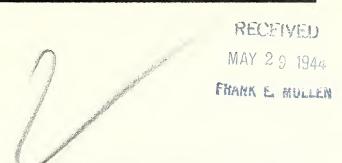
NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

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HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.



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No. 1631

BELIEVED NEW RADIO BILL HASN'T A CHINAMAN'S CHANCE

The inside dope on Capitol Hill was that the Wheeler-White Radio Bill, a revision of the 1934 Communications Act, just presented to the Senate Commerce Committee will be attacked from all sides and will get exactly nowhere. The most optimistic official talked with said if Senator Burton K. Wheeler (D), of Montana, co-author of the bill, was behind it as strong as he appeared to be at the moment, that he might be powerful enough to run the bill through the Senate this session, the national convention and the campaign permitting. However, the gravest doubts were expressed as to the bill's getting through the House. And finally, if by any miracle the House passed it, it was argued there would not be the remotest chance of the President signing it.

There will be an executive session of the Senate Commerce Committee today (Friday) at which the non-controversial features of the bill will probably be discussed. This will be followed by another meeting of the Committee next Wednesday, May 31st, at which portions of the bill will be taken up in which members find themselves in disagreement.

J. H. Ryan, President of the National Association of Broadcasters, had no comment to make but said that the NAB Legislative Committee would meet in Washington Monday to consider the new bill.

There was a prospect of the bill reaching the Senate fairly soon if the present intention of holding no public hearings is carried out. "Why hold public hearings", one legislator exclaimed. "We've done nothing for the past three or four years but hold hearings or conduct investigations on one phase or another of radio and if we really intend to do anything about it now is the time to get down to business."

Speaking of the bill generally, Senator Burton K. Wheeler, apparently anticipating criticism, said: "I am not pleased with some parts, while Senator White doesn't like others."

It was believed the fight the industry and the powerful group of news commentators will make on the provision to prevent commercial sponsorship of news broadcasts, will be sufficient to dump over the applecant so far as that part of the measure is concerned. A section of the new Act states: "No news items, or news analyses or news commentories" shall be included in any sponsored broadcasts. This restriction was believed to have been inspired by Senator Wheeler and other members of Congress who have had their axes out for Walter Winchell, Drew Pearson and others and the supposition was advanced that it might have been one of the topics

Senator Wheeler discussed when he was at the White House recently. It would not be surprising if Mr. Wheeler hadn't gone over the whole bill with the President.

"There is no more reason for news broadcasts to be commercially sponsored than there would be for newspapers to print at the top of each article or column a statement that the following information came through the courtesy of a certain commercial advertiser", Senator Wheeler said. "Newspapers offer news and analysis as a public service, made possible by advertising which appears elsewhere in the paper. The radio should do the same thing."

He said that he was "not so much concerned" about straight newscasts as about commentators and analysts, but that his bill covered the entire radio news fields.

The clear channel people are up in arms and surely will be heard from on the provision that no broadcast station operating on frequencies ranging from 550 to 1600 kc. shall be granted a license to operate with power in excess of 50 KW except for experimental purposes.

The Administration can be counted on to put up a fight on the proposal for a reorganization of the Federal Communications Commission which would reduce the membership from seven to five Commissions, with a rotating chairmanship, and create two divisions each under its own Chairman, one to deal specifically with public communications, wire and radio, received by the public directly (broadcasting), and the other with private communications, wire and radio by a common carrier or carriers, or intended to be received by a designated addressee or addressees.

Over the assignment of bands of frequencies to the various radio services, and all matters of general interest and concern, jurisdiction is to be exercised by the whole Commission, of which the Chairman shall serve as executive officer.

In the selection of its Chairman and the designation of members to serve on a division, provision is made that rotation in office shall be such that no member may occupy the office of Chairman of the Commission more than one year, or be authorized to serve on a particular division more than two years out of any five-year period.

Not more than three members of the Commission, and not more than two of either division, shall be members of the same political party.

There will be no enthusiasm on the part of Mr. Fly or the White House on the idea of a rotating Chairman as the former has served the Administration too well for them to desire his replacement.

On the other hand, it is very doubtful if either Mr. Fly or the White House will oppose the provision which forbeds the FCC from discriminating against newspapers or other applicants on

account of their business. It was said to have been Mr. Roosevelt's own idea to make it hot for the newspapers because the papers didn't support him in the last campaign. It was reported then that 60% of the newspapers were against him. Charley Michelson in his book, "The Ghost Talks", says 90% are against him now. If so, the President and Mr. Fly will be lucky if the papers don't turn the tables and make it hot for them.

There will not be any enthusiasm on the part of the broad-casters for the clause that provides equal time for both parties (or individuals) involved in controversial radio discussions (to apply whether time is sold or donated). This could play havoc with broadcasting schedules and anybody who made a squawk would have to be given time whether or not his claim was unjust.

The thing the broadcasting industry will fight the hardest for is the provision which would nullify the Supreme Court ruling which has caused consternation in the industry. It forbids the FCC to regulate the business of broadcasters, or to control or affect the substance of material to be broadcast. This new Section 23, amending Section 326 of the present act, states:

"a. Nothing in this Act shall be understood or construed to give the Commission the power to regulate the business of the licensee of any radio station unless otherwise specifically authorized in this Act.

"b. The Commission shall have no power to censor, alter or in any manner affect or control the substance of any material to be broadcast by any radio station licensed pursuant to the Act, and no regulation or condition shall be promulgated or imposed by the Commission which shall interfere with the right and duty of the licensee of any such station to determine, subject to the limitations of the Act, the character of the material to be broadcast.

"Provided that nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission in its consideration of applications for renewal of license to determine whether or not the licensee has operated in the public interest."

Senator Wheeler added further:

"The method of granting licenses, the procedure in adversary proceedings and the whole process of court review has been spelled out more exactly. We also have provided for cease and desist orders or violation of rules and regulations so that a licensee is not in jeopardy of losing his license. Thereafter violation of a cease and desist order would be grounds for revocation, but only under court procedure on appeal."

FCC SEEKS INFORMATION REGARDING NETWORKS' FM POLICIES

The Federal Communications Commission has approved the following letter to be sent to all national and regional networks:

"The Commission is informed that certain of the major networks have recently advised their affiliates of new policies concerning the availability of network programs for FM broadcasting. Certain provisions in the new affiliation contracts with standard broadcast stations relative to the network affiliation of FM stations owned or operated by the networks' affiliates have also been noted.

"The Commission's Report on Chain Broadcasting, dated May 2, 1941, states:

'Similarly, the appearance of network broadcasting in the frequency modulation (FM) field will merit careful study by the Commission.'

and the Commission's Regulation 3.261(c) provides:

Sec. 3.261 Minimum operating schedule: service -(c) in addition to the foregoing minimum requirements, the Commission will consider, in determining
whether public interest, convenience, and necessity
has been or will be served by the operation of the
(FM) station, the extent to which the station has
made or will make use of the facility, to develop a
distinct and separate service from that otherwise
available in the service area.

"The Commission would appreciate receiving from you at this time a full statement of your present policies and methods of operation relative to FM broadcasting, together with an outline of your plans for the development of and future operations in this field. Any comments you may care to make indicating the extent to which your present and proposed policies and operations conform to the policy of the Commission's Chain Broadcasting Regulations and Regulation 3.261(c) will be welcome."

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SEDITION LAWYER SUES PEARSON FOR \$1,000,000

Drew Pearson, the Blue Network and its Washington, D.C. outlet, WMAL, were named defendants in a \$1,000,000 libel and slander suit filed earlier in the week by James J. Laughlin, one of the defense counsels in the sedition conspiracy trial, now being held in the Capital.

Suit is based on Mr. Pearson's Sunday night broadcast in which he predicted that Mr. Laughlin will be indicted in Maryland in connection with a case in which he successfully defended a man charged with bank robbery.

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WELLINGTON, BBC N.Y., UPSTAIRS TO LONDON; SALT SUCCESSOR

The British Broadcasting Corporation announces an important shift in its broadcasting "high command". Having served since September, 1941, as North American Director of the BBC, Lindsay Wellington is returning to London headquarters to assist in the central direction of British broadcasting which now employs (including wartime staff) more than 10,000 people. He is succeeded by John Salt, who since 1942 has served at B.B.C.'s headquarters in New York as Deputy Director.

During Mr. Wellington's direction of the New York office, B.B.C. branches have been opened in San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, and Toronto. Close contact has been maintained with Government radio branches and with the industry as a whole. Exchange visits of American and British program producers have increased mutual understanding of broadcasting techniques in the two countries. Rebroadcasting of B.B.C. programs with wartime objectives has notably increased and American listeners have become familiar with such programs as the weekly exchange feature "Transatlantic Call" on CBS; "Atlantic Spotlight", on NBC and "Transatlantic Quiz", produced by BBC in New York for the Blue Network. A parallel development has proceeded in British listening. BBC now furnishes "home" listeners with first-hand coverage of American events by both newsmen and British and American commentators. Full length features reflecting the American war effort are produced in the United States for listeners in Britain.

Mr. Wellington's final duties in New York included the setting up of arrangements for the handling of BBC invasion broadcasts to America. His successor, Mr. Salt, is already known to many American broadcasters. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and for some years held a commission in the Royal Engineers. He travelled extensively on survey work in Egypt, Transjordania, Southern Arabia and worked also in European countries. He joined the BBC in 1936 and for the three years before the outbreak of war was Program Director in Manchester. His extensive knowledge of European countries led to his appointment in 1940 to BBC, London, where he became Director of the European Service. He was appointed Deputy Director in New York in 1942.

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CBS ORDERS TELE TRANSMITTER; TO USE BOTH STANDARDS

Backing its belief in higher television standards for postwar broadcasting, the Columbia Broadcasting System disclosed that it placed an order with General Electric for an experimental television transmitter to be installed in the spire of the Chrysler Tower, where its present transmitter now broadcasts television pictures on prewar standards. The new transmitter will operate on radio frequencies nearly 10 times as high, above 400 megacycles, as the present CBS television station, WCBW.

In placing this order, the first of its kind in electronic "We know that General Electric is technically development, CBS said: far advanced in work on the higher frequencies, and hope that the transmitter can be completed in good time. The order is, of course, subject to our obtaining an experimental license from the FCC for operation on this frequency, and is also subject to mutual agreement on specifications and cost. Our primary concern is to make practical field tests, at the earliest possible moment, of a television broadcasting service on the higher frequencies. "

In accepting the order, Dr. W.R.G. Baker, Vice President of the General Electric Company, said that General Electric's technical organization is presently "engaged 100% in war work" and that present restrictions on materials and mannower precluded immediate work on the transmitter.

The new transmitter, when installed or as soon thereafter as possible, is intended to broadcast "high fidelity television pictures " containing about twice as many tiny picture elements as the present standards prescribe, and should also make possible the transmission of high fidelity pictures in full color, said CBS. will operate on a power of 1-kilowatt. This contrasts with 40-kilowatt power contemplated by CBS for broadcasting the lower standards on its present frequency of 56 megacycles, but it was pointed out that far less power is required on the very high frequencies for satisfactory recention. CBS, which has placed a tentative order, also with GE, for the 40-kilowatt transmitter, expressed a hope that both transmitters could be installed in the Chrysler Tower simultaneously. The General Electric Company does not believe this is possible, due to the developmental work and techniques involved.

Paul W. Kesten, Executive Vice President of CBS, pointed out that the company thus proposes for at least a brief interval after the war, to broadcast the present and the improved quality of television pictures simultaneously. "It is our hope", said he, "to demonstrate so clearly the advantages of finer television images that we will accelerate their general adoption in FCC standards and in set manufacture. We are willing to assume the expense of double transmission if we can thereby save broadcasters in general from the burden of the greatly increased cost of such double operation. More important still, we hope thereby to save the public from any large investment in sets which might become obsolete overnight."

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MACKAY RADIO OPENS FIRST COMMERCIAL CIRCUIT WITH URUGUAY

Admiral Luke McNamee, President of Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, announced Thursday the opening of the first commercial radiotelegraph circuit between the company's New York terminal and the Uruguayan Government Station at Montevideo. The link provided for the first time unlimited international radio-telegraph service to the public.

"The New York-Montevideo circuit", Admiral McNamee stated, "constitutes the twenty-first foreign circuit established by Mackay Radio since the outbreak of the war, December 7, 1941.

COMMUNICATIONS NOTABLES JOIN IN TELEGRAPH CELEBRATION

There was a great turnout of the high command of the communications and radio industries last Wednesday at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the sending of the first telegraph message by Samuel F. B. Morse.

Senator Burton K. Wheeler (D), of Montana, presided at the unveiling of a tablet to Morse at the Capitol and at night there was a big dinner given by Western Union, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, R.C.A. Communications, Inc., Press Wireless and Tropical Radio.

Among those present at the dinner were Senator Wheeler, Senator Wallace White (R), of Maine; Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones; Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission; Maj. Gen. Harry C. Ingles, Chief Signal Officer of the Army; Maj. Gen. William H. Harrison, U.S.Signal Corps; W. S. Gifford, President of the A.T.& T., W. A. Winterbottom, Vice-President, R.C.A. Communications; Frank C. Page, Vice-President, I.T. & T.; FCC Commissioner T.A.M. Craven, FCC Commissioner C. J. Durr; J. H. Ryan, President of National Association of Broadcasters.

Also Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr., Director of Advertising and Publicity, Radio Corporation of America; FCC Commissioner E. K. Jett; Edward F. McGrady, Vice-President, RCA; Otto S. Schairer, Vice-President, RCA; Rear Admiral Joseph R. Redman, Chief of Naval Communications; F. C. Guthrie, District Manager, R. C. A. Communications; Carleton D. Smith, General Manager, National Broadcasting Company, Washington; Col. Frank Wozencraft, Loyd A. Briggs, Vice-President, R. C. A. Communications; T. Berrier, Assistant Vice-President, A. T. & T.; Louis D. Botari, Commercial Manager, R. C. A. Communications; Joseph Pierson, President, Press Wireless; Lawrance G. Hills, Vice-President, RCA Communications, and Lewis J. Proctor, former Vice-President, I. T. & T.

Also Kenneth Stockton, Vice-President, I. T. & T.; John F. Gibbons, Assistant Attorney, R.C.A. Communications; Robert Howley, President of Tropical Radio; Ray Hutchens, Editor of Relay; Sol Taishoff, publisher of Broadcasting; Frank B. Warren, General Counsel, R.C.A. Communications; Roland Davies, Editor of Telecommunications; Louis Caldwell, WGN counsel, and Francis C. DeWolf, Chief of State Department Communications Division.

Senator Wheeler noted the development of the carrier system and multi-channel radio, the teletype and the telefax, and contrasted modern means of communications with the poles of a few years ago containing hundreds of wires. He described how fast press traffic moves 400 words a minute from Moscow by radio telegraph and how a metropolitan newspaper in this country using radiotelephone talked with Australia at a rate of 250 words a minute.

"Perhaps here we should take a glimpse into the future of this electronic fairyland", Senator Wheeler said": Mail sorted and

distributed by electric automatons; automobiles protected from accidents at dangerous crossings by electric eyes; railroad train crews always in full communication with each other and with the dispatcher; railroad trains protected by automatic stopping devices; airplanes, spanning the earth, flown by means of a master pilot, guided to landings automatically, and their passengers receiving or sending messages; automatic automobile driving on main cross-country highways by means of a master pilot; electric eyes which, unfortunately for some of us, tell police stations far ahead just how fast the driver is going; facsimile newspapers and television newsreel scenes, not only in the home, but even in the automobile as we drive along; the transmission of electric power, not by wire but by wireless; cooking and heating homes by radio; the processing of metals and plastics by heat induction through radio; even the production of electric power from the sun through use of vacuum tubes.

"All of these things are not only possible - many are already accomplished, practical, working facts. Only a few are still in the experimental stage. And all this, mind you, is only the beginning."

Speaking at the dinner Chairman Fly said:

"Today we see a Congress which likewise has been apprised of the problems in the field of international communications. There, American companies are at a constant disadvantage in competition with government owned or government boosted monopolies abroad. Legislation permitting or requiring merger of American communication facilities in the international field is badly needed in order to eliminate this disadvantage. It is needed still more, however, in order to place this country in a position to take the lead in enunciating and making effective a democratic program assuring the unfettered flow of intelligence to and from all points in the world.

"Last November, I outlined five things sorely needed in the field of international communications. They were and are (1) a uniform rate for all messages throughout the world in all directions (2) a low rate of a few cents per word to any communications gateway in the world (3) instantaneous radio communication between all important areas on the globe (4) uniform and low press rates throughout the world and finally (5) complete freedom for all peoples of the world to communicate directly with each other."

The full text of the addresses of both Senator Wheeler and Chairman Fly are printed in the Congressional Record of May 25th.

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Representative Clare E. Hoffman (R), of Michigan, has inserted in the <u>Congressional Record</u> of May 20th the article "Keep An Eye on Mr. Fly" by Frank Waldrop which appeared in the <u>Washington Times-Herald</u>.

5/26/44

"FANTASTIC AND STUPID", WILSON BRANDS LISTENING DEVICE TALE

Charles E. Wilson, Executive Vice Chairman of the War Production Board, branded as "fantastic, silly and stupid" a report that he possessed a highly sensitive device which enabled him to tune in on a conversation taking place in the home of Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal, 3 miles away.

"In the first place", Mr. Wilson said, "there is, of course no such device. Moreover, I regard it as an insult to suggest that, if there was a device like that, I would use it in the illegal manner claimed."

The reported device was first described by Drew Pearson, Washington Merry-Go-Round columnist, May 17th. Mr. Pearson stated Mr. Wilson had tuned in on a dinner conversation among Forrestal, Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, and Bernard Baruch, Chairman of the World War I War Industries Board, and overheard them planning to "take over" the WPB.

The story continued that Mr. Wilson had made a recording of the conversation and with Donald Nelson had taken it to the White House and played it to President Roosevelt.

Mr. Pearson stated the device was based on the dictaphone principle, but did not require the "planting" of a dictaphone inside the room.

Mr. Wilson said Mr. Pearson's report appeared to be "so fantastic and stupid that I was at first going to disregard it."

"If there was such a machine, those in General Electric (which reportedly developed the device) and I (Wilson is a former GE president) would see to it that it was put to a better use than the one suggested", Mr. Wilson said. "I regard it as a reflection on me personally, and I bitterly resent it."

He said Mr. Pearson had made a partial retraction in a radio broadcast, "in a manner that was not at all effective."

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POSTWAR TELE AS QUICKLY AS TRANSMITTERS CAN BE BUILT

Once standards have been set by the Federal Communications Commission, every major city in the United States will have a television station just as quickly as transmitter deliveries can be made at the end of the war, it was predicted today by James H. Carmine, Vice-President in charge of merchandising for Philos Corporation, in an address on television to be delivered tonight before the Poor Richard Club at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

It may be possible to produce and sell table model television receivers for as little as \$125 after the war, Mr. Carmine said. Larger "projection-type" sets, giving a picture 24 inches by 18 inches may cost up to \$400, he indicated.

A New York to Philadelphia television relay transmitter link connecting the two cities for video broadcasts was officially dedicated during the meeting, with Eddie Cantor and Nora Martin putting on a special performance in New York, which the audience in Philadelphia saw via the link. This new link, installed at Mt. Rose, N.J., which supersedes previous experimental installations, marks the first regularly scheduled commercial television relay system in the country. It will be in operation every Monday night to make the New York programs of WNBT available to the viewing audience of Philco Station WPTZ in Philadelphia. "Similar links, constructed at a cost of about \$15,000 each and located approximately 50 miles apart, may well form the basis for a nation-wide television system in the postwar years", Mr. Carmine said.

"Television broadcasting facilities today are within reach of approximately 25,000,000 people, provided receivers were available. If, as we expect, at least 42 more television stations are added in key cities in the immediate post-war period to the nine now in operation, the coverage would expand to about 70,000,000 - or more than half the population of the United States. The next step will be for television to fan out from the key cities into smaller communities via relay links and network hook-ups. Later, through relays or coaxial cables the stations will probably be joined into national chains, which will allow the television audience all over the country to see as well as hear their favorite stars and political leaders, and to witness the great news events of the world passing before their eyes.

"Philoo was one of the first major companies in the United States to undertake television research and development", Mr. Carmine pointed out. "It began work in this field in 1928, almost simultaneously with its entry into radio." Since 1928 Philoo has spent several million dollars in television research and development, Mr. Carmine said. With many of the outstanding research and development engineers in the country on its staff, Philoo has pioneered in a large number of the major developments in television. The Philoo television station in Philadelphia went on the air in 1932 and telecasts to date have totaled more than 6,000 hours.

Among the major Philco developments demonstrated to the Poor Richard Club was the "Plane-O-Scope", a new kind of picture tube with a completely flat surface, which allows the television picture to be viewed from any angle, avoids the distortion characteristic of all older-type bulbous tubes, and eliminates light reflections.

Mr. Carmine also explained a Philco invention known as the "ion-trap" which removes the ion blemish from the screen of the picture tube. "The ion blemish is caused by the impact of heavy negative ions on the screen", he pointed out. "The television picture is built up on the screen by the impact of electrons generated in the electron gun. Unfortunately, the gun also sendsout unwanted negative ions, which hit the center of the screen and make a dark brown spot. The ion-trap filters out these ions from the electron beam and contributes greatly to the bright clear television picture now available."

Seventeen television receivers placed throughout Franklin Hall enabled the audience to witness a demonstration of the latest Philoo television and to see Eddie Cantor's program but on in New york, wia television relay in Philadelph

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•	:	•	TRADE	NOTES	:	:	:
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Formal application has just been made for the transfer of license for WINX in Washington to Eugene Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post. Mr. Meyer recently bought WINX, 250 watts on 1340 kc. reportedly for \$500,000.

According to Leonard Lyons, New York columist, the Cowles Brothers, who last week acquired Station WHOM as an entering wedge into New York City, soon will purchase Philadelphia and Boston stations as the nucleus of their chain.

Columbia Broadcasting System has blossomed forth with a special press head in colors especially designed for its television news. Very neat and attractive.

Radio Editor John Hutchens, writing in the Sunday edition of the New York Times, pays tribute to Arthur Hopkins for his new dramatic series "Arthur Hopkins Presents" heard every Wednesday night on NBC at 11:30 P.M. (EWT). Mr. Hutchens calls it "a treasure chest of drama over which the most distinguished of living American theatrical producers is presiding." He adds, "The National Broadcasting Company has honored itself and the public with this project."

Effective today, Station KSJB, 250 watts on 1400 kc., Jamestown, North Dakota, became affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System as a special supplementary station.

Effective June 1, Station KTTS, 250 watts, Springfield, Missouri, joins CBS as a special supplementary station.

Mr. Elmer Davis of the Office of War Information defended OWI spending in comparison with that of George Creel's 1918 organization by noting that General Marshall is also spending more than General Pershing did because this is a bigger and more complicated war. Mr. Creel never spent a nickel on radio, he argued, whereas OWI is spending \$5,000,000 this year.

The CIO Political Action Committee also claims credit for defeating Rep. John Martin Costello (D), of the 15th California District for renomination. Mr. Costello was beaten 26,900 to 15,664 by Hal Styles, a radio commentator, a New Dealer. Styles ran a "Help Thy Neighbor" program on a local station designed to get unemployed persons a job. Claims 30,000 benefited as a result. Previously he had a roving reporter program, interviewing passers-by over a portable microphone. His latest activity comprised two programs, "Lest We Forget" designed to ease the returning pathway for returning war veterans; the other "Young America Speaks" combating juvenile delinquency.

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X NOTE: DUE TO MAY 30TH BEING A HOLIDAY, THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE OF THIS SERVICE ON THAT DATE.