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INDEX TO ISSUE OF APRIL 11, 1944

Publishers Plan FM Session; Will Size Up Television.....	1
Petrillo Appeal Now Up To WLB; Decision Date Uncertain.....	3
WOR Silent As Mark Of Respect To Percy S. Straus.....	4
Says Senate Should Act Or Shelve Radio Legislation.....	5
Army Plans Own Station For Our Boys In India.....	5
Rock Island Tries Out Train-Radio; McDonald A Pioneer.....	6
Winchell Finally Sues Hoffman; Pipes Down On Dies.....	8
George C. Furness Of Famous Old Eveready Hour Is Dead.....	9
Joint Army-Navy Electronics Agency To Be Dissolved.....	9
Trade Notes.....	10

No. 1618

April 11, 1944

PUBLISHERS PLAN FM SESSION; WILL SIZE UP TELEVISION

In a renewed effort to awaken their members to the possibilities of frequency modulation broadcasting, the American Newspaper Publishers' Association will devote an entire session of its annual meeting in New York April 27th to a discussion of FM. Dr. W. R. G. Baker, Vice-President of General Electric, and Walter J. Damm, President of FM Broadcasters, Inc. have been invited to address the publishers. The General Electric Company will present a movie film on the subject of FM at this meeting.

The day following the FM meeting in New York April 28th, G.E. has invited the publishers to visit Schenectady to witness a special newspaper demonstration in the WRGB television studios, the call letters of which are the initials of Dr. Baker. Already 120 publishers have accepted the invitation.

They will leave New York the morning after the FM session on the Empire State Express arriving in Schenectady at noon. A majority will depart at 6 P.M. for their homes. A few have signified their intentions of remaining for the regular studio television program to be staged that night. The newspaper demonstration will be in the afternoon.

General Electric revealed at a luncheon given in New York last week that the New York Daily News has placed an order for post-war delivery of complete equipment for a 40,000-watt television station, to be located in the Daily News Building. A similar order was placed recently by the Chicago Tribune.

In an effort to stimulate television business, it was announced that General Electric will accept War Bond deposits of \$12,500 for a 40-kilowatt television station or \$5,000 for a 4-kilowatt station, plus additional sums for accessory equipment, to insure early delivery after the war.

G.E. engineers reported development of a new electronic tube, now being used in war applications, which will make possible radio relaying of television and FM radio programs. G.E. is also planning to install an experimental "two-way" television relay network between New York and Schenectady as soon as manpower and materials are available. This will involve four ultra-high frequency radio relay stations which is expected to be the basis for television relay networks throughout the country.

A number of designs for network beamed relay stations were displayed. They comprised high steel towers capped with micro-wave receiver-transmitter equipment in globe-shaped housings, installed to 60 100 miles apart cross country. The tower-top relay stations

would be unattended; turned on or off automatically, or by a signal sent from network headquarters. It was revealed that a two-way television network between New York and Schenectady would be the first such link established when materials and manpower are available.

It was also stated that there are now nine television stations operating in this country with 40 on file with the FCC and planned for post-war construction. It was the G.E. prediction that within five years after the war 100 television studios would be operating serving 67,000,000.

A five-week course in which practical information on television will be offered, began last week at the Dramatic Workshop of the New School for Social Research, 66 W. 12th St., New York. C. L. Menser, Vice President in Charge of NBC programs was the first lecturer.

The FM Broadcasters' Association Directors, like the Newspaper Publishers' Association, will meet in New York City April 25th to 27th.

A model high-power commercial FM broadcast station which will also serve as a laboratory for the Frequency Modulation art is on the post-war horizon. FM Development Foundation, a pre-Pearl Harbor organization composed of Maj. Edwin H. Armstrong, FM inventor; FMBI Engineering Consultant C. M. Jansky, Jr., and the latter's partner, Stewart L. Bailey, proposes to spend \$150,000 for the erection of such a station at Olney, Md. It would use the 43,900 kilocycle frequency and would cover approximately 18,844 square miles including the Washington, D. C. area. According to Major Armstrong the Foundation, organized to carry on research and foster development of FM, will use the station for experimentation and to solve operational problems which might arise when "hundreds, or even thousands" of FM stations begin operating after the war.

Urging everybody interested in FM and FM promotion to read Ted Leitzell's article in the January issue of Radionics Magazine (110 East South Street, Oak Park, Illinois), the current FMBI Bulletin says:

"It is FM by an FM believer. For example, he says: 'It brings to radio a realism and fidelity of tone far beyond anything that has even been dreamed for other methods of sound transmission and reproduction, together with a freedom from noise, distortion and interference that has never been approached in the standard AM transmission. Imagine hearing music from an adjoining room so clearly that you cannot tell if it is a radio broadcast or the actual instruments. The music ceases, and there is absolute silence. The sky outside may be a pyrotechnic display of lightning; street cars and elevators may be making life miserable for listeners on other radios; but through your FM receiver there will be no whisper of alien sound.'"

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PETRILLO APPEAL NOW UP TO WLB; DECISION DATE UNCERTAIN

Whether the knockout administered to James C. Petrillo, American Federation of Musicians' President by the New York War Labor Board panel is to be sustained or rejected, is now squarely up to the WLB itself. The Board having heard the arguments for and against the panel recommendations last Friday afternoon are expected to reach a decision within the next few weeks though no one would venture a guess as to the exact time.

Already Mr. Petrillo has served notice if the WLB backs up its panel - which in a majority of cases it has done in the past - the only thing besides the Supreme Court that could get his men back to work for RCA and CBS and their auxiliaries would be his own convention or an order from President Roosevelt. It was his contention that the dispute has nothing to do with the war and that if the War Labor Board hadn't "butted in", RCA and CBS would have signed long ago.

Two of the three members of the New York WLB panel recommended that the WLB exercise its power to end the strike; that no instance has been cited where employers have paid money to a union for the benefit of unemployed union members who are not employees of the paying employers. Also that radio has probably not decreased the employment of musicians.

Mr. Petrillo was there in person Friday afternoon and presented his case in his own particular way. With him, as is usual in his Washington appearances, was Joseph A. Padway, American Federal of Labor general counsel, acting as Chief Counsel for AFM and personal adviser to its cock-sure little president. Others in the AFM entourage were Leo Cluesmann, Secretary; Robert A. Wilson, associate to Mr. Padway; Henry A. Friedman, attorney; Clair E. Meeder, Assistant to the President; A. Rex Riccardi, another assistant; Harry J. Steeper, 1st assistant to the president; and Edward Canavan.

Those present for the transcription companies at the hearing were A. Walter Socolow, representing NBC, Associated Music Publishers, Inc., Lang-Worth Feature Programs, Inc., Standard Radio, and C. P. MacGregor; Robert P. Myers, RCA; Ralph F. Colin, Columbia Recording Corp.; C. Lloyd Egner, NBC Vice-President; Joseph H. McConnell, RCA Victor Division of RCA; James D. Wise, RCA and NBC; Milton Diamond and Jerome H. Adler of Decca Records, Inc.

WLB Chairman William H. Davis presided. With him were members Lloyd K. Garrison and Frank Morley, representing the public; George Batt, Reuben H. Horton and John McWilliams, representing industry; Matthew Woll, George Meany, Louis Lopez and John Brophy, representing labor.

Arthur S. Meyer, Chairman of the tripartite panel which held hearings on the dispute in New York, and Gilbert S. Fuller, industry member, were also present.

One of the highlights of the Friday session was when Mr. Petrillo declared that David Sarnoff, RCA President and William Paley, head of CBS, had offered him \$200,000 a year to abandon his fight for the special contracts. "They wanted to do through the back door what other companies are doing through the front door", Mr. Petrillo sarcastically commented.

Petrillo offered a compromise to the WLB in the form of agreeing to write the terms of trust to be thrown about the fund to be formed by the royalties in any manner acceptable to the Board.

Mr. Myers, for RCA, told the Board that the Musicians' Union included many thousands of players who, because of quality or the fact that they lived outside of the recording centers, never had worked for, or would work for, the recording companies.

"Here also", he said, "is a device under which a Union, instead of asking for increases for workers in future negotiations, could simply get an unlimited increase for itself and distribute the money to its members."

Mr. Petrillo interjected here his offer to write any acceptable formula safeguarding usage of the money, but Mr. Myers went on to argue that once such a formula were approved for the musicians it probably would enter into negotiations with numerous other unions and creep into other industries.

It was the opinion of one observer that the balance of control in the decision to be rendered by the WLB in this latest phase of the Petrillo case appeared to rest with Chairman Davis and Messrs. Garrison and Morley, the two Board members representing the public.

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WOR SILENT AS MARK OF RESPECT TO PERCY S. STRAUS

In one of the first instances of its kind in this country, Station WOR in New York remained closed until noon last Monday during the time of the funeral of Percy S. Straus, Chairman of the Board of R. H. Macy and Company, who died last week. Mr. Straus was a Director of WOR from January 1930 to October 1933.

"During these important years of WOR's growth his interest in the station's welfare and his encouragement in the forward steps taken by the management were of immeasurable help", a WOR news bulleting stated. "His influence has been a major contribution to WOR's progress and character."

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SAYS SENATE SHOULD ACT OR SHELVE RADIO LEGISLATION

Showing impatience at the delay of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, of which Senator Burton K. Wheeler (D), of Montana, is Chairman in considering the Wheeler-White radio bill, Senator Wallace White (R), of Maine, said this week the Senate should either dispose of the bill or let it go over to the next session. Senator White said he hoped to have a conference with Senator Wheeler on the subject at an early date and he believed there was still about a 50-50 chance to get together on a bill which could be passed by the Senate this session. He would not venture a prediction as to whether or not the House would likewise be able to pass a bill at this late date. The general opinion seemed to be that it would not, which would mean no radio legislation this session.

Senator White was of the opinion that the Senate should complete its consideration of the White-Wheeler FCC bill which has to do with the domestic situation before undertaking an investigation of the international communications set-up and a merger overseas similar to the Western Union and Postal in this country. The Senate has already appropriated \$5,000 to begin the study of the international situation.

How soon or how actively domestic radio legislation will be considered when Congress reconvenes rests with Chairman Wheeler. Senator White, who in addition to being the ranking minority member of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee is also Acting Minority Leader of the Senate, gave every indication that he was ready to go ahead at once if Senator Wheeler would join him. Otherwise Mr. White said he would advise putting off the consideration of radio legislation - a highly controversial issue - until after election.

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ARMY PLANS OWN STATION FOR OUR BOYS IN INDIA

American troops now fighting so desperately in India may soon be further encouraged by having their own radio station.

The Army special services branch has received permission from the Government of India to utilize three frequencies to broadcast to local areas, using non-commercial recordings of hit programs flown from the United States and soldier talent available in India.

Three daily news digests will be included in the ten-hour daily broadcasts, for which the first low-powered transmitters are being established. It is hoped to set up from six to ten local area broadcasts in India. A similar effort to supply radio entertainment for Americans in Egypt is under way.

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ROCK ISLAND TRIES OUT TRAIN-RADIO; McDONALD A PIONEER

The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific is the latest railroad to test out the possibilities of radio in conjunction with its signal system in increasing safety of train operation. Ernest A. Dahl, a radio engineer, has been appointed to direct the investigation and experiments. Immediate plans are for the development of radio communication between front and rear ends of trains, in yards between office and switching crews, and ultimately between dispatcher and train crews. Experiments in the use of radar for safety devices will be made.

Drew Pearson, who has been vigorously advocating train radio, in mentioning the fact that Ken G. Howard, Consultant of the Army Signal Corps had tried to interest the New York Central in radio equipment for operation of trains, brought to the surface another train-radio pioneer, E. F. McDonald, Jr., President of Zenith Radio Corporation, who writes:

"Karl Hassel and R. H. G. Mathews, who were the original Zenith Company before it became the Zenith Radio Corporation, started to interest the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in radio equipment in 1920 and did sell to them some radio apparatus which they used to advantage.

"I have before me our scrapbook which contains pictures taken in 1926 of the strangest train that ever left the New York Central Station in Chicago or probably any other city. That train was composed of a freight locomotive, a private car, and a caboose. In the private car and caboose were gathered railroad executives from all over the U.S. and Canada, newspaper men and radio men. The locomotive and the caboose were both equipped with radio transmitters and receivers. They operated on a frequency that was then considered shortwave, 115 meters, which sounds to us in these days like longwave.

"Mr. Gustafson, who is now our Vice President in charge of Engineering, was up in the cab of the locomotive with the engineer. When he came off that train he looked like a coal passer. Mr. Hassel, now one of our Directors, was the operator in the caboose.

"This strange train pulled out of the LaSalle Street depot early on the morning of July 5, 1926. When we reached the freight yards the locomotive was detached and between the locomotive, the private car, and the caboose there was placed a train of 125 freight cars.

"When this train was made up in the freight yard and we were ready to go, the engineer in the cab of the locomotive said by radio to the crowd in the caboose, 'I understand that there are a number of railroad men in the caboose and in the private car at the other end of my freight train. I also understand that there are a number of newspaper men and other non-railroad men. I just want to tell you that you are not on a passenger train now. Get ahold of something and hang on tight because that caboose won't start without

a terrific jerk. I am now opening my throttle. The locomotive is starting.' Almost thirty seconds elapsed before the caboose started to move and to me it felt more like a collision than the starting of a train. With all the engineer's warning, some of the newspaper fellows still went flat on the floor.

"This freight train then proceeded to Elkhart with all these observers on board. Constant communication was maintained between the cab and the caboose.

"This, I believe, was the first test ever made from locomotive to caboose, and thus in 1926 radio started on trains. While the railroad officials expressed great interest in the equipment, it was not adopted then, but it won't be long in the post-war period before you will see radio universally used by the railroads."

Throwing further light on the experimental use of radio-telephones for intertrain communication on the Belvidere-Delaware branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad in New Jersey, Representative Donald H. McLean (R), of New Jersey, included the following account from the Elizabeth Journal in his remarks in the House:

"Although train telephones making possible communication both ways between moving trains, between trains and wayside stations, and between the ends of trains are still in the experimental stage, tests in actual operation have indicated that they are feasible. Now, it appears, it is only a matter of time and further experimentation before the system can be put into general use.

"It is hard to visualize what this can mean toward safety of operation of both freight and passenger trains, as well as simplifying the work of operators and dispatchers as it is related to train movements. It will supplement block signals in safeguarding lives and railroad property.

"The initial installation for experimental purposes was made on the Belvidere-Delaware branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, running north from Trenton. Tests have proved the soundness of the plan, as applied to the freight-train service on the branch which is of considerable volume. Crews of freight trains and block operators in wayside towers talk to one another at any time it is necessary to transmit orders, reports, and other matters affecting train operation. In like manner the engineer in the locomotive can talk to the conductor of the train in the cabin car.

"Necessary equipment has been installed in 10 locomotives and 10 cabin cars and in a block station at Frenchtown, 30 miles north of Trenton, for testing and perfecting the system.

"Actually the train telephone is neither radio nor telephone. It incorporates certain features of both types of equipment and eliminates certain features of both. Radio wave bands are limited and use is prescribed and allotted, and transmission must be through paths universally provided by nature - ground and atmosphere. Wires between moving train and stations are impossible. Under the

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system worked out, on the other hand, transmission paths are restricted to railroad property.

"Rails offer a desirable communication transmission path. These, together with adjacent communication pole lines are used to make the necessary electrical contact."

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WINCHELL FINALLY SUES HOFFMAN; PIPES DOWN ON DIES

After much threatening on both sides, Walter Winchell, commentator and columnist last Monday filed suit in the New York Federal Court against Representative Clare E. Hoffman (R), of Michigan, for \$250,000 damages. The suit, however, was not for anything said over the air but a claim that the Congressman had written a letter to the editor of the Marcellus, (Mich.) News of March 16th, which held the columnist up to "public scorn, hatred, ridicule, contempt, shame and disgrace".

The complaint quoted a suggestion by Mr. Hoffman that the plaintiff be ousted from his position in the Naval Reserve, in which he has inactive status as lieutenant commander, and declared that the article created the impression that the columnist "was guilty of some improper, unbecoming and disgraceful conduct".

Mr. Winchell had previously quoted the letter as saying that Hoffman, through his pressure in the House of Representatives, had had Winchell stripped of his Navy uniform, stripped of his duties and stripped of his pay." He said the letter had been published "very recently, after Hoffman had demanded that the Secretary of the Navy give the House the facts in Winchell's Navy status", and had received those facts.

In the meantime, apparently there is a cooling off period in the name-calling between Walter Winchell and Representative Dies. Mr. Winchell made no further reference to Mr. Dies in his broadcast last Sunday night. Mr. Dies has been in Texas during the Easter Congressional recess. In his absence, Dies Committee investigators are going over the recordings of Mr. Winchell for the past two years. It is believed this may be a forerunner of a study of the broadcasts of other commentators by the Dies Committee.

All this is probably the calm before another storm as it is expected Representative Dies will summon not only Walter Winchell to appear before his Committee after Congress reconvenes but Winchell's sponsor, Andrew Jergens, of Jergens Lotion, Mark Woods, President of the Blue Network, and others.

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GEORGE C. FURNESS OF FAMOUS OLD EVEREADY HOUR IS DEAD

Supervisor of the Eveready Hour, the first commercial radio program to use a network, George C. Furness, an official of the National Carbon Company, died in New York City Monday after a short illness. Mr. Furness, a native of New Hampshire, was 60 years old. He is survived by a daughter, Betty Furness, screen and radio actress, and a widow, the former Margaret Rogers.

On his graduation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1906, Mr. Furness joined the Metallurgical Division of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation at Niagara Falls, N. Y.

In 1913 he was transferred to the corporation's Eveready Division in New York, for which, ten years later, he supervised the Eveready Hour radio program which first went on the air on July 26, 1923. This program was the first sponsored broadcast to enlist a network of stations.

During these early years of radio, Mr. Furness took a prominent part in the meetings of broadcasters and Government officials designed to clarify the confusion that existed during the organization of the industry. To the Eveready Hour have been credited the introduction of several ideas which have become a permanent part of broadcasting technique.

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JOINT ARMY-NAVY ELECTRONICS AGENCY TO BE DISSOLVED

An agreement for liquidation of the Army-Navy Electronics Production Agency is to be announced by Chairman Ramspect of the House Committee investigating the Civil Service. It is estimated that a saving of approximately \$5,000,000 a year will result with vastly improved conditions.

The ANEPA was established as a joint operation of the War and Navy Departments October 23, 1942, to attempt to clarify the situation then existing in the production of procurement of electronic equipment. This agency has had in excess of 1,000 employees, including Army and Navy officers but most are civilians.

Owing to the close association of this agency with the war program and the necessity of making certain that no action was taken adverse to the conduct of the war constant conferences were held by the Ramspect Committee with representatives of the War and Navy Departments, who finally were convinced that ANEPA was no longer required. The functions of ANEPA will be redistributed to appropriate services of the two departments and to the War Production Board. It was specifically charged that ANEPA was duplicating the work of Army and Navy expeditors and to a large extent overlapping the functions of the WPB.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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The Institute of Radio Engineers, Washington section, met last night (Monday). S. Young White of the General Communication Company in Boston, discussed "High Precision Tunable Receiver Design - 50 to 500 Megacycles."

 Leon Pearson, for the past 10 years associated with the "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column conducted by his brother, Drew Pearson, has resigned to cover the State Department for International News Service. He will continue to conduct his column and a radio program over WWDC in Washington.

 O. F. (Jerry) Achtenhagen, for the past two years General Manager of the Philco Training School, Philadelphia, Pa., has purchased the Radio and Appliance Distributing Company of Denver, Colo., a long-established Philco distributor serving the Colorado area, it was announced by Thomas A. Kennally, Vice-President in Charge of Sales for Philco Corporation.

 Television Station WCBW, New York, owned and operated by the Columbia Broadcasting System, will resume a limited production of "live" television programs beginning on Friday, May 5th. Temporarily at least, these productions will be limited to two hours a week, replacing the Friday evening transmission of motion picture film.

 Organization of an International Division of the Blue Network Company and the appointment of Donald Withycomb as Manager recently took place. The International Division will be responsible for the coordination of all foreign broadcasting activities of the Blue Network, especially as they relate to the exchange of programs with foreign companies.

 R.C.A. Communications, Inc. has opened its thirteenth New York City branch office. It is located at 24 State Street and the office call is "SS".

 The Hartford Times has purchased a well known land-mark, the Heublein Tower on Talcott Mountain for use of its Station WTHT. The 400-acre property includes, in addition to the tower and main buildings, a number of outbuildings, lookouts, a pavilion, etc. The purchase price was about \$70,000.

The tower, constructed of steel and concrete, rises 65 feet from the mountaintop, which is about 1,000 feet above sea level.

 The Travelers Broadcasting Service Corp. of Hartford, Conn., which operates WTIC, has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission for a commercial television station.

 The Audience Promotion Dept., a Division of the Mutual network's Department of Sales Promotion and Research, has inaugurated a regular weekly newsletter, edited by Harold Coulter, which

contains information vital to the efficient operation of the promotional activities of Mutual affiliates throughout the country.

 Station KRNT, Des Moines, will be the origination point for the Victory Party broadcast of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, in achievement of its 1944 goal of 75,000 members. Station WMT, Cedar Rapids; WNAX, Yankton, South Dakota; KMA, Shenandoah, Iowa; and KGLO, Mason City, Iowa, will also carry the half-hour program on April 12. Township meetings throughout the State coincide with the broadcast.

 In tribute to the invaluable service it has rendered to the American people through 60 years of peace and war, the Metropolitan Opera Association was presented with a silver plaque by the Blue Network on Saturday, April 8th. Making the presentation, broadcast over the Blue during the Opera Forum Quiz feature, was Mark Woods, President of the Blue. George A Sloan, President of the Metropolitan Opera Association, accepted it.

The plaque carried the following legend: "Diamond Jubilee, Metropolitan Opera House, to convey our congratulations on this historic occasion and in appreciation of twelve years of association through which the Metropolitan Operas have been broadcast over the Blue Network to the nation. Presented by the Blue Network."

 Dr. J. M. Coopersmith, Director of the Music Library and Copyright Division of Mutual, has just returned from a three months study of the musical resources of the Dominican Republic. In recognition of his services to the Republic, he was decorated with the order of Juan Pablo Duarte, the country's highest honor.

Dr. Coopersmith visited 22 cities of the Republic, carried with him portable recording equipment and was able to make 78 records of the folk music of the country.

 Speaking before the northern New Jersey council of labor-management committees, Dan D. Halpin of RCA Victor said Vitamin M is a key ingredient of the manpower, music, and morale production triumvirate which is doing an effective job in helping industry meet the nation's urgent call for weapons of victory. About 2500 plants, navy yards and shipbuilding yards throughout the country are now providing their workers with industrial music over internal broadcasting systems, he said.

 Ninety-six affiliates are cooperating with the Blue Network in the national advertising campaign launched in January by running the advertisements in their local newspapers, according to Keith Kiggins, Vice-President in Charge of Stations.

The first advertisement released to magazines and newspapers in January marked the beginning of a continuous, year-round campaign, representing the largest amount ever expended by the Blue in advertising. The three advertisements which have appeared lay the foundation for the basic theme and purpose of the drive - to promote radio broadcasting as a whole; secondly, the importance of the Blue Network in the entire picture; and finally, to promote each affiliate to the listeners in its area.

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