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FRANK C. MULLER

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No. 1595

NO NEW CIVILIAN SETS IN SIGHT; 18,000 GO TO BRITISH

It seemed to be the consensus of opinion at the recent mid-western conference of the Radio Manufacturers' Association held in Chicago recently that there appeared to be little hope of any civilian radio set production this year. At almost the same time there was a news dispatch from London that Hugh Dalton, President of the British Board of Trade told Parliament that 18,000 sets have arrived from America. Mr. Dalton promised he would see that prices to civilians will be controlled. He also said 70,000 British sets were nearly ready for distribution to the public.

It was not only believed by the radio manufacturers assembled at Chicago that no more receiving sets would be manufactured in the U.S. in 1944 but the opinion was also expressed that the radio industry in this country probably would be among the last for reconversion from war production.

In view of the fact that 1944 radio program is 50% larger than last year, Paul Galvin, President of the Radio Manufacturers' Association, and other top men in the industry predicted that the doubled war production would require the utmost industry mobilization with manpower difficulties a major bottleneck. It was estimated that the 1944 output would be something like five billion dollars.

Action to meet the 1944 war program was taken by several RMA groups. On manpower problems the new Employment and Personnel Committee, headed by Chairman A. H. Gardner of Buffalo, arranged for an employment survey, including cooperation with Selective Service and other Government agencies on reemployment and rehabilitation of servicemen. Information for RMA members also will be secured on incentive wage plans, uniform job classifications, and measures to reduce absenteeism.

Work on tube standardization of the RMA Engineering Department in cooperation with the armed services has been expanded to include all types of tubes in the military program. To avoid overlapping and confusion in the future standardization of industrial types of tubes, RMA and National Electrical Manufacturers' Association are working on a plan for establishment of a joint committee, for registration and division of standardization work on industrial tubes, some of which have functions both in the radio and electrical industries. A committee including Directors W.R.G. Baker, M. F. Balcom of Emporium, Pa., and Walter Evans of Baltimore, appointed recently, have been representing RMA in the arrangements under consideration with NEMA.

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Financing of manufacturers in war production, through V and VT loans were problems acted on by Chairman J. P. Rogers, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and the new Sales Financing Committee, which also took steps toward future financing problems during industry reconversion.

Immediate problems of war contract changes, including "cutbacks", were considered by the new Committee on Contract Terminations, including problems both of prime and subcontractors. The Baruch-OWM standard contract clause recently promulgated was studied by the Committee and arrangements made for early conferences with Government agencies toward modifications to meet the special needs of electronic manufacturers.

Looking toward the industry's future reconversion problems, several RMA committees arranged preliminary action with Government agencies now considering such plans and within the industry. General principles relating to reconversion to civilian production, during the war period, were outlined by the Industry Reconversion Committee, under the chairmanship of A. S. Wells, and approved by the general RMA Postwar Planning Committee and also the Association's Board of Directors. These general principles included recommendations, transmitted to the WPB Radio and Radar Division, for the addition of E. A. Nicholas of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Fred D. Williams, of Philadelphia, to the Government's official Industry Advisory Committee, to act with other members as a subcommittee for consultations on reconversion procedure. Another recommendation was that no individual company should be penalized by virtue of its war production position and that the Government should establish a future starting date of any shipments of civilian sets, at least six months in advance. Another recommendation was that any manufacturers' quotas should be established quarterly, with three months' advance notice of such quarterly quotas, with provision for quarterly deferment of quotas. That each manufacturer should determine set models to be built and that there should be no "Victory" models was another recommendation. The Committee also recommended that price levels should not be established, but if this is unavoidable, prices should be established according to the then current costs.

Also in connection with peacetime production, a survey to secure facts on the distribution costs of distributors and dealers was recommended by the Distribution Costs Committee, headed by Ben Abrams, of New York, and an appropriation of \$5,000 was made by the RMA Board of Directors. The survey will be made by an independent commercial agency to secure the facts on distribution costs, in the principal markets and for various types of outlets in connection with future merchandising problems.

Likewise, the Industry Statistics Committee, under the chairmanship of Ross D. Siragusa, of Chicago, arranged for RMA compilation of detailed production and sales statistics when peacetime conditions prevail.

Chairman W. A. Coogan and the Export Program Committee also presented a detailed future export promotion program, estimating that postwar set and parts sales would increase 100% and sales of transmitting apparatus 50%.

New and expanded services for RMA members, including additions to the Association's headquarters staff in Washington, also were authorized at the Chicago Conference.

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PROPOSAL TO AMEND RECORDS INSPECTION RULE

The Federal Communications Commission has adopted Order No. 118, proposing to amend Section 1.5 of its Rules of Practice and Procedure relating to Inspection of Records.

Provision is made in the Commission's Order for oral argument, if request therefor is filed with the Commission, to be held on March 1, 1944. At that time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to appear and present argument as to why the proposed rule should not be adopted or why it should not be adopted in the form proposed by Order No. 118.

Requests for oral argument shall be filed on or before February 16, 1944, and shall be accompanied by a brief.

The proposed order (No. 118) follows:

"Section 1.5 - Inspection of records - Subject to the provisions of sections 4(j), 213(f), 412 and 606 of the Act, the files of the Commission shall be open to public inspection as follows:

"(a) Tariff schedules required to be filed under section 203 of the Act: valuation reports including exhibits filed in connection therewith, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, with reasons therefor, pursuant to Section 213 of the Act; and annual and monthly reports required to be filed under section 219 of the Act.

"(b) Contracts, agreements, or arrangements between carriers, filed pursuant to section 211(a) of the Act, except such contracts relating to foreign wire or radio communications which are marked confidential by the Commission.

"(c) All applications and amendments thereto filed under title II and title III of the Act, including all documents and documents and exhibits filed with and made a part thereof, whether by reference or otherwise, except reports filed pursuant to Section 1.361 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure; authorizations and certifications

issued upon such applications, all pleadings, depositions, exhibits, reports filed pursuant to Section 43.1 of the Rules and Regulations, transcripts of testimony, examiners' reports, exceptions, briefs, proposed reports or findings of fact and conclusions, minutes, and orders of the Commission, excepting, however, any of the foregoing expressly designated by the Commission as confidential.

"(d) In the discretion of the Commission, other files, including those excepted in subsections (a), (b) and (c) hereof, upon written request describing in detail the documents to be inspected and the reasons therefor."

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NEW STATE DEPT. TELECOMMUNICATIONS CHIEF WELL QUALIFIED

Francis Colt de Wolf, Chief of the newly created Division of Telecommunications in the State Department is exceptionally qualified for the position. Long and favorably known to the communications industry, Mr. de Wolf is an old-timer at the State Department having been there for the past 20 years. He has attended the principal international radio conferences since Bucharest and having served so many years in the Telecommunications Section is now one of the best informed men in the country on the subject of international communications.

Mr. de Wolf's official State Department biography is as follows:

Born Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany, of American parents, October 28, 1894; school in Belgium; Hope St. High School (Providence, Rhode Island); private tutors, Harvard, A.B. 1918; Columbia, LL.B. 1922; representative to the Solicitor, Department of State, 1922-1931; Delegate, Anti-smuggling Conference, Ottawa, 1929; Member of Secretariat of League of Nations, Geneva, 1931-1934; Lecturer on International Law, George Washington University, 1942--; appointed Divisional Assistant in the Department of State, February 2, 1935; Representative, 5th meeting of International Telegraph Consulting Committee, Warsaw, 1936; Legal Adviser, Conference for Revision of Capitulatory Regime in Egypt, Montreux, 1937; Delegate, 4th meeting of International Radio Consulting Committee, Bucharest, 1937; U. S. Representative, meeting of Subcommittee of League of Nations Advisory Committee on Social Questions, Paris, 1937; Delegate, International Radio Conference and International Telegraph and Telephone Conference, Cairo, 1938, August 29, 1938; U.S. Representative, North American Regional Radio Engineering Meeting, Washington, 1941; Member of Coordinating Committee, Defense Communications Board, Office for Emergency Management, October 1, 1941; Assistant Chief, Division of International Communications, May 16, 1943; Chief, Telecommunications Division, January 15, 1944; married.

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BLUE AFFILIATES ELECT; NET TO ADVERTISE NATIONALLY

Affiliates of the Blue Network have completed the election of committeemen to serve as representatives on the Blue Stations Planning and Advisory Committee, established in 1942 to advise and assist the management in the operation of the network. Following are the new committeemen and the districts they represent:

William A. Riple, WTRY, Troy, N.Y., reelected from Dist. 1; Allen Campbell, WXYZ, Detroit, reelected from Dist. No. 2; C. T. Hagman, WTCN, Minneapolis-St. Paul, elected from Dist. 3 replacing Earl May, KMA, Shenandoah, Ia.; Henry P. Johnston, WSGN, Birmingham, Ala., reelected from Dist. 4; Harold Hough, KGKO, Fort Worth-Dallas, reelected from Dist. 5; Frank C. Carman, KUTA, Salt Lake City, Utah, elected from Dist. 6, replacing Duncan Pyle, KVOD, Denver, Colo; W. B. Stuht, KJR, Seattle, Wash., reelected from Dist. 7.

The Blue Network has launched its first national advertising campaign in general media. Plans were announced by Edgar Kobak, Executive Vice President.

The space budget for the continuous year-round campaign for 1944, which is supplemental to the regular trade paper campaign, represents the largest amount ever expended by the Blue in advertising. Large-size copy has been scheduled for newspapers in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco (the cities where the Blue owns stations) and full pages in Fortune, the New Yorker, Business Week and United States News with other national publications under negotiation.

Blue affiliates have been requested to cooperate by running the same copy in local newspapers with their own call letters inserted. A merchandising campaign in advertising and industry papers, and direct mail to advertisers and agencies throughout the country will supplement the consumer campaign.

Special recorded announcements of the message conveyed by the advertisements, using Milton Cross and Hugh James, have been produced and will be furnished to all affiliates.

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Says Leonard Lyons:

"Edward Klauber, the radio executive who became Elmer Davis' aide, has finished his survey of OWI's Overseas Branch, and has reorganization."

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NEW YORK TIMES APPLIES FOR FM LICENSE

Closely following the decision by the Federal Communications Commission not to discriminate against newspapers seeking to enter the radio field, the New York Times has applied for a construction permit for a new high frequency (FM) broadcast station to be operated on 45,500 kilocycles with coverage of 8,250 squaremiles

Another FM applicant is the Hildreth and Rogers Company at Lawrence, Mass., seeking a frequency of 44,900 kilocycles.

There was considerable speculation recently as to why the New York Times didn't buy WMCA over which it broadcasts its news bulletins and which was purchased by Nathan Straus. However, the Times, applying for an FM license, would indicate that it prefers to build its own station.

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COHAN, CBS ENGINEERING DIRECTOR, OUT; LODGE SUCCEEDS

Edwin King Cohan, Director of General Engineering, Columbia Broadcasting System, has resigned from the network. He joined CBS in 1930 as Chief Engineer and Technical Supervisor. In September, 1934, when the CBS General Engineering Department was formed, Mr. Cohan was appointed Director, the post he held at the time of his resignation.

William B. Lodge, who supervised the General Engineering Department during Mr. Cohan's recent leave of absence, will assume the supervision of Columbia's general engineering design and developmental activities. Mr. Lodge returns to CBS after serving for 18 months as Associate Director of the Airborne Instruments Laboratory of Columbia University, Division of War Research.

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FCC \$8,000,000 SUPER-APPROPRIATION BID MAY GET LOPPED

There are indications that the Federal Communications Commission's all-time high request for an \$8,371,700 appropriation for the 1945 fiscal year will not have smooth sailing. Of this amount, \$6,146,000 is for war work. This would leave \$2,209,000 for FCC peacetime operations. The latter is an increase of about \$200,000 over the prior year.

Chairman Fly and other members of the Commission testified last Wednesday before the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, of which Representative Clifton Woodrum (D), of Virginia, is Chairman. Many questions as to future expenditure were based upon information brought out in the Lea Committee FCC investigation and Chairman Fly was said to have been closely called to account for all funds asked for and increased expenditures.

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FDR GAGS HOOVER AT FCC PROBE; CONGRESS MAY FIGHT BACK

President Roosevelt threw a monkey-wrench into the proceedings of the House Committee on Thursday investigating the Federal Communications Commission by forbidding J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to testify "on matters pertaining to national security". Almost everything the Committee wanted to know seemed to come under that head and as a result Mr. Hoover, though apparently having no objection on his own account to telling the Committee anything it wanted to know, proved almost a total loss as a witness.

The President was regarded by certain Committee members as using "national security" as a stall to protect Chairman Fly. Unquestionably the Committee will hit back at the White House.

"The President could not, by blanket order, exempt a witness from testifying before this Committee", Representative Lea (D), of California, Chairman of the Committee, declared. Committee Counsel Eugene L. Garey declared nothing in the inquiry would "even remotely endanger national security".

Representative Lea said the Congressional Committee didn't want to interfere with the Executive Department in this but added it might be necessary to do so unless explanations were forthcoming.

It was brought out at the hearing that Attorney General Francis Biddle a month and a half after Pearl Harbor blamed "surreptitious" radio messages from the United States for contributing to Japan's early military success.

A letter from Mr. Biddle to Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission, introduced at the hearing, quoted the Attorney General as saying:

"The evidence is strong that messages were surreptitiously conveyed to the enemy by radio, and that military attacks have been furthered or facilitated by these messages."

In the letter, dated Jan. 22, 1942, Mr. Biddle asked Mr. Fly to turn over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation 250,000 fingerprints taken by the FCC of radio employees and ship operators so that the FBI could trace down the disloyal ones, if any. Chairman Fly refused, however, on the grounds that he had agreed with radio union officials not to do so. He said that union leaders objected to having the fingerprints placed in the FBI records.

The House hearings adjourned until next Tuesday (January 25) when Mr. Hoover will probably again be called upon to appear.

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PRESS WIRELESS NOW INCLUDED IN WAR ZONE SERVICE

The Federal Communications Commission hereafter will regard Press Wireless as eligible for consideration in authorizations of communications circuits to overseas points, where, because of military considerations, it is the policy of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Board of War Communications to limit operations of each such circuit to one United States carrier.

This action does not authorize Press Wireless to communicate with any particular foreign point or points, but establishes its eligibility for such authorizations in competition with other American radiotelegraph carriers.

The proceeding arose out of the policy of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Board of War Communications, first applied in establishing direct radiotelegraph service between the United States and Algiers in February, 1943, which requires that one radiotelegraph carrier only be authorized to communicate with each point in a war zone. The policy further provides that the company authorized be capable of handling all classes of message traffic - government, press, and commercial. However, Press Wireless was licensed to handle and has been handling only press and (since March 17, 1942) government traffic. The Press Wireless application for authority to handle commercial traffic to war-zone points was filed with the Commission in order that it might qualify to operate some of the circuits governed by this policy.

Press Wireless' original application in this proceeding was filed with the Commission August 13, 1943. In this application Press Wireless sought authority to render commercial service on all its presently operating foreign circuits and on any new circuits which it might be authorized to establish in the future. The Commission on September 18 designated the application for hearing.

Subsequently Press Wireless sought leave to amend its original application limiting it to a request for authority to handle commercial messages on those foreign circuits which under wartime policy would be authorized to one, and only one, United States carrier, and only for the duration of such policy. In amending its petition, the Company took the position that it was motivated by the desire to render service to the press at war-zone points, rather than by any desire to change the character of its service to that of a general commercial carrier.

On November 3, 1943, the Commission granted Press Wireless leave to amend its application and hearings were held November 18 and 19 before Commissioners Paul A. Walker, Ray C. Wakefield, and Clifford J. Durr. R.C.A. Communications, Inc., Mackay Radio and Telegraph, Inc., and Western Union Telegraph Company, in addition to Press Wireless, participated in the hearing.

During the course of hearings Press Wireless' representatives testified that the company was financially able and that it had adequate personnel, facilities, and frequencies to handle all classes of traffic to and from several war-zone points.

Chairman Fly did not participate in the Commission action.

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PETRILLO REPORT SOON; NETWORK STRIKE REPORTED OUT

The War Labor Board special panel will be heard from within the next two or three weeks in the Petrillo case between recording firms and the American Federation of Musicians. Also it is reported from New York City that Mr. Petrillo will not call a strike of musicians against the networks following the February 1st expiration of the current A. F. of M. contracts with radio.

Mr. Petrillo apparently intends allowing his men to continue working under terms of the old contract, so that they can be pulled out any time he feels he is having difficulty securing whatever demands he figures on making.

Findings and recommendations of the WLB panel, which has been sitting in New York will be referred to the National War Labor Board for final decision.

It is expected that the panel will rule on whether musicians not making records for some companies are on strike. James C. Petrillo, AFM president, has contended that there is no labor dispute, that the men did not want to make records.

Since the panel was named last August, several electrical transcription firms and Decca Records, Inc., have signed agreements with the AFM permitting them to make recordings.

RCA Victor, the Columbia Recording Corp. and the National Broadcasting Co. radio recording division have not signed with the Union.

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CENSOR WARNS RADIO AND PRESS ON INVASION GOSSIP

Editors and broadcasters were cautioned to exercise the greatest discretion in discussing plans for the second front.

"This is not a field for the customary competitive news-gathering. No American newspaper man or broadcaster will want the distinction of being first to disclose where, when and how our troops will strike", Byron Price, Censorship Director, said. "But no one should forget for a moment that inadvertent disclosures are exactly as valuable to the enemy as deliberate disclosures.

"All speculation about the invasion should be kept strictly within the limits laid down in the Codes and no device of speculation or prediction used to disclose restricted information. Bear in mind that it is always hazardous, in connection with future operations, to mention dates, even by month or season; or to point out the likelihood or desirability of a landing in one country or on one particular section of the coast; or to forecast how many troops or units will be employed."

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SENATOR WHITE APPROVED AS MINORITY LEADER

Senate Republicans affirmed Thursday the action of Minority Leader McNary (Oregon), in designating Senator White of Maine, radio authority of the Senate, as acting leader during Mr. McNary's illness, but delayed a decision on a proposed reorganization of their machinery.

Senator White said the conference adopted a resolution by Senator Taft (R), of Ohio, expressing confidence in Senator McNary's leadership and requesting Mr. White to continue as Acting Minority leader until the Oregon Senator returns to his duties. Senator McNary is recuperating in Florida after a brain operation.

On motion of Senator Willis of Indiana, the conference directed Mr. White to appoint a committee of five to study "the needs of the Republican Party in the Senate" and to report back to the group next Thursday.

With the comment that "we're getting ready to take over the control of the Senate", Senator White said this group would study the question of electing a conference chairman, whip and naming a steering committee to formulate legislative policies.

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COWLES STATIONS COW-CATCHER AND HITCH-HIKERS THE BOOT

In the interest of good programming and uniformity in network, national spot, and local service, the four Cowles stations are following the lead of the Columbia Broadcasting System in ruling out cow-catcher and hitch-hike announcements.

The new policy of KSO and KRNT, Des Moines; WMT, Cedar Rapids; and WNAX, Yankton (the last three are CBS stations), goes into effect immediately. However, in those cases in which production and operational problems make the immediate change impossible, accounts and agencies are given until October 1st this year to comply.

While there will be no restriction on the number of products any client may advertise within his program time limit, all "simulated" spot announcements, which pretend to be divorced from the program (such as commercials which precede the introductions of the program itself or which follow its apparent signoff) are no longer permitted.

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In a "mop-up campaign" to uncover every potential bond buyer, the National Broadcasting Company will join hands with the Boy Scouts of America in the Fourth War Loan Drive. An army of a million and a half Scouts, from the nine-year-old Cubs through the Senior Scouts, will ring every doorbell in the country to drive bond and stamp sales to astronomical figures.

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