

# HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.  
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N. Y.

RECEIVED  
APR 15 1944  
FRANK E. MULLEN

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No. 1619

## RID FILM SEEN AS FCC PROPAGANDA THAT MISSED THE BOAT

The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture "Patrolling the Ether" extolling the work of the Radio Intelligence Division of the Federal Communications Commission in tracking down espionage transmitters which was introduced with such a great ballyhoo by Chairman James L. Fly, really was greeted behind the scenes with quite a laugh. Said to be obviously propaganda for the FCC and its Radio Intelligence Division, the picture was presented about three weeks after the Senate had upheld the House cut of \$1,654,857 in the appropriations of the RID, virtually wrecking it. In addition, the Senate slashed a half a million more from the regular FCC budget.

"The tardy appearance of the film was a lucky break at that" a high official commented. "If members of Congress had seen 'Patrolling the Ether', they would probably have lopped even more off the FCC appropriation."

However that may be, the film had the distinction of being the first motion picture to have its premiere by means of television, Chairman Fly making a special trip to New York where, as he spoke from the NBC television studios of WNBT, he was televised, and the program carried over the country's first television network.

"It is a pleasure to visit with you this evening on NBC's television network", Mr. Fly said. "We continue to marvel at the progress of science and the skill of American engineers who make possible the presentation of this program in your homes, not only in the immediate vicinity of New York City but also in Philadelphia where Station WPTZ of the Philco organization is rebroadcasting this program and in the Schenectady-Albany-Troy area where Station WRGB of the General Electric Company is carrying the program. The transmission of such programs through the air on this first television network is the forerunner of a permanent and indeed better nationwide television service to which we all may look forward.

"One of the greatest potential dangers threatening a nation in time of war is the deadly work of the enemy spy within the gates.

"Always a menace in past wars, the Fifth Columnist of today has become dangerous to an extent hitherto impossible because he is now able to arm himself with a new and powerful weapon - the radio.

"A spy without the means of smuggling out his information is useless. With such means he can be more destructive than whole regiments. He can sink convoys. He can betray troop movements. He can lead enemy bombers to their target.

"In radio, the spy has a veritable death ray - a magic wave which is instantaneous, invisible, silent. It is true that in World War One the radio had already been invented, but the transmitting equipment was cumbersome and conspicuous. Today, the spy can use short wave transmitters which are so compact they can be hidden in hotel rooms, garages, or automobiles without attracting attention. Yet some of them are so powerful they can throw a signal across the Atlantic.

"I have said that this new weapon of espionage is silent and so it is except for certain radio detectives equipped with sensitive devices and using scientific techniques. Such radio detectives are employed by your government in the armed services and the Radio Intelligence Division of the Federal Communications Commission. The manner in which these men maintain a relentless, never-ending, around-the-clock surveillance of the air waves to safeguard America from clandestine radio transmission will be dramatized for you in the MGM motion picture 'Patrolling The Ether' which you are about to see.

"The science of radio detection as developed by these men has made it possible for the Federal Communications Commission to hold enemy transmissions in this nation almost to zero.

"As the result of radio patrolling, the Axis agents found North America unhealthful. They then began to operate in South America. But they soon found that even there they were not safe from the surveillance of the American Government's listening network. The RID receivers can pick up radio signals thousands of miles away. Every suspicious signal from South America was promptly reported to the nation in which it originated. In many cases the State Department asked the FCC to send men down to lead the South American authorities to the exact location of the espionage transmitter. As a result of this cooperation the Brazilian authorities were able to round up more than 200 Axis agents in Brazil alone. Brazil and other South American nations were so impressed with the effectiveness of our work that they invited us to send men there to assist them in setting up their own radio intelligence services.

"Today, the Western hemisphere is in large part free of espionage communication.

"The methods so successfully employed by the FCC in frustrating espionage radio during this war were developed in its day-by-day work of running down all types of illegal or improper operation of radio stations and of various types of interferences from such devices as X-Ray machines, diathermy machines, high tension wires. Some of these noises can handicap or obliterate vital communications two thousand miles away.

"To give this nation the protection it needs from illegal operation or espionage communication, the FCC has set up monitoring stations or listening posts from coast to coast and in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska, and has supplemented them with mobile units that can speed promptly to the source of any suspicious signal.



"Up to date, the FCC's Radio Intelligence Division has furnished emergency bearings to some 400 aircraft - many of them military planes.

"This picture, 'Patrolling The Ether' is one of the important public services being rendered by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in the production of their 'Crime Does Not Pay' series. It was made with the cooperation and approval of the Federal Communications Commission. The incidents depicted in the film are, of course, fictional. When the full story of the RID - the Radio Intelligence Division - can be told after the war it will be found that truth is indeed stranger than fiction. The methods of operation shown in this picture are technically correct."

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#### FCC DEFERMENT BAN REAFFIRMED EXCEPT INTERNATIONAL

At the same time that Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service Director, issued the new list of critical activities in which men in the 18-to-26 group may be deferred, the Board of War Communications Inter-Agency Committee on Occupational Deferrals reaffirmed its previous decision, i.e., that exceptions to the ban on deferment of men in this age group in the communications industry should be limited to men in the critical occupations employed by international radiotelegraph, radiotelephone and cable carriers at points outside the continental United States.

FCC Commissioner E. K. Jett, Chairman of the Inter-Agency Committee, gave out the following supplementary statement on need for deferments for men in critical occupations in the Common Carrier Communications Industry:

"On March 30, the Inter-Agency Committee on Occupational Deferrals decided that of all men in critical occupations in the communications industry only those under 26 years of age employed in international communications outside the United States met the first criterion established by the Committee. In view of the serious effect that this decision will have on international as well as domestic communications services, and in view of the new criteria introduced by the Office of Defense Transportation and accepted for application to the railroad industry, reconsideration of deferments of men in the critical occupations in the communications industry is respectfully requested.

"Although the Board of War Communications is convinced that there is no justification for blanket deferment of men under 26, it proposes for the common carrier communications industry that deferment be considered after screening individual cases for:

"Men in critical occupations as defined in Local Board Memorandum No. 115 with a minimum of 3 years' service who move war traffic, install essential equipment or protect the continuity of service, and whose withdrawal from such employment in a particular



location would result in a serious diminution in the availability or quality of war communications service.

"The application of this definition reduces the number of men in the United States in critical occupations for whom deferments would be requested, as follows: (1) of 31 men under 26 in critical occupations employed in the United States by the international carriers, 20 men meet the requirements of the proposed definition; (2) of 2167 men under 26 employed by the two major domestic carriers, the Bell System and Western Union, 777 men meet the proposed requirements for occupational deferment. It will be noted that the 3-year experience limitation which is part of this definition is superimposed on the requirement that the men be employed in an occupation listed as 'critical' in Local Board Memorandum No. 115.

"In view of these facts and in view of the high standard of qualifications required in the proposed definition, it is believed that this request is reasonable and should be granted.

"The Inter-Agency Committee has, we think, properly defined the critical activities in the railroad industry in terms of 'personnel engaged in railway and motor transport service directly related to the movement of war freight necessary to support the immediate war objectives, the withdrawal of whom would decrease the safety, speed, and volume of the movement so as to affect adversely such war objectives'. The movement of war freight by the railroads and the movement of war traffic by the communications industry are similar in many important respects. The point need not be labored that the communications networks of this country and throughout the world are carrying huge volumes of war traffic. \* \* \*

"With respect to the essentiality of the traffic, it should be noted that at present 60 percent of all traffic carried over international circuits between the United States and Europe is government traffic. In addition, many of the facilities used by our armed forces are manned and maintained by civilian personnel employed by these carriers. For example, certain cable circuits though keyed by the military are actually kept in operation by technicians employed by the companies. The same is true with respect to a number of trans-Atlantic radiotelephone and radiotelegraph circuits. The situation with respect to the use of leased domestic wire facilities by the military and other war agencies, including private-line teletype, teletypewriter exchange and leased line telephone services, is equally important to that of international services furnished to the Armed Forces by the U. S. carriers engaged in international communications.

"Of the twenty occupations in the communications industry included in the critical list only three are related to the actual movement of traffic; the remaining 17 occupations involve the construction, installation, testing and repair of communications facilities. In my statement of March 30, I mentioned several reasons why the withdrawal of men in these occupations would have a serious effect on vital communications services. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to emphasize two points:

"First, voice communications are of an instantaneous demand nature. Record communications, while not of an instantaneous nature, must be effected within a very short-time interval to meet the needs of essential users. Should any breakdown in facilities occur, men employed in critical occupations must be ready at a moment's notice to switch channels and make repairs so that delays are minimized. The delivery of communications must be prompt or else the entire value of the service is negated. Electricians, engineers, and testing and regulating technicians together with the men directly engaged in transmission form a combination that cannot be separated; the work of one cannot be done without the other.

"Secondly, I wish to invite your attention to the fact that many of the construction programs in the communications industry are directly related to the most important types of war activities. To meet these and similar needs the industry must prepare in advance. Losses of men in critical occupations now engaged in construction, installation and actual and preventative maintenance of communication facilities would jeopardize the performance of the necessary work to be done.

"In the interest of equitable treatment for all essential industries and in the interest of preventing serious breakdowns in the transmission of essential war traffic, it is felt that the industry should be permitted on an individual basis to seek deferments for men in critical occupations directly engaged in the movement of communications traffic regardless of whether they are employed within or outside the United States. We therefore request adoption of the proposed definition of men in critical occupations for whom deferments may be granted."

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#### EDWARD R. PLACE JOINS RCA DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

Edward R. Place, former assistant to the Director General of the War Production Drive, has joined the staff of the Department of Information of the Radio Corporation of America.

Mr. Place has had wide experience in the newspaper, advertising and publicity fields. He formerly was Radio Editor of "The Providence Journal", Managing Editor of "Labor Management News", Editor and Publisher of "Playtime" magazine, and columnist on the old "Boston Transcript". In 1935, he was Publicity Director in New England for N. W. Ayer & Son, Inc.

Mr. Place was born on May 5, 1902, at Fall River, Mass. Graduated from Brown University in the class of '24, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship.

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## RYAN GOES TO NAB WITHOUT CEREMONY; FETZER SUCCEEDS HIM

J. Harold Ryan will take on his new duties Monday, April 17th, as President of the National Association of Broadcasters, in the same unostentatious manner as he has carried on his two years' work as Assistant Director of Censorship in charge of broadcasting. Likewise there will be no formalities or fireworks when John E. Fetzer, owner of Station WKZO at Kalamazoo, succeeds Mr. Ryan at Censorship.

It was a coincidence that last Thursday when Mr. Ryan went down to the Union Station in Washington to meet a member of his family that he bumped into Mr. Fetzer who was just arriving to take up his new duties.

Perhaps what Byron Price, Director of Censorship, said when accepting Mr. Ryan's resignation, is the best appraisal of the latter's official service.

"Mr. Ryan came to us in the first difficult days just after Pearl Harbor, organized and Broadcasting Division, and has given unsparingly ever since of his time and rare ability. Great credit is due him for this patriotic effort to make voluntary censorship of radio a success."

Mr. Fetzer has served since 1938 as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Broadcasters. He was reelected for another term at a recent district meeting in Indianapolis.

A native of Indiana, Mr. Fetzer studied at Purdue University, the National Radio Institute, Emmanuel College, the University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin. He holds degrees in liberal arts and engineering and has devoted his time since 1918 to research in radio engineering, construction of transmitting and receiving equipment, as well as to management of his own station, WKZO. The latter is a 5000-watt station, serving both Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

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## STORAGE BATTERY MANUFACTURERS WANT RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

The nation's electric storage battery manufacturers, through their representatives on the Battery Industry Advisory Committee, have requested the War Production Board to lift restrictions on the production of batteries by plants located in critical labor areas, WPB reports.

Members of the industry committee, according to WPB, have indicated that they have sufficient manpower and facilities now available, plus adequate supplies of raw materials, to step up production to a point equal to the permissible production figure allowed plants located in less critical labor areas. Plants located in these labor areas are permitted to produce up to 110 percent of their base period. WPB has taken the request under advisement.

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## OWI SAYS 32,000 WOMEN ARE NEEDED FOR RADIO AND RADAR

Employment of women in nearly every type of job - in industry, on the farm, in military services and in local activities - must be stepped up sharply before Summer if war production demands and home front needs are to be met, the Office of War Information said in a report on womanpower.

Information for the report was obtained from the War Manpower Commission, the War, Navy and Labor Departments, Federal Security Agency, Federal Works Agency, and Bureau of the Census.

Women now hold one out of every three war jobs in the United States, but the number at work must be increased by one and a half to two million by midyear.

Approximately 32,000 women are needed in the radio and radar industry, OWI states, and 8,100 women could be placed in radar alone in Chicago, where radar workers are being actively recruited.

Radar and other electrical industries will provide the greatest number of new jobs for women, but the opportunities are limited to a few localities. One radar plant would place women in 90 percent of its jobs.

WMC records do not show what proportion of the part-time workers are women but reports that first-line war industries are using them in increasing numbers. The Women's Bureau has found a few plants where some women were working part-time in making aircraft, gun and torpedo parts, carbine rifles, radio tubes and equipment, life rafts and life boats, textiles and many other war products.

More women were hired than quit in ordnance and industries making machinery including electrical. Women hired to make engines and turbines numbered 7.48 out of every 100 on the job, compared to 4.01 who quit. Women hired for communications equipment were 5.47; the smaller number of 4.46 stopped work. To make tanks 10.23 women were hired and 5.94 quit.

Although many industries still pay women beginners less than men starting in the same job, the principle of "equal pay" has been considerably advanced since the beginning of the war program. Both Government and unions advocate "equal pay for equal work".

The National War Labor Board reports that since it announced its policy of equal pay in November, 1942, more than 2,250 firms have reported voluntary equalization of rates for men and women doing work in equal quantity and quality. These voluntary applications of the equal pay principle have increased the rates of approximately 59,500 women workers.

No figures are available as to the number of women workers who have been affected by the Board's decisions in cases involving

the equal pay issue. A recent unanimous decision directed a West Coast aluminum concern to establish rates on the basis of job content, irrespective of the sex of the worker. Decisions have profited women in automotive, lumber, electrical and steel industries among others.

Last year the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers reported it had signed 150 agreements with employers providing equal pay in more than 800 plants. The United Rubber Workers late in 1943 had negotiated 142 contracts and the United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers had signed 50 contracts, all containing equal pay clauses. American Federation of Labor unions also have reported definite and widespread progress in obtaining wage adjustments for women.

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#### PEARSON AGAIN BLASTS REP. COX IN FCC PROBE AFTERMATH

Winner in a \$1,350,000 libel suit brought by John Monroe, who figured in a House Military Affairs Committee investigation, and continuing to hold the national spotlight as the challenger of Vivien Kellems, war contractor who advised business men not to pay their taxes, Drew Pearson, commentator and columnist again turned his attention to Representative Cox, of Georgia, another of his enemies. Mr. Pearson wrote in the Washington Post:

"The Merry-Go-Round recently told how Eugene Garey, ousted Federal Communications Commission Investigating Committee, lived in a fancy suite in the Mayflower Hotel here for eight months at the taxpayers' expense, with the knowledge and approval of the Committee's former Chairman, anti-New Deal Representative Gene Cox of Georgia.

"Here's a second installment to the story:

"Just before Cox resigned the chairmanship under pressure he stole another march on the taxpayers by boosting the salary of his niece, Mildred Cox, a committee stenographer and record clerk, from \$2,400 to \$3,000 a year.

"Miss Cox, one of six relatives whom the Georgia Congressman has planted on the Federal Payroll, is continuing in her job at the increased salary under the new Chairman, Representative Clarence F. Lea, of California. Thus Cox, though ousted, has his own personal observer right on the inside to see what is happening.

"Congressman Cox has been famed, ever since he came to Congress, for the army of his kinfolk who ride the gravy train. It is a singular event when a Cox relative is taken off the payroll. But this phenomenon has now happened. Post Office Department records show that last November a brother, Robin Cox, was replaced as Acting Postmaster of Donalsonville, Ga.

"With this omission here's the latest rollicall on the Cox clan:

"Grace Cox, wife, clerk to the Congressman, \$3,120 a year; Rosa Robinson, sister, Cox's secretary, \$3,380; J. Chaney Robinson, brother-in-law, Assistant House disbursing clerk, \$3,120; Mildred Cox, niece, \$3,000 a year; Charles M. Cox, nephew, Agricultural Adjustment Administration official, 5,600; Mrs. Jim Hoggard, sister, Postmistress of Camilla, Ga., \$2,550; Representative Cox \$10,000. Total annual take of Cox and his kin, \$30,770.

"Note: In addition Cox aroused widespread comment and criticism when he received a check for \$2,500 from a Georgia radio station in connection with lobbying activities before the FCC."

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#### FCC HEAD TO HOLD ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS IN SOUTH

Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission is on his way South for round-table discussions with broadcasters. Tonight (Friday) Mr. Fly will meet with the broadcasters in the Asheville, N. C., area.

On Monday night (April 17th), Chairman Fly will foregather with the broadcasters in the Jacksonville, Florida, area. Problems of mutual interest will be discussed.

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#### RADAR CREDITED WITH WIPING OUT DARKNESS IN BATTLE

Alexander P. Seversky writes in the New York Times:

"The main scientific factor in wiping out the differential between daylight and darkness in aerial combat, of course, has been electronics, especially radar. It provides electrical instead of optical detection of targets, thus canceling out fog, clouds, darkness and other visibility elements as barriers; and, of course, it is far more accurate than visual instruments. Even in the daytime and in good weather, cloud masses often block visibility. Thus the radar method becomes more desirable and, indeed is being used right around the clock.

"Battleships today depend on the instantaneous radar mechanism rather than visual means for determining the position of a target and the direction in which it is moving. But in the air radar is even more important than on the surface because speeds are so great.



"Two airplanes flying in opposite directions at maximum speed sometimes pass each other with a speed greater than that of sound. Fire control, to do any good, must therefore be both instantaneous and continuous, which is possible with electronic devices though it was virtually impossible with visual instruments.

"Aerial warfare, in addition, has been revolutionized by the fact that now, through electronic control, artillery concentration in the air has become feasible; that is to say, many guns of many planes can focus their fire on the same moving target, just as naval artillery does on the sea."

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## 12,000 "WORLD WORDS" TO BE GUIDE TO ANNOUNCERS

"World Words", CBS guide book containing 12,000 recommended pronunciations of names and places in the war is expected off the presses this month. (Columbia University Press, \$3.00).

The book is the work of W. Cabell Greet, CBS Speech Consultant and Associate Professor at Barnard College, Columbia University, and is to be presented to all CBS announcers in New York and copies are to be sent to the network's affiliated stations, as well as to the British Broadcasting Corporation and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

"World Words" is an accumulation of the 4,400 words in Professor Greet's CBS book, "War Words" and 48 subsequent mimeographed bulletins issued to CBS announcers since "War Words" was published in February 1943. In "World Words" about 12,000 pronunciations include battle fields, air force objectives, likely places of attack during coming months, and names of important persons.

"Pronunciations for two-thirds or three-quarters of these cannot be found in any other volume of easy access", says the preface of the book. To insure as accurate pronunciations as possible, Professor Greet conferred with several hundred professors, consular agents and foreign correspondents. In all, the book runs over 400 pages.

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Another unit in the worldwide link-up of United States Army radio stations was obtained with acquisition of Station 12M in Auckland, New Zealand. Programs from America will be broadcast for the entertainment of troops in that area.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::  
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The Spring meeting of the Stations Planning and Advisory Committee of the Blue Network will be held Friday, April 21st, at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York, Mark Woods, President of the Blue, announced. Plans for the future will be discussed by the members of the Committee, representing the 181 affiliates of the Blue, with Blue executives.

Carleton D. Smith, of NBC, Carl J. Burkland, of CBS, and Kenneth H. Berkley of the Blue Network, are among the nominees for contributor representation on the Board of Trustees of the Community Chest of Washington, D. C.

Beginning this week, WOR is using sustaining news periods through the day for promotion messages for WOR's special and regular programs. It is believed this is the first time that news periods have been utilized to carry thirty-second announcements of the station's shows.

The Tower Realty Co., Baltimore, Md., have asked the FCC for a construction permit for a new commercial television broadcast station to be operated on Channel #4 (78000-84000 kilocycles).

C. W. Sharpe, formerly Comptroller of Columbia Pictures Corporation, has been appointed assistant to John H. MacDonald, NBC Vice President in Charge of Finance. Mr. Sharpe joined the staff of Price, Waterhouse and Company in 1925 as Junior Accountant, resigning in 1934 to become Chief Accountant for Columbia Pictures. He was made Assistant Comptroller in 1936 and Comptroller in 1943.

New York's Municipal Station WNYC has been authorized to reinstate its mobile relay broadcast station WNYG. The mobile station is used for outside pickups and as a standby for emergency for studio-to-transmitter transmission.

Ed Norton, Chairman of the Board of Station WAPI, CBS affiliate in Birmingham, Ala., has been elected to membership of the General Education Board, Rockefeller endowed organization promoting "education within the United States of America without distinction of race, sex or creed".

E. F. Pepper, Stockton, Calif., has applied to the FCC for construction permit for a new High Frequency (FM) Broadcast station to be operated on 45,900 kilocycles,

Eric Johnston, President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, West Coast industrialist and Zenith radio distributor, having made an unprecedented record for being nominated for various high offices is now being spoken of to fill the unexpired term of Senator Bone of Washington, recently appointed U. S. Judge.

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