

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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No. 1556

August 24, 1943

FLY BUZZES TOO CLOSE TO REP. COX TO BE SWATTED

Despite the fact that the Cox-FCC Investigating Committee pulled up stakes in Washington and has been holding its meetings in New York, Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission, has apparently been sticking uncomfortably close to it. Thus far denied a hearing by Chairman Cox and his Committee, Mr. Fly has been banging back at them with press statements and finally finding it "necessary" to go to New York on "other business" held a press conference in New York which got more space than the Cox Committee charges which prompted it.

As if that weren't enough to put his side of the case before the public, Mr. Fly over the week-end exploded a depth-bomb in the form of a three-column letter to the editor of the New York Times, which the Times printed Sunday and which took up half the editorial page.

At about the same time, Drew Pearson, who has one of the most widely syndicated columns in the country, wrote another blistering "Cox Persecution Committee" comment (a previous one having been reprinted in our August 17th release), which read:

"The Cox 'persecution' committee, investigating the Federal Communications Commission, doesn't like the publicity it is getting in the newspapers. So it has hired James K. Leftwich of a New York advertising firm as its publicity mogul. Leftwich has been going around slapping newsmen on the back, suggesting that they haven't mentioned the name of Committee Counsel Eugene Garey often enough.

"Recently Garey held a press conference in which he explained that the reason the Cox Committee had moved its hearings from Washington to New York was because the publicity was bad in the Nation's Capital. Washington newspapers, he explained, were all controlled by the Administration.

"Page certain Washington publishers who have fought Roosevelt to the bitter end!"

Chairman Fly wrote to the Times, in part:

"I do not wish to go into the matter of the \$2,500 check Congressman Cox received from Radio Station WALB in Albany, Ga. for 'legal services' he purported to perform in connection with that station's application for a license from the Commission. This matter is now in the hands of the Attorney General and the facts are widely known to the public. The relation of that item to the origin

of the investigation and the scurrilous remarks regarding the Commission which were made by the Congressman on the floor of the House even before the investigation began are likewise relegated to the background. At this juncture, however, one may well inquire as to the character of 'judicial inquiry' which has developed from such a genesis.

"From its inception the Cox Committee and its counsel have abandoned any attempt at objectivity or constructive accomplishment. The principle of a full and fair presentation of all the facts has been rejected. Suppressing the true facts, the Committee has sought the headlines by twisting and distorting meager evidence carefully calculated to do injury to the Commission and its personnel. Careful design is all too apparent.

"The Commission has never been permitted to answer the irresponsible charges made, to make any statement through counsel or to offer any document in evidence. The procedural controls of the Committee are exercised to the end that startling news will be created and its publication assured, while evidence reflecting upon the validity of the story is completely smothered. Thus after six months of 'investigation' and seven weeks of 'hearings', the Committee has still not afforded the Commission an opportunity to answer any of the charges or to get a word in edgewise.

"Observers at Committee meetings have noted the oft-repeated Edgar Bergen-Charley McCarthy act in which Mr. Cox and his counsel exchange speeches carefully prepared to emphasize the point which they desire the press to accentuate. In the hearing room the Committee's own hired press representative seeks to spur on the reporters. Adjournments and recesses are utilized to grasp the headlines and, indeed, to smother countervailing statements.

"Control of the public procedures and the publicity mechanism, while a hearing is denied, has been accompanied by complementary behind-the-scenes activity fitting into the same pattern. Early in the investigation the Commission discovered that various 'witnesses' from the industry, from the Government and from the Commission's own staff were being grilled by Committee counsel in secret sessions. At these proceedings no member of the Congressional Committee has been present. The press and public have been kept similarly in the dark. Even the 'witness', if not antagonistic to the Commission, has been refused permission to see or correct the transcript of his own testimony.

"These 'star chamber' proceedings by the employees of the Committee have been held in private hotel suites, in the private law offices of Committee counsel and his personal associates, and in other places of seclusion. On occasion the attendance of 'witnesses' at such places before these Committee employees has been compelled by subpoenas issued without any authority of law. This unlawful procedure has been amplified by the Committee staff member purporting to place the witness under oath. Under these circumstances the 'witnesses' have been grilled for hours on end and full transcripts of the 'testimony' taken. The Commission has never been permitted to purchase or even to see a copy of those transcripts.

"Reprehensible as the taking of this secret testimony is, the manner in which it is finally used is worse. When the witness is very antagonistic to the Commission and is not able to be present at the public hearings, only the most damaging parts are read into the record; any countervailing statements even of the same witness are studiously suppressed. When the witness of the 'secret session' is a Commission employee, only those statements which appear to be damaging because read out of context are uttered for the public record.

"After the witnesses who might be fair and state the facts as they really are have been culled out by these secret sessions, the anti-Commission witnesses who are sufficiently disgruntled are finally called to public hearing, and their secret testimony is used to force them to go at least as far in 'public hearings' as they were cajoled or threatened to go in the closed session. That even these witnesses, hostile as they are to the Commission, are reluctant to go this far on the public stand is evident from the record."

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NEW OWI RADIO NEWS AND POLICY GROUP TO MEET SOON

The new Advisory Radio News and Policy Committee appointed by Elmer Davis, Director of War Information, and Palmer Hoyt, Director of Domestic Operations, will meet with OWI officials as soon as a satisfactory date can be arranged. This Committee is composed of nine outstanding officials in the radio industry.

A similar Advisory Committee composed of Newspaper editors and publishers was appointed several weeks ago and has already had an initial meeting with Mr. Davis and Mr. Hoyt.

The radio officials who will serve on the Radio Committee are:

Lewis Allen Weiss, Vice President and General Manager of the Don Lee Broadcasting System; Miller McClintock, President of the Mutual Broadcasting System; William S. Paley, President, of the Columbia Broadcasting System; Mark Woods, President of The Blue Network; Leo Fitzpatrick, Executive Vice President and General Manager of The Goodwill Station, WJR, Detroit; Herbert L. Pettey, Director of WHN, New York City; Martin B. Campbell, Managing Director, WFAA, Dallas Studios, and WBAP, Fort Worth Studios; Neville Miller, President of the National Association of Broadcasters, and Niles Trammell, President of the National Broadcasting Company.

These officials will make recommendations to OWI from time to time upon information problems as they relate to radio.

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CBS OFFERS TO WITHDRAW WNYC OPPOSITION FOR DURATION

The Columbia Broadcasting System, in a petition filed Monday with the Federal Communications Commission, withdrew its opposition to longer hours of operation for Station WNYC, New York, for the duration of the war, provided, that in the opinion of the Commission, such action would aid in the war effort. Columbia Broadcasting System is the owner and operator of WCCO, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Class I station, operating full time with 50,000 watts power on 830 kilocycles. WNYC operates with 1,000 watts during the day on this same wavelength and in compliance with FCC Rules and Regulations signs off at sundown Twin City time.

For several years, the City of New York and officials of WNYC have been seeking to have their time of operation extended. To date their efforts have been opposed by the State of Minnesota and the Columbia Broadcasting System, because the extended nighttime operating schedule for WNYC would interfere with the program service provided to rural listeners in the north central area and is contrary to the Rules of the Commission.

WNYC in its latest request for additional time, however, stated in its application to the FCC that the service to be rendered would be 'needed wartime services' for the people of the City of New York. In the petition filed yesterday, Columbia stated that it "desires to take no action which will in any way hamper the fullest and most effective prosecution of the war", and that, 'it is the sincere wish of Columbia to facilitate and to aid in any way possible the complete prosecution of the war and the proper defense of the people of this country.'

Columbia also stated that it cannot, itself, possess knowledge of sufficient facts regarding the strategy of the war to enable it to determine whether the operation of WNYC, as proposed by the application, would assist in the prosecution of the war and the proper defense of the people of this country, but was willing to leave the decision as to the merits of the case in the hands of the Federal Communications Commission.

WNYC and the City of New York first applied for operation until 10:00 P.M. on the WCCO channel in 1939. The application was opposed by Columbia and the State of Minnesota, on the grounds that the extended operation of WNYC was not only contrary to the Rules and Regulations of the FCC but that such operation would interfere with the nighttime rural service provided by WCCO. After two years of intermittent hearings the Federal Communications Commission denied the application of WNYC. In October, 1942, WNYC filed an application for a Special Service Authorization, which would permit the station to operate until 10:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern time. This was granted in December, 1942, without notice to Columbia. When Columbia filed a petition for rehearing, the grant was revoked and another hearing was set for September 13, 1943.

In announcing its willingness to withdraw opposition to the Special Service Authorization grant, Columbia specified that such grant should be only for the duration of the war or the license period of WNYC, whichever period is shorter, and that the extended time on the air should be used only for programs in connection with the war effort. Columbia also stated that in taking such action, it was acting only to facilitate the establishment of a temporary service which may be determined to be necessary during the wartime emergency, and that it was not waiving in any manner its right to insist upon the maintenance of the frequency of 830 kilocycles used by WCCO as a clear channel, and the fullest protection of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, the Communications Act of 1934 and all applicable laws of the United States. Neither, in withdrawing its opposition, Columbia stated, would it admit that the operation of WNYC during nighttime hours would not cause interference within the territory served by WCCO.

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WU-POSTAL MERGER HEARINGS EXPECTED TO END SOON

Chairman Fly at his press conference Monday, while declining to make any official prediction said he believed the Western Union-Postal Merger hearings would wind up "pretty soon".

Mr. Fly said the sessions had been so long drawn out that he was getting tired of them and asked "Who isn't?"

Mr. Fly remarked that the Commission had taken so much testimony and given such latitude in examination and cross examination that maybe the record had been made too extensive for some phases of the case.

Asked if there would be any oral argument, the Chairman replied: "I don't believe we will have much oral argument; most of it has been argument anyway."

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PRAISE FOR WARTIME RADIO CRYSTAL RESEARCH

In connection with an article on quartz crystal which appeared in Life August 2nd, Gerald James Holton, of Harvard University, writes that magazine:

"In proportion to size those little glasslike quartz wafers are perhaps the most remarkable of all the tools science has given to war. When the story of the almost incredible progress in research and manufacture of radio crystals in the last two years can be told, it will prove to be a tale of one of this war's greatest achievements. No less significant will be the fruit of these advancements to a new world at peace where crystals will be the vibrating hearts of most telecommunication equipment."

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SEES DEMOCRATS' APPROVAL OF WEISS IN OWI APPOINTMENT

That Lewis Allen Weiss, General Manager of the Don Lee Broadcasting System at Hollywood should head the list of those appointed to serve on the new OWI Radio News and Policy Committee after Mr. Weiss had told the local Democratic Committee in Los Angeles where to get off, was seen as the Administration's approval of the Californian's action by John O'Donnell, Washington correspondent of the New York News, whose column is reprinted in the Washington Times Herald, and the Chicago Tribune, who writes:

"The Office of War Information announced last night that it has created an Advisory Radio News and Policy Committee, composed of big shots on the air. From what's been happening in the past fortnight we think this Committee has some important work to do.

"We mean important work in connection with radio broadcasts of news and the fourth term campaign of F.D.R. Also, but in a minor key, work in connection with the Government broadcasting of Uncle Elmer Davis, top-kick in the Office of War Information. There have been a few published reports to the effect that some of the broadcasting outfits were inclined to be surly and mulish when confronted with the proposition of giving Uncle Elmer (who used to be a newspaperman himself and was later a broadcaster - and a damned good one) free time on the air just by way of keeping the Davis hand in and making sure that the folksy, Hoosier twang of Uncle Elmer didn't lose its homey appeal by Washington associations.

"One thing they can do is to call up Chairman Frank C. Walker, of the Democratic National Committee, and ask him if he doesn't think it would be a good idea to pass the word down the line - to State and city Democratic Committees - that they shouldn't try to put the blast on radio critics of Fourth Term Candidate Roosevelt by asking their sponsors to take them off the air - or else.

"Out in Los Angeles, the Democratic Committee this month passed a resolution, which complained that a large number of broadcasters were expressing views 'diametrically opposed to the ideals and aims of the Democratic party and its leader, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.'

"They sent a copy of the resolution to the Don Lee Broadcasting System, complained specifically about Radio Broadcaster Commentator Fulton Lewis, Jr. and demanded that the sponsors devote five times as much time to refute Lewis' observations as the commentator had used in making them.

"Lewis Allen Weiss, General Manager of the Don Lee System, was properly burned up by these political strong-arm methods. He denounced the Democratic Committee for infringing on the rights of free speech and said their political policy on radio news 'would meet with contempt of Democrats as well as Republicans'.

"Now we are happy to note the name of Lewis Allen Weiss leads the list of appointees to Elmer Davis' new OWI Radio Committee. Apparently the boys have grasped the significance and danger of the political pressure on radio in a hot campaign year."

NAB PAYS TRIBUTE TO WOMEN TECHNICIANS

"That she might serve at home and leave him free."

This is the keynote of a brochure prepared by Arthur Stringer, Secretary of the War Committee of the National Association of Broadcasters, and Howard S. Frazier, of NAB, to give an idea of how women are serving in the technical side of radio. As is proper and fitting in anything having to do with the fair sex, the brochure is largely made up of photographs. Pictures are shown of more than a hundred women now in radio with the caption:

"As the photographs in this brochure indicate, women have come to the control rooms and transmitters of the nations broadcast stations to relieve men for war duty. This presentation is both a tribute to these patriotic young women and an invitation to others to enter the industry."

Typical are the following:

KINY, Juneau, Alaska. Trained on the job, Mrs. Louise D. Carl now does all the announcing, spins records and transcriptions, rides gain on short-wave rebroadcasts and handles sound effects. Her only license is a marriage license. Her husband is Walter R. Carl, StationManager.

WBAL, Baltimore. In preparation for all technical personnel contingencies, Chief Engineer Gerald V. Cooke maintains a control room training program for feminine staff members. Miss Dee Speed and Miss Elma West are his first two graduates.

WWDC, Washington, D. C. Here's a trick shot of the station's three women technicians who compose the control room staff, Miss Rosita Cardinale, Mrs. J. M. Whitman, mother of four children, and Miss Pauline Lilly. The latter joined the station in February of last year. After intensive training the scope of her work was extended to include remote switching, auditioning and cutting of instantaneous recordings. Same procedure was used in training the other two girls.

WCCO, Minneapolis. Miss Mary Ellen Trottnier, while taking post graduate work at the University of Minnesota, was recommended over a year ago, as an apprentice technician. She received sixty days' training under studio supervisors. Now handles regular shifts in studio and master control operations. She enrolled in ESMWT Fundamentals of Radio course, holds a third class license, and plans to obtain first class radio-telephone license.

WAVE, Louisville. When Douglas Atwell, operator, left for the Air Corps, June 3, his wife, 18-year-old Alberta, took over. Though his marriage and departure to the Air Corps occurred almost simultaneously, there was just enough time for Alberta to become initiated into the mysteries of the control room.

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INCREASE OF 35% IN WAR RADIO OUTPUT SEEN

Demands now being made upon radio manufacturers by WPB and the Army and Navy are at an all-time peak. For 1944, an increase of 35% in radio requirements is indicated, according to O. H. Caldwell, Editor of Radio Today, who says:

"During 1943, output has been at a rate of three million dollars annually. For 1944, four billion dollars' worth of radio apparatus is scheduled. (These figures are to be contrasted with the quarter-billion-dollar normal civilian radio output, at manufacturers' prices).

"This huge demand for war-radio equipment makes it apparent that no resumption of civilian radio manufacture can be considered during the next twelve months, barring an unforeseen turn of the war. All civilian output is automatically banned, except for the trickle of Lend-Lease assemblies going to Russia and South America, from manufacturers with balanced inventories, a total of not over 100,000 sets annually. The sole civilian responsibility recognized by WPB's Radio Division, is only to provide tubes and parts to keep at least one radio set working in each of the nation's 30 million radio homes."

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VISIONS POST-WAR TELEGRAMS BY "TELEFAX"

Post-war telegrams may be sent by telefax, something on the order of television, F. E. D'Humy, Vice-President of Western Union, reports. Mr. D'Humy described the device to members of the Federal Communications Commission at a hearing on the proposed merger of Western Union and Postal Telegraph. Telefax in principle, is a method of beaming messages by light waves. An exact reproduction of the original message filed by the sender will be transmitter, making the possibility of error infinitesimal, he said.

Telefax would mean better service and lower rates to the public, Mr. D'Humy added. Development of the plan would extend over a ten-year period. It would call for the gradual retirement of existing equipment.

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"Probably 100 different shows in the last 17 months, since the formation of the new Blue, have been booked", Phil Carlin, Vice President in Charge of Blue Network Programs, writes in Radio Daily. "Incidentally a substantial number of them have been sold. Just to prove that I'm not talking through my hat on this, we did a little figuring, and here's what we found. Since January, 1942, to date, we've auditioned 1400 actors and actresses, 300 singers, 62 acts, 81 package shows, 36 commentators, and 475 prospective announcers, besides auditioning 40 shows for agencies. You can also add to that list 1600 children auditioned by Madge Tucker for her two children's programs."

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MISS KELSEY PRESENTS "RADIONICS TRAIL BLAZERS"

Miss Elizabeth Kelsey of the Zenith Radio Corporation's Engineering Department, has written a 60-page booklet, "Trail Blazers to Radionics and Reference Guide to Ultra High Frequencies", including biographies of great men in science and bibliographies.

The Preface, written by Commander E. F. McDonald, Jr., President, and G. E. Gustafson, Vice-President in Charge of Engineering, reads:

"Trail Blazers to Radionics and Reference Guide to Ultra High Frequencies have been prepared to fill a need recognized by those in the communications divisions of our armed forces, by radio engineers, science teachers and college and high school students, as well as by the layman. In writing Trail Blazers to Radionics (Part 1) every effort was made to present in a concise form important data that would not otherwise be obtainable without considerable research in a large library. The purpose of this work is to present biographies of great men of science and their research, and tell where such contributions are now used in the progress of science. We hope that its contents will stimulate a desire for the pursuit and advancement of knowledge by students, therefore preparing the way to the Radionic Age into which man is now entering.

"The first edition of Reference Guide to Ultra High Frequencies was published months ago and widely distributed. It provided much of the academic background for Radar research and is regarded as a definite contribution in the field. This third edition of Reference Guide to Ultra High Frequencies (Part 2) has been brought up to date and includes much new material. We hope that it will continue to aid those developing Radionic military equipment, especially the men in our Army and Navy research laboratories who long before war was declared did the original work on that most valuable weapon, Radar.

"Miss Elizabeth Kelsey of Zenith Radio Corporation's Engineering Division has spent many patient months in compiling and editing this book. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences, member of American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an associate member of the Institute of Radio Engineers and of the International Television Society.

"We present to you the results of Miss Kelsey's efforts, with the compliments of Zenith Radio Corporation, in the interests of the victory program."

Copies of the booklet are available upon request for schools.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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Among the radio correspondents at the Churchill-Roosevelt conference at Quebec are Richard Harkness, NBC; H. R. Baukhage, Blue Network; William L. Henry, CBS; Ray Henle, MBS; Willson Woodside, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Michael Barkway and Clement Fuller, British Broadcasting Corporation.

Production and sales of radio sets in Canada continued to decline in the last quarter of 1942. Producers' sales during the quarter totaled 30,181 sets, valued at \$1,868,000, but only 12,029 sets were made.

W. L. Fattig has been appointed Acting Supervisor of the Technical Service Section of the General Electric Receiver Division, Bridgeport, Conn. P. R. Butler, former Manager of the Section, is now a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy. In 1937, Mr. Fattig became a radio field engineer for the G-E Receiver Division and covered Atlanta and New Orleans. In 1940 he was called to Bridgeport, Conn., to work in the Section he now heads as Acting Supervisor.

Mr. Butler is a native of Portsmouth, N.H. After 10 years in the radio field he joined General Electric in 1935 as a radio field engineer for the Receiver Division and later became Supervisor of field technical service for the Division.

Station KFSD, 1000-watt outlet in San Diego, Calif., will join NBC's Pacific Coast network on September 1st.

J. H. Swenson, Supervisor of the CBS Maintenance and Construction Department, and R. A. Trago, Assistant Supervisor of that Department, have let the network to enter the Army; and W. J. Fahey has joined the Maintenance and Construction Department.

David Davis, Supervisor of CBS' Field Engineering Department, now also fills Mr. Swenson's position as Supervisor of the Maintenance and Construction Department. Harry Silbersdorf, a staff technician in the Field Engineering Division for the past twelve years, has been named Assistant Supervisor of that Department.

WOR Recording Studios have been recording and servicing 200 stations in this country and Canada with 5-minute news summaries from Australia, Belgium and Greece. Belgian and Greek underground sources relay the news to London and from there it is cabled to the United States, put on 16-inch records by WOR and distributed. It is expected that there will be six nations following this procedure within a short time.

E. F. Peterson has been placed in charge of Design Engineering of General Electric receiving tubes; K. C. DeWalt, design engineer, Tube Division, will continue his responsibility for design engineering of all other product lines of the Division.

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BLUE OPENS OWN NEWS ROOM

The Blue Network formally opened its own New York news room yesterday (August 23rd), G. W. Johnstone, Director of News and Special Features, has announced. To satisfy the needs of the large staff of news broadcasters built up by the Blue, the news room will be in operation 24 hours daily, seven days weekly.

Complete with its own battery of teletype printers and manned by a staff of nine persons, the New York news room is to be under the supervision of John C. Robb, who has been promoted from the position of editorial assistant to Mr. Johnstone, to Manager. Leon Decker, also a former editorial assistant, and John T. Madigan, formerly with the NBC news room, have been appointed news editors, heading a staff of six writers.

Since the separation from NBC and the setting up of the Blue as an independent network in January, 1942, news reports for Blue newscasters have been written in the NBC news room under the supervision of Mr. Johnstone's editorial assistants, and mechanical facilities were pooled by the two networks. The opening of the Blue news room Monday marks the complete separation of news operations.

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SHIP NAMED AFTER VICTOR HERBERT, ASCAP FOUNDER

A new Liberty Ship, the "Victor Herbert", a birthday gift to Major General Jonathan M. Wainwright taken by the Japs at Corregidor, was christened by Mrs. Claude Pepper, wife of the Florida Senator last Sunday at Panama City, Florida.

The "Victor Herbert", named for the composer and founder of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, is a sixtieth birthday present to the General, who is now being held in Formosa. Senator Pepper spoke at the launching ceremonies, and Mrs. Wainwright accepted the ship on behalf of her husband.

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Station KTUC, at Tucson, Arizona, is now giving time breaks in military terminology. Often called "twenty-four hour time" such a system means that 1:00 P.M. becomes thirteen hundred, 2:00 P.M. becomes fourteen hundred and so on until midnight when it's twenty-four hundred.

"I don't know of another station in the country using military time", said Lee Little, General Manager of KTUC. "The change-over created no small muddle in the minds of our announcers and as far as the listeners are concerned, we have a hunch that we have almost forced them to learn how to tell time all over again."

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