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SET MAKING SPEEDED BY "DILUTING JOB FOR UNSKILLED"

Schedules for marine radio units for the Maritime Commission ships have been stepped up by the Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation, manufacturing affiliate of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation by "diluting the job for unskilled workers".

"Thus, by breaking down the task into simpler sectional processes", E. G. Ports, Radio Communications Division Manager, explained to the New York Times, "we are able to use our highly skilled workers on parts that require their attention, and leave the balance for the unskilled workers. Of course, our plant has been hard hit by the man requirements of our armed forces, as have all others; and workers do not come to us fully trained, but job dilution has gone a long way toward solving our problems.

"An example of the working of this system can readily be seen in the manufacture of one particular cable assembly for our marine radio unit. This cable normally required 550 minutes to assemble, but today we are able to turn out the same job in 80 or 90 minutes.

"The marine radio unit, although accepted by the Maritime Commission in 1941, is essentially new. It provides a single unit for our Liberty ships which contains all the radio communications equipment required by law.

"Installation of the unit on shipboard consists chiefly in securing the unit in place and connecting the antenna and power leads. Old-type installations consisted of a multiplicity of units - transmitters, receivers, motor generators, auto alarms, charging panels, etc., and were mounted on tables or bulkheads and in some cases even in adjoining rooms.

"The wiring problem is greatly simplified, and a tremendous saving in time and expense is accomplished with the new unit. Installation of radio equipment on new ships normally requires from six weeks to two months, and tends to interfere with construction work on the vessel itself. With the new unit, all work is practically completed prior to the time the radio room unit is placed in position."

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SIR THOMAS SUGGESTS SOLUTION OF PETRILLO DISPUTE

Sir Thomas Beecham, noted English conductor, now residing in the United States, has written to Olin Downs, music editor of the New York Times offering a remedy to the Petrillo-transcription company differences as follows:

"Mr. Petrillo has informed the world that the quarrel of the federation is not with the recording companies at all but with

the broadcasting organizations, hundreds in number, who live partly or mainly upon mechanized music to the disadvantage of unemployed musicians. Would it be presumptuous to inquire what are the chances of the broadcasting bodies employing more musicians? Up to the moment, I take it, they have shown little disposition to do so. But the public, which will eventually have to be taken into consideration, is entitled, I think, to some enlightenment on this point. Also it might like to know if the present ban will be continued, even if the offending parties come well to heel.

"It would appear that one of the fundamental causes of the whole trouble is the unsatisfactory legal status of the gramophone record itself. In my country, when any record made by the London Philharmonic Orchestra is used by the British Broadcasting Corporation, we receive a fee for such performance. In this country I have observed that our records are played, day and night the year round with no advantage to the makers or contrivers of them. Once they are placed upon the market they become the free property of any broadcasting station that likes to use them. This, to my way of thinking, is hardly equitable. In other words, every broadcasting station on this continent might reasonably pay a fee, according to its economic capacity, for the right to make use of our records. This position could be secured by a short and simple act of legislation in Congress, making them copyright, and the recording companies would thus be enabled to control their distribution.

"How would this advantage benefit the Federation of Musicians? Taking into account the immense number of broadcasting stations in this country, and other channels of reproduction, a very large income would be forthcoming to the creators, artistic and mechanical, of the records. They, I am sure, would be only too willing to hand over to the Federation that larger portion of all fees receivable by them under such an amended dispensation. At least I am tolerably sure that there are few artists working on this continent who would not agree to do so at once. The result would be the federation coming into possession of a considerable annual revenue which it could disburse in any fashion it desired. It could bestow unemployment relief or, what would be infinitely more beneficial, create fresh machinery of employment."

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COX SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONVENE IN N.Y. NEXT WEEK

Although the exact time and place was not made known, it seemed to be pretty well determined that the sub-committee of the House Committee investigating the Federal Communications Commission would meet in New York City next Monday, August 2. There are only two members of this smaller Committee - Representatives Edward J. Hart (D), of New Jersey, and Richard B. Wigglesworth (R), of New York. The subcommittee will examine about 100 witnesses and endeavor to substantiate the charge that the FCC has had a "Gestapo" operating in the foreign language broadcasting field.

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FLY THUMBS COX COMMITTEE ON FBIS MUSSOLINI SCOOP

Stating that the Federal Communication Commission's Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service, which has been under such heavy fire by the Cox FCC Investigating Committee, scooped everybody by giving the news of Mussolini's ousting to various U. S. agencies ahead of any other Government or press services. Chairman James L. Fly of the FCC declared this justified the existence of the service. He also said that the FBIS had not been established for the purpose of beating the press services and others to it but argued that in such cases as the Mussolini blow-up, it was necessary for the Government to have the facts and "authoritative word" immediately and here was one instance where they got them from the FBIS, the Cox Committee to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. Fly said the FBIS carried the second-by-second developments and gave all Government agencies the full text of the announcement, the reactions obtained from the Rome broadcasts, both at home and on the Italian shortwave programs, the British press reactions and the full text of the BBC broadcasts. Mr. Fly said this was a service that "undoubtedly could not have been rendered by any other agency".

The FCC chief said that the event happened at 4:40 P.M. Sunday, was picked up at 5 P.M., carried as a flash on the wires at 5:01 and the full story of the first texts at 5:05 P.M.

Asked how much the FBIS beat the press associations, Mr. Fly said the FCC service was not in the "scoop business" and that he thought it was incidental that they were ahead of the press associations and regular broadcasting services by minutes but more important that they gathered the information quickly and gave it to the Government.

Asked if the FBIS had attempted to appraise the significance of the Mussolini exit, Mr. Fly said it wasn't the function of the service to analyze conditions in a general way or to try to grasp their broad significance.

"We endeavor to keep the Government fully informed from the output of information and propaganda from all of the foreign countries. In that, I think the FBIS does an excellent job", Mr. Fly explained.

"Undoubtedly they will have analyses having to do with the various statements and the attitudes of the different countries - perhaps a comparison of the statements made by a single country, Italy or Germany, for example, in its own different released to different parts of the world.

"In other words, it is our job to analyze the propaganda and not to move beyond that sphere and pass judgments on the import of outstanding events in general. Much, of course, can be gained from a proper study of the propaganda, but of course that must be

combined with all other intelligence and information before an authoritative judgment is to be formed as to the impact of events in general."

Clandestine radio stations greeted Mussolini's resignation with long exhortations to the Italian people, London listeners reported.

An underground station calling itself "GL" (probably for Giustizia Liberta), asserted the Fascist regime must fall with Mussolini.

Another clandestine station calling itself the station of the "Italo Balbo group", was heard attacking Mussolini as a coward, assailing the House of Savoy and issuing a "call to arms to Fascists."

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TRAITORS INDICTED IN BROADCASTS FIRST IN U.S. HISTORY

There has never been anything in our history to compare with the indicting of eight American citizens now resident in Germany or Italy. Attorney General Biddle declared every effort would be made to apprehend them and eventually bring them to trial in this country.

The defendants are charged with accepting employment with the Italian and German governments and with writing and broadcasting speeches and statements deliberately intended to weaken the morale of the American people, dissuade them from making war on the Axis, undermine faith in their own Government and the governments of their Allies, and in other ways to interfere with the military and naval operations of the United States.

The indictments said all radio facilities of both Germany and Italy are under the direct control of the respective enemy governments and that only such messages as will advance the interest of the enemy are allowed to be transmitted.

Named in eight separate indictments were:

Robert H. Best, 47, one-time United States Army officer, formerly of Sumter, S.C.; Frederick Wilhelm Kaltenbach, 48, formerly of Dubuque, Iowa, described as a counterpart of Lord Haw Haw; Dr. Ezra Pound, 57, formerly of New York City; Douglas Chandler, 54, formerly of Baltimore; Edward Leo Delaney, 57, formerly of Olney, Ill.; Constance Drexel, 48, formerly of Philadelphia; Jane Anderson, 50, formerly of Atlanta, Ga., and Max Otto Koischwitz, 41, formerly of New York City.

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FCC CLAIMS TO BE IN DARK RE BLUE NET SALE

There was an air of "we know nothing about it" at the Federal Communications Commission regarding the Blue Network sale rumors drifting in from New York. The names mentioned as prospective buyers are a Wall Street syndicate and James H. McGraw, of McGraw-Hill and Edward J. Noble, former Under Secretary of State, wealthy manufacturer, and owner of WMCA, New York. If Mr. Noble is identified with the group, which finally closes the deal, the FCC may be interested in his having a hand in operating two stations in New York City - WJZ and WMCA, which would be against the FCC regulations.

Top price for the Blue, one New York dispatch stated, was \$12,000,000 but this was later reported to have dropped to \$7,500,000 cash.

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IT IS RADAR ANY WAY YOU SPELL IT

You may never have thought of it before but a booklet just issued on the "Radar, Wartime Miracle of Radio", calls attention to the fact that the letters R - a - d - a - r spell the same forward and backward.

"This gives a clue to radar's performance in using the radio echo, which is reflected by any object which the radar beam strikes", the booklet published by the Department of Information of the Radio Corporation of America, explains. "An airplane, for instance, acts as a 'radio mirror' when it is intercepted by a radar beam."

The reader is also enlightened as to the origin of the new word:

"Radar - which means radio detecting and ranging.
 ra radio
 d detection
 a and
 r ranging "

Explaining the device with a simple illustration, the RCA Radar booklet says:

"The boy, who yoo-hoos at a cliff and hears the echo, is in effect illustrating the radar principle. The sound strikes an object and is reflected. Radio also has echoes. But, of course, radio travels much faster than sound; it travels at the speed of light, 186,000 miles a second. Knowing the speed of sound and light, also the time elapsed before the echo is heard, distance can be measured. For instance, knowing the velocity of the radio wave,

and by recording the time required for the echo to come back, the distance to the object that reflected the signal can be determined.

"The speed of the radio waves, however, is so great that it is only by the development of modern electronic devices that this measurement has been made possible. For instance, the time required for a radio wave to travel to an object 50 feet away and back again is only one ten-millionth of a second, yet radar can measure it."

The question is asked: "Does the enemy know about radar?" and answered:

"The fundamental principle is no secret. In fact, a main objective of one of the first Commando raids along the French coast, on February 27, 1942, was to capture intact the equipment of a radar station at Bruneval, north of Havre -- the mission was successful.

"Aiming to cripple one of Germany's key defense weapons against land invasion and against Allied air attacks, RAF 4-motored Lancaster bombers on June 21, 1943, made a heavy raid on the radio-radar factory in Friedrichshafen by 500-pound bomb hits on all main buildings.

"In 1935, the Telefunken company in Berlin revealed details of a 10-centimeter 'mystery ray' system said to be capable of locating position of aircraft through fog, smoke and clouds. It was reported that beams could be sent upward at a fixed angle from a large group of micro-wave transmitters. After reflection from the hidden airplane, the 'echoes' were picked up by a group of receivers built in small weather-proof, iron boxes which could be mounted atop church steeples and tall buildings. Each transmitter had its individual code signal so that the received beam could be identified and the object of reflection located.

"At the same time, reports were current that the United States and Italian armies were experimenting with radio-detection systems declared to revolutionize war tactics.

"It has since been revealed that for many years America has been at the forefront of radar development, but because the war struck Britain first, it was there that this new aerial watchdog received its baptism of fire. Radar was rushed into action, and the British are rightly praised for having done a magnificent job in quickly applying this great weapon to prevent the Luftwaffe from striking a knockout blow. Nazi fighter bombers have tried in vain to sneak by the radar patrols to reach England by flying low, skimming the water in hopes that the beams might be sweeping the skies overhead and therefore miss them."

Pointing out that RCA pioneered in radar the booklet states:

"The Radio Corporation of America as early as 1937 delivered experimental radar apparatus to the U. S. Army Signal Corps for aircraft location tests. RCA also produced, for the Signal Corps, portions of its first radar equipment, such as was in operation at Pearl Harbor.

"A set of radar, designed and manufactured by the Naval Research Laboratory, was installed on the U.S.S. NEW YORK, late in

1938. At the same time RCA had built for the Navy an experimental radar equipment which was tested on the battleship NEW YORK. As a result of the tests, the Navy decided to develop additional radar sets, and in October, 1939, because of RCA's pioneer radar work, it was awarded contracts for six sets of aircraft-detection equipment patterned after the original model built at the Naval Research Laboratory, and as installed on the U.S.S. NEW YORK. This was the first Navy service radar equipment order. The apparatus built by RCA was installed on U. S. naval vessels beginning in 1940."

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UNRESTRICTED MANUFACTURE OF TYPE 5Y3G RADIO TUBE ALLOWED

Because it is considered a more practical radio tube to produce than the Type 5Y3GT/G tube, unrestricted manufacture of the Type 5Y3G tube was allowed today (Tuesday) by the War Production Board through an amendment to Limitation Order L-76. This amendment will not add appreciably to present civilian tube supplies because of limitations on available materials, the Radio Division of WPB said. The order previously permitted manufacture of the Type 5Y3GT/G tube, but experience revealed that this tube did not perform satisfactorily and difficulty was experienced in its manufacture, the Radio Division said.

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FM VOTE FAVORS PRESENT ALLOCATIONS

FM Broadcasters, Inc. has just canvassed its membership as to whether or not they thought the present FM allocations were O.K. Also other questions were asked.

Replies were received from 20 FM broadcasters who have stations in regular operation.

Here are the questions and answers:

1. "Is the present allocation (43-50 mc.) the best for FM broadcasting?" (19 answers received. 13 answered "yes"; 5 said "no" and one can't be classified.)
2. "Should the present FM band be extended either up or down?" (19 answers received. 11 thought it should be extended; 2 didn't. 6 replies couldn't be classified as either "yes" or "no".)
3. "What new or modified engineering standards should be adopted?" (Out of 19 answers, 11 listed modifications they felt desirable; 6 announced themselves satisfied with existing standards. Another 2 had various answers.)

4. "Are mileage separations heretofore recognized for licensing purposes for same and adjacent channel operation satisfactory?" (18 broadcasters answered this one. 9 thought that present distances between such stations are working out all right; 7 didn't. Another 2 believed that more time will be needed before reaching any conclusion.)

5. "What degree of interference may be expected from sky wave propagation if the present FM band is retained?" (This question deals with the occasional freak reception of distant FM stations. Out of 19 answering, 9 believed that while there may be some interference from time to time, it will not be serious. On the other hand, 5 think just the opposite. There were 5 more answers voicing various qualified opinions.)

6. "In view of the fidelity characteristics of the receivers manufactured, has too much stress been placed on high fidelity in FM transmission and programming?" (20 answers were received. 8 said "yes"; 10 said "no"; 2 said "maybe".

7. "What steps, if any, can or should be taken to prevent the distribution of inferior receivers incapable of taking reasonable advantage of service provided, or such as to injure that service?" (The majority of answers declared that public education about FM is the best way of combatting the distribution of inferior receivers.)

8. "Should allocation on the basis of trade areas be continued or is there a more satisfactory method?" (Of the 20 answers received, 12 prefer the current system. 6 have other ideas; 2 aren't sure.)

9. "Should FM boosters be permitted and, if so, should they be allowed to operate unattended, and on channels different from the channel of the originating transmitter?" (16 of the broadcasters were all for them. Only 2 said "no".)

10. "What should be the standards for synchronous operations?" According to FMBI's engineering committee, "the answers to this question are not sufficiently definite to permit classification. Various interpretations were placed on the question. Most of the answers indicate that this is something to be determined in the future."

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TRADE NOTES

W. B. Gillen has been named Manager of Manufacturing of the Tube Division of the General Electric Electronics Department. Mr. Gillen will be responsible for all G.E. tube manufacturing activities at Buffalo, Cleveland, Lynn, and Schenectady. A native of Warren, Ohio, Mr. Gillen graduated from Ohio State University in 1927, and his first job with General Electric was in the Warren, Ohio, Lamp Works.

The newly instituted Executive Administrative Program Committee, created at the recent Board meeting of the Mutual network, is holding its first meeting this week - a three day conference in New York City which began Monday, to prepare and discuss Fall and Winter programming.

7/27/43

About the time the article appeared in this service "Believed Willkie-McCormick Radio Debate Would Be A Wow", the Mutual Broadcasting System suggested such a debate to Col. Robert R. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune, who replied: "Willkie is dead and buried. Why should I dig him up?"

Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. - Six months to June 30: Net income \$728,971 after taxes and charges, equal after preferred dividend requirements to 81 cents each on the 854,474 shares of common stock outstanding, compared with \$483,062, or 79 cents each on the 514,368 common shares outstanding, in the 1942 period.

Although billed as non-political, the broadcast of the speech of Vice-President Wallace from Detroit was labelled by many as political with a result that the Republican National Committee may ask for equal time to answer it.

Operation of a new radiotelegraph station in Algiers, North Africa, by Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, an I. T. & T. associate, utilizing American equipment and personnel, has been started. The facilities of the new station are needed, Admiral Luke McNamee, President of the Company, said, to permit the expeditious handling of traffic between Algiers and this country.

This circuit will supplement the service Mackay has been providing direct to and from North Africa for several months through the facilities of the French North African Post and Telegraph Administration and its own station in New York.

Janet Lane, most recently associated with Stations WFIL and KYW, and with the John Wanamaker store in Philadelphia, has joined the staff of WEAJ as audience promotion manager. In her new position at WEAJ, Miss Lane will originate and conduct promotion plans intended to expand the station's audience.

Philip K. Baldwin, former Engineering Assistant in the CBS General Engineering Department, will assume new duties at WTOP, Columbia's outlet in Washington. Mr. Baldwin, formerly Chief Engineer of WEEI, Boston outlet, goes to Washington in the dual capacity of assistant to Clyde Hunt, Chief Engineer of WTOP, and as the CBS General Engineering Department Washington representative before Government and other bureaus.

Alfred Wallenstein, Musical Director of Station WOR, has been engaged as the permanent conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Miss Joan Lane, acting CBS Trade News contact for the last five months, has been made Trade News Editor of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

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