

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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INDEX TO ISSUE OF JANUARY 7, 1944

IRE Meeting To Display Captured Enemy Radio Equipment.....	1
Senator White Makes Good As Acting Minority Leader.....	3
Commercial Radio Vs. Government Seen "Lesser Evil".....	3
Nazis Amazed By Bombing Accuracy Of New Radio Device.....	4
State Dept.'s Communications Division May Be Subdivided.....	5
Congress Group Will Not Probe Blue Political Charges.....	6
OWI Adds Two New 50 KW Short Wave Transmitters.....	7
Hands It To British For Getting Civilian Radios.....	7
Fly To Be Put On Grill Re Admiral Hooper's Retirement.....	8
Newspaper Station Ownership "Still Stymied".....	8
Lonely Outposts Get Radio In Abundance, Says OWI.....	9
NBC Pronunciation Book Offered As Announcers' Guide.....	10
Trade Notes.....	11

IRE MEETING TO DISPLAY CAPTURED ENEMY RADIO EQUIPMENT

The Winter Technical Meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers in New York Friday and Saturday, January 28 and 29, will be devoted to the domestic, international and war aspects of radio engineering. In addition to a number of outstanding technical papers, J. R. Poppele, of WOR, Chairman of the Publicity Committee, advises the program will contain several features including participating activities by the Federal Communications Commission, a display of captured enemy radio equipment, and a discussion on the newly formed Radio Technical Planning Board.

The Institute, which now has 11,000 members, has been requested to cooperate in conserving the nation's transportation facilities and, consequently is confining the mailing of the Winter Technical Meeting notices to members residing east of the Mississippi River.

The outline of the program is as follows:

Friday, January 28 - Hotel Commodore

- 10:30 A.M. - Address of Welcome - B. E. Shackelford, Chairman, 1944 Winter Technical Meeting; L. P. Wheeler, presiding; Ceremony of "passing the Gavel" from Retiring President Wheeler to Incoming President Turner; Annual Meeting of the Institute, Prof. H. M. Turner of Yale University, presiding; Amendment of Institute's Charter.
- 11:15 A.M. - Session of Technical Papers
- 12:30 P.M. - President's Luncheon
- 2:30 P.M. - Symposium - Haraden Pratt president; "Work of the Radio Technical Planning Board", W.R.G. Baker, Chairman of Radio Technical Planning Board
- 4:30 P.M. - Session of Technical Papers
- 7:00 P.M. - I.R.E. Banquet (Informal); George Lewis, Master of Ceremonies; Awards, Presented by Professor Turner; 1943 Medal of Honor - to Haraden Pratt; 1943 Morris Liebmann Memorial Prize - to W.L. Barrow 1943 Fellowship Awards - to S.L. Bailey, C. R. Burrows, M. G. Crosby, C. B. Feldman, Keith Henney, D. O. North; K. A. Norton, S. W. Seeley, D. B. Sinclair, Leo Young, and Harry Diamond. Prominent Speaker on a Timely Subject (to be announced).

Saturday, January, 29

- 10:00 A.M. - Symposium - H. M. Turner presiding.
 "Engineering Work of the Federal Communications Commission" by Lieut. E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer, Federal Communications Commission; "Timely Broadcast Matters" by G. P. Adair, Assistant Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission; "Police, Aviation and Maritime Services" by W. N. Krebs, Chief of the Safety and Special Services Division, Federal Communications Commission; "International Point-to-Point and Allocation Problems" by P. F. Siling, Chief of the International Division, FCC Engineering Department.
- 12:30 P.M. - Students' Luncheon
- 2:30 P.M. - Technical Session - Lloyd Espenschied, presiding.
 It is also expected to have prominent American, British, Russian and Chinese authorities outline radio engineering in their respective countries.

Joint Evening Session With A.I.E.E. - January 27

Of interest to the I.R.E. membership are the arrangements which have been made with the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for a joint evening meeting on Thursday, January 27th, to be held in the Auditorium of the Engineering Societies Building, 33 West 39th Street, New York City. Major-General R. B. Colton, of the Signal Corps, will talk about enemy communication equipment and will display some of the captured apparatus. This equipment will be at the Hotel Commodore on Friday afternoon, January 28th.

The A.I.E.E. is holding its technical meeting during the week of January 24th and, for the convenience of I.R.E. members, their communications papers will be concentrated during the afternoon session of January 27, 1944.

The program for the latter date is outlined below:

Thursday, January 27, 1944

- 2:00 P.M. - American Institute of Electrical Engineers Session
 Five Electronics and Communication Papers given below:
 "A Short-Cut Method of Estimating the Telephone Interference Factor of Power Systems with Rectified Load", by C. W. Frick; "Crossbar Toll Switching System", by L. G. Abraham, A. J. Busch, and F. F. Shipley; "Automatic Ticketing of Telephone Calls", by O. A. Friend; "Electronically Controlled Dry-Disk Rectifier", by Allen Rosenstein and H. N. Barnett; "Rectifier Circuit Duty" by C. C. Herskind
- 8:00 P.M. - Joint I.R.E.-A.I.E.E. Meeting
 "Enemy Communications Equipment" by Major-General R. B. Colton, Signal Corps, United States Army.
 Exhibition of Captured Apparatus

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SENATOR WHITE MAKES GOOD AS ACTING MINORITY LEADER

Senator Wallace White (R), of Maine, spokesman on radio in the Senate, co-author of the Radio Act and of the pending Wheeler-White radio bill, to revamp the original Act, has had added honors thrust upon him by being made acting successor to Minority Leader Charles L. McNary (R), of Oregon, who is recovering in Florida from a serious operation several months ago. Furthermore, there has been considerable praise for Senator White's work in his responsible new role. His suggestions with regard to effecting compromises on the soldier vote, subsidies, and other highly controversial matters bedeviling Congress at the present time, have been favorably received.

Senator White was appointed by Senator McNary personally when the latter was advised by doctors that he would probably be out for sometime. Mc. McNary's message complimented Senator White for the way he has been carrying on and asked him "to keep up the good work".

If it appears that Senator McNary is to be away for any great length of time, there is some talk that when the Senators return next Monday, they may elect an acting successor to Mr. McNary. In that connection, the name of Senator White has also been prominently mentioned, assuming that he desires to carry the additional burden for an indefinite time. Also several other names have been spoken of including Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, Senator Taft of Ohio, Senator Bridges of New Hampshire, and Senator Austin of Vermont.

It is interesting to note that Senator White appears to be following in the footsteps of his distinguished grandfather Senator Frye of Maine, who for many years was President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

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COMMERCIAL RADIO VS. GOVERNMENT SEEN "LESSER EVIL"

After considering the subject at some length editorially, the Washington Post reaches the conclusion that commercial radio after all is best for the United States. In the course of the reasoning the Senate testimony of Niles Trammell, President of the National Broadcasting Company, is referred to. The full text of what Mr. Trammell said at that time is now available in the form of a printed pamphlet entitled "Radio Must Be Free".

The Post editorial follows in part:

"Mr. Trammell expressed a fear that broadcasting might become a Federal monopoly, 'without Government owning a single share of stock in a radio station or having a single representative in corporate management'.

"What it all seems to boil down to is the question of whether radio is to continue on its present basis as a commercial enterprise deriving its main revenue from advertisers or whether it is to have a quasi-official status like the BBC. It seems to us that there is hardly any question that the radio, whether in public or private hands, is a monopolistic institution, and can hardly be otherwise. The number of radio stations or chains that can be operated simultaneously is limited by physical laws. Again, by its nature, the radio, it seems to us, lends itself more readily to propaganda than to the free, full and open discussion of all subjects. In the last analysis radio propaganda will be in favor of whoever pays the costs.

"Mr. Trammell says that Government control of radio is 'a pistol aimed at the heart of all our democratic freedom'. If by this he means that sales propaganda, because easily identified as such, is much less dangerous than political propaganda, we should be inclined to agree. Of course, a commercial radio also means that a great many of the programs will be puerile, vulgar or downright idiotic, since they are chosen on the assumption that the volume of sales for the sponsor's product will be in direct ratio to the number of listeners. Here we have another instance of the operation of Gresham's law in modern society; the bad stuff driving the good off the air, or, at any rate, severely restricting it. Mr. Trammell, however, is evidently a bit touchy on this point. He speaks rather bitterly of those who try to disparage the 'daytime serials' by giving them the opprobrious name of 'soap operas', and says that three psychiatrists have studied the soap operas and approved them.

"Still, whatever its banalities, the commercial radio seems the lesser evil, and its cause has been considerably strengthened by the asinine list of tabus attributed to the BBC. Moreover, it is not now compulsory to listen to the radio; but, once under Government control, there is no telling when it might become so."

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NAZIS AMAZED BY BOMBING ACCURACY OF NEW RADIO DEVICE

The accuracy of a secret new navigation device which permits the RAF to bomb targets with precision regardless of weather conditions has amazed high German military officials who have observed how it was used in the systematic pattern destruction of Berlin, the Stockholm correspondent of the Associated Press reports, and writes further:

"A source close to German official circles said the baffled Germans were caught flat-footed by the Allied secret weapon which permits pattern and precision bombing almost on the scale of the United States Air Force in clear daylight.

1/7/44

"(The United States 8th Air Force announced December 28 the development of secret scientific navigation devices which permit American bombers to bomb accurately from as high as 25,000 feet targets obscured by either clouds or fog. The announcement said the new methods had been used successfully in missions involving a total of 8,000 bombers and fighters).

"An anonymous Swedish scientist said in the newspaper Dagens Nyheter that the RAF was apparently using a radar-radio location navigation device transmitting infra-red rays which pierce fog and cloud. When the rays are reflected from the earth, they are recorded on a cathode ray tube forming a pattern which the navigator can read like a map.

"This scientist credited the development to a Russian-American scientist named Zworykin who was said to live in Camden, N. J."

To which the Associated Press in the United States adds this note:

"The scientist mentioned is Dr. Vladimir K. Zworykin, long connected with cathode ray tube research for television and other electronic purposes. This tube has the ability of making radio signals visible.

"Dr. Zworykin, who has been associated with the Radio Corporation of America at Camden and Princeton, N. J., since 1930, as associate research director, also is credited with development of the electron microscope in which the cathode ray tube is used. He came to this country from Russia when a young man in 1919."

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STATE DEPT.'S COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION MAY BE SUBDIVIDED

No successor as yet has been chosen to succeed Thomas Burke, who recently resigned as Chief of the Division of International Communications of the State Department. One reason assigned to the delay was that the question might be under consideration of dividing the Division into three divisions - Communications, Shipping, and Aviation. It was said that the present division is too large for one man to handle.

Mentioned as the logical successor to Mr. Burke was Francis Colt de Wolf, present assistant in the Division. If three divisions are created, it is believed Mr. de Wolf would be the one most likely to head the Communications Division.

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CONGRESS GROUP WILL NOT PROBE BLUE POLITICAL CHARGES

Representative Lea (D), of California, Chairman of the special FCC Investigating Committee, said today (Tuesday) that his group would not investigate the Blue Network. He had previously been quoted as saying there would be an inquiry into the sale of the Blue Network in view of the charges made that Harry Hopkins and others of the White House palace guard and Wendell Willkie through the sale had gained the inside track.

The argument for this was that Edward J. Noble, controlling owner of the Blue, had formerly served as Secretary of Commerce under Mr. Hopkins and that Henry R. Luce, a Willkie supporter, had been allowed to buy a substantial interest in the Blue.

"We are investigating the Federal Communications Commission, not the broadcasters", Representative Lea said.

Mr. Lea did say, however, that his Committee would make some inquiry into the sale to see if there were grounds for the charges that any particular group would be favored with regard to time. Representative Lea seemed to think even then that the matter of time allocation was a legislative question and should be dealt with by those framing the new Radio Act.

Eugene Garey, counsel for the Lea Committee, had been previously quoted as saying that an exhaustive Congressional inquiry had been launched into the Blue Net sale.

"All the circumstances involving the sale of the Blue network, subsequent developments, and also the purchase and sale by Noble of WMCA are being investigated by the staff", Mr. Garey declared. "The results of this inquiry will be presented to the Committee for its consideration at an appropriate time."

Also Blue Net officials in Washington refused to get excited over the political charges. It was said that it was doubtful if the Blue would even issue an official denial. Although much had been made of the fact that Lowell Thomas, commentator sponsored by the Sun Oil Co., of which Joseph Pew of Pennsylvania, "angel" of the standpat Republicans had gone over to the Red Net, it was said that this "didn't mean a thing". It was explained that Thomas changed to the Red because most of his other stations were on the Red and that in dividing the two networks, they had made the split as even as possible.

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Convalescent servicemen in isolated wards at the Naval Hospital in Washington, D. C., will soon have their own radios, thanks to an unknown donor who presented a check for \$500, with the stipulation that the Home Hospitality Committee match the amount, which they did, and radios will soon be installed in the hospital.

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OWI ADDS TWO NEW 50 KW SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTERS

Two 50-kilowatt high-frequency short wave transmitters, WOOC and WOOW, comprising the first new plant to be installed under the Office of War Information's plan to expand American international broadcasting facilities, began operations Friday, December 31, according to E. K. Cohan, CBS Director of Engineering.

Work on the ultra-modern transmitters was begun last July on the New Jersey grounds formerly occupied by the transmitter of the Columbia Broadcasting System's key station, WABC. The site was chosen by the OWI because of its ideal facilities, including underground conduits for power and radio circuits, and many acres of property completely cleared of trees and other obstructions - factors of great value in the construction and operation of a radio station.

Programs in English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, Polish, Dutch, Czech and Albanian will be beamed to all of Europe over the two transmitters for sixteen hours daily, starting at 10:45 A.M. Hours of operation will be increased to 20 hours daily in a few weeks, according to the OWI. Columbia's overseas engineering operations are under the general direction of Guy C. Hutcheson.

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HANDS IT TO BRITISH FOR GETTING CIVILIAN RADIOS

A subscriber to this service sends the following clipping reprinted by a Detroit paper from the New York Times:

"London - Britons soon will have a chance to get new radio sets, it was announced today by Capt. Waterhouse, parliamentary secretary to the Board of Trade. About 70,000 radios of British manufacture are now getting their finishing touches and 14,000 American sets recently arrived here, it was said. All these sets are for civilians."

To which our subscriber adds this comment:

"You've got to hand it to the English boys. They can get production when we can't. I have on my desk a very beautiful paper knife that a friend sent me from England. This beautiful knife is heavy and made from a German bomb. The handle is in the crude form of the bomb material and the blade is beautifully finished - highly polished. Stamped on one side is 'London's Blitz' and on the other side the name of the manufacturer, 'Asprey, London'. I thought they were in need of metal and man power but evidently they have enough of each to make souvenirs."

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FLY TO BE PUT ON GRILL RE ADMIRAL HOOPER'S RETIREMENT

When Chairman James L. Fly testifies before the Lea House Committee investigating the Federal Communications Commission, it was learned today (Tuesday), that he would be subjected to cross-examination with regard to the allegation that he had compelled Rear Admiral S. C. Hooper, former Chief of Naval Communications, to retire because of a complaint Hooper had made against the policies of Fly. Also Mr. Fly will be asked regarding similar charges in connection with Capt. Joseph R. Redmond, U.S.N., who was also Chief of Naval Communications and who, it is alleged, Mr. Fly likewise tried to have removed.

The opinion was also ventured that Admiral Hooper and Captain Redmond might be called before the House Committee and maybe the Secretary of the Navy Knox.

Mr. Knox had previously said, in answer to queries, that Admiral Hooper was retired for physical reasons, but when asked if his retirement had been requested by Mr. Fly, he declined to answer.

It was Admiral Hooper who made the first report to the Secretary of the Navy which led to the survey of conditions on the findings of which were based recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretaries of War and Navy for the transfer to their departments of the radio intelligence activities of the Federal Communications Commission. This request was transmitted to President Roosevelt last February and rejected by him eight months later in a letter made public a few weeks ago by Senator Charles Tobey(R), of New Hampshire.

T.A.M. Craven, FCC Commissioner, said during his testimony before the House Committee last week that it was a "well known fact" that Mr. Fly had visited reprisals on members of the armed forces who opposed his policies and that one of two Naval officers had been "practically cashiered" and put on the retired list because he opposed a Fly decision.

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NEWSPAPER STATION OWNERSHIP "STILL STYMIED"

In the words of a high official, the decision of the Federal Communications Commission on the question of newspaper ownership of broadcasting stations was "still stymied". Previously this official had thought a recommendation would be made discriminating against the publishers but he said he felt this move had now been blocked.

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LONELY OUTPOSTS GET RADIO IN ABUNDANCE, SAYS OWI

Our troops in lonely outposts around the world get radio entertainment in abundance, even in African jungles, the Office of War Information advises.

Recordings of favorite radio programs are made each week and flown to all parts of the world for rebroadcast at the same hour one week later. The Army is operating the most extensive series of radio programs in the world.

Telling how radio is serving U. S. fighting forces all over the world, OWI tells us:

"The Army is now operating the most extensive radio system, or series of systems, in the world. Adequate radio service to troops on the fighting fronts is, of course, considered first, but desire of the men in lonely outposts for radio news and entertainment is not forgotten.

"In addition to day and night short-wave broadcasts from the United States and the British Broadcasting Company in London, American troops in isolated posts can now tune in on one or more of the scores of long- and medium- wave stations scattered all over the world. The Army owns and operates some of these stations, and buys or is donated time on others.

"In England the Army owns, and operates in cooperation with OWI, its own network of 55 stations. Most of these are low-power stations, with broadcasting radius of only 10 to 15 miles. But they dot the British Isles, and reach most American troop outposts there. This network operates most of each day.

"In the Middle East the Army owns and operates stations in Iran, Iraq and at Cairo. It has not established its own stations in India, but the all-India broadcasting network permits the Army to put on its own programs during one hour each day. Most outposts in India are within reception range.

"The only broadcasting station in Iceland is the government-owned one at Reykjavik, but it leases four or five hours of time daily to the Army to broadcast its own programs.

"The Army also has liberal use of a large network of stations in South Africa, covering most of the outposts in that part of the world and reaching outposts in equatorial Africa. Australia likewise permits our troops to broadcast their own programs from the 30 stations reaching out into the bush.

"Fourteen small-radius stations are now being operated by the Army in Alaska and the Aleutians, for reasons peculiar to that region. Even 'good' receiving sets lose much of their value there because of polar magnetic disturbances. There are still too few receiving sets in the Aleutians, but more are being shipped."

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NBC PRONUNCIATION BOOK OFFERED AS ANNOUNCERS' GUIDE

It would seem that announcers and commentators couldn't do better than fortify themselves with the new "NBC Handbook of Pronunciation" compiled by James F. Bender under the supervision of the National Broadcasting Company. The question comes to mind, why didn't somebody think of such a book as this a long time ago?

With an admirable introduction by Dr. James Rowland Angell, the book contains more than 12,000 words including names and places in the war news, commonly mispronounced. It has a three-way approach to correct pronunciation which shows the way a word sounds, how it is spelled and the proved scientific pronunciation key.

Dr. Angell writes:

"Nothing is more familiar than the drastic and impatient criticism which one often hears of the pronunciation of American broadcasters - and especially, perhaps, of the announcers. The problem has always presented grave difficulties, in part because English is the language of great groups of human beings widely separated geographically and each the inheritor of a slightly divergent usage in pronunciation. These difficulties have been immensely magnified by the exigencies of the war. Innumerable place names - many of them indigenous to languages other than English - have to be dealt with, and the broadcaster's task, already sufficiently difficult, has been made very much more trying.

"The introduction to this book deals with the standards of American pronunciation, with a section on the ways of noting pronunciation.

"The word list contains over twelve thousand entries of words which are most apt to present problems; though many of them are perfectly familiar and not perplexing to the ordinary educated individual, some are all too often mispronounced.

"Any book of this type inevitably represents certain compromises on issues where intelligent judgment may well differ materially. Nothing can be done about this beyond following the best opinion of the thoroughly experienced. In the mere matter of extent, such a book can be much curtailed or it can be almost indefinitely expanded. In the present instance, the effort has been made to hit upon a reasonable median in which the material is extensive enough to cover all ordinary needs without being so prolix as to be cumbersome. Again in the matter of the pronunciations adopted, it is often possible to urge variants which have some warrant. The standards actually selected do, however, represent widely accepted usage at the hands of competent scholars.

"The National Broadcasting Company, in putting out this volume, does so with the hope that it may be found of genuine value, not only to broadcasters but to many persons interested in accurate and cultivated speech."

Although it is published by the Thomas Y. Crowell Company, in New York, the same people who get out Roget's "International Thesaurus" and "The American Thesaurus of Slang", there is nothing highbrow about the NBC book for, as a note on the jacket says:

"Pronunciation given is in General American, the dialect that is spoken by more than 90 million Americans and Canadians. Thus the most widely accepted way to pronounce a word is right at your fingertips."

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::: TRADE NOTES :::

David Frederick, formerly Editor and Publisher of Tide magazine, has been appointed Chief of the Office of Program Coordination in the Domestic Branch of the Office of War Information.

Five new campaigns, 14 renewals and a 28 per cent increase in clients over December, 1942, were reported by Arthur Hull Hayes, General Manager of WABC, CBS' New York City outlet.

Responses from 815 standard broadcast stations and 10 networks, covering the week of October 17, 1943, revealed that 24,515 persons were employed full-time and 4,862 part-time.

The total weekly compensation paid to all full-time employees amounted to \$1,366,687 or an average of \$55.75 per employee. This represents an increase of 6.6% over the October 1942 average.

Average weekly compensation for full-time employees, excluding executives, was \$49.50 or an increase of 7.3% over last year's average (1942 average).

Revealing an increase in coverage, the Blue rate card issued January 1 lists 171 stations, reaching 23,558,000 radio families (night), compared with the 122 stations, reaching 22,462,000 families, listed in the Rate Card dated June 15, 1942.

"Warcasts" carrying war news and official announcements to shore establishments, shipyards and plants producing for the Navy create newspaper reader interest, the Navy Department has found. Servicemen and workers look eagerly to their newspapers and to broadcast stations for fuller information, when they leave work, it was explained.

Inaugurated by the Industrial Incentive Division of the Navy, the "Warcasts" are transmitted directly from local stations to the plants during lunch hours, rest periods, and shift changes. They are prepared and edited by the station, in many cases in cooperation with local newspapers.

Fred Allen, radio comedian, makes this suggestion to Variety: "With 'Othello' and 'Carmen Jones' doing sensational business, I think if you can revive 'Shuffle Along' with white actors you will make a fortune."

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