

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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No. 1640

July 26, 1944

WJJD REVEALS PROHIBITIVE PETRILLO PLATTER DEMANDS COST

A brief submitted to the Chicago Regional War Labor Board by Station WJJD reveals that the demands by James C. Petrillo, President of the American Federation of Musicians that this station employ from 7 to 10 additional musicians who are not needed, would increase the station's payroll in the sum of \$840 a week or \$43,680 a year. Furthermore, it contended that the studios of this secondary Class B station would not have enough facilities to accommodate that many extra men, in fact could not accommodate them at all.

The WJJD brief states that to put into effect the Petrillo demands that musicians be put on as record turners would require the radio stations of the country to hire at least 2,000 additional employees and these, even if they were needed, it is contended, could not be spared from war work.

It was said that during the strike of the musicians at WJJD, five stenographers learned to turn the records within a short period of time and by way of proving that record turning was not a full-time occupation requiring no knowledge of music, these five stenographers turned the records and did their other duties too.

Ralph Atlass, President of Station WJJD, recently purchased by Marshall Field, testified that his inexperienced stenographer-record turners were able to do everything that was required. Says the WJJD brief:

"Miss Whittal, Mr. Atlass' secretary, gave a demonstration to the panel, bringing in a turntable and showing how records were turned. The record shows that this very turntable was used in the station and that Miss Whittal, without any experience, in five minutes was able to turn records. The evidence is so clear that record turning is an unskilled occupation incidental to the work of a person in a radio station, calling for only a few minutes of actual work during the day, that it does not require further comment except to quote from the testimony of Mr. Atlass, who has been in the business since its infancy:

"A man might work conceivably, at the most, one-quarter of that time (referring to the regular hours of work of musicians as established by the Union contract), or six hours during the course of the week, which would be putting the needle of the record down, taking it off, I mean. However, that would be the maximum. If a station was carrying a lot of live programs, it would still be necessary to have the same number of record turners. If a station is carrying all live programs, it would still be necessary to have the same number

of record turners, because transcriptions are recorded. A substantial part, or the biggest revenue comes from announcements, and if a station was all live, it would still need a record turner to put on these announcements between programs.

"Now, most programs run fifteen minutes, a lot a half hour, and some as much as an hour or two hours, but generally speaking, the smallest unit if a live program is fifteen minutes.

"If an announcement was inserted at every possible opportunity, between all programs, the record turner would actually work one-half minute, because that is all the time there is between programs, to put this announcement on every fifteen minutes, so, in the course of an hour, he would actually work two minutes. In the course of a five hour day, he would work ten. In the course of a five day week he would work fifty minutes, and we cannot conceivably, at least without the persuasion of this Board, through an order, enter into a setup where we are putting on men who may work as little as fifty minutes a week, and have nothing else to do."

"At the present time the cost of musicians to a small station like WJJD represents 8% of its gross receipts. The expenditures of other secondary stations for musicians as compared with their gross receipts range from 2.7% to 7.8%. On the other hand, the major network systems' cost of musicians is only 2.3% of the receipts derived from their sales of time alone, exclusive of charges made for talent. * * *

"If some of the larger motion picture studios, MGM, Warner Bros and Fox, for instance, are only required to employ 35 men based upon their gross income, it would appear that a station like WJJD should at the most be required to employ one musician. Certainly MGM's gross income is, unfortunately, more than 35 times that of WJJD."

"Evidence introduced by Station WJJD shows that their present employees are receiving abnormally high wages for the amount of time they are actually working. The average compensation is in excess of \$3.00 per hour. We therefore do not have a case of a laborer who is being ground under the heel of a hard, cruel employer. The evidence shows that of the eleven employees, only two of them worked the full 25 hours per week established under the contract as the regular work week. Of the others, they did not work more than 6 to 15 hours of the 25. The work consisted of live programs, record turning and rehearsals. The average compensation per hour of work ranged from \$3 to \$7.50 an hour. The Union, however, was not satisfied with this. The station was obligated, under its contract with the Union, to employ at least ten musicians. They, however, could play live programs, turn records, rehearse, and do program work, provided they did not work in excess of 25 hours of any week and if they did, they would be entitled to overtime.

"The establishment of a quota system is unique and unusual in the record of American industry. It means that the employer must employ a given number of people as demanded by the Union whether he

he has any need for them or not. The fundamental basis of Union recognition and security has always been that the employer will employ Union members and will recognize the Union as the bargaining agent of the employee. To establish a quota system is to establish the principle that a man is entitled to be paid whether he works or not. It is the recognition of a make-work or feather-bedding program, a practice particularly abhorrent and un-American during this period of critical labor shortages."

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COL. McCORMICK IS FOR FREE RADIO SAME AS FREE PRESS

Col. Robert R. McCormick, Editor and Publisher of the Chicago Tribune, and owner of Station WGN went to the bat for the freedom of radio as well as the freedom of the press in a speech broadcast by the Mutual Broadcasting System in which he said, in part:

"The subject of political control of the radio is so much in discussion that I need not refer to it. I will point out that the tenure of wave lengths is analagous to land tenure in feudal times, when men held of their overlord and were dispossessed at his will.

"Just as feudal ownership of land turned into private ownership, so I believe will the ownership of wave lengths. And this in the not far future, because radio is a difficult art which not many can master. Just as there are more newspapers and magazines than there are men qualified to edit them, there are now more wave lengths than there are owners who know how to use them.

"As we have known for long, publications are being started all the time and most of them fail. Of the successful ones, few last more than one generation. So already we find station owners disposing of their burden and buyers are not so many that a commission is necessary to allocate wave lengths. Wave lengths will become property and will be protected in the courts like other property.

"When this state has been reached, slander by radio should be treated as libel, with the same penalties, and radio should be given the same freedom as the press enjoys."

Station WGN celebrated its 20th anniversary last week with a public display of old and new radio and television equipment and a full-page color spread of pictures in the Tribune's Sunday Graphic Section portraying notable occasions in the station's history.

WGN, which is Mutual's station in Chicago, has also announced the rules for its \$10,000 cash prize competition for the design of a studio theatre which will be erected as soon as materials are available after the war. The contest, which will be for the design of the studio theatre only and not for the design of the proposed building of twelve or more stories that will house it, will be open to all persons, partnerships, corporations and associations every-

where except employees of WGN and the Chicago Tribune and members of their families.

First prize in the contest will be \$5,000; second, \$2500, and third, \$1000. There will be fifteen honorable mention awards of \$100 each. A booklet of rules and explanations of the contest has been prepared by WGN and will be sent without charge to persons making written application to the station. Prospective entrants are reminded that all types of radio broadcasting presentations, including present amplitude and frequency modulation programs, as well as television broadcasting, will be produced on the stage of the new studio theatre.

All entrants in the competition are required to register their intention to compete and applications for the competition must be in no later than twelve o'clock noon of Wednesday, November 1, 1944. Registration does not obligate a person to submit an entry, but it is for the purpose of enabling the sponsor to make communications with the registrations covered by the rules.

Judges who will select the winners include Col. Robert R. McCormick, Frank P. Schreiber, Manager of WGN, and Henry Weber, Director of Music for WGN. John W. Park, Production Manager of the Chicago Tribune, and a licensed architect, has been selected to act as professional adviser.

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BALDERSTON NEW PHILCO V-P OF OPERATIONS

William Balderston, formerly Vice President in Charge of the Commercial Division, has been elected to the position of Vice-President in Charge of Operations, and a member of the Executive Committee of Philco Corporation.

Mr. Balderston attended the University of Wisconsin and saw service in the last war as an officer with the Lafayette Division. From 1919 to 1930 he was Vice President and Factory Manager of the Ray-O-Vac Company of Madison, Wisconsin.

In 1930 Mr. Balderston joined Philco to organize the Car Manufacturers Division to handle sales of automobile radios to the motor industry. The pioneering engineering and promotional work of this Division under his direction was largely responsible for the great popularity of automobile radios today and Philco leadership in this field.

In 1941, Mr. Balderston was elected a Director and Vice President of Philco with offices in Washington to be in charge of the Company's war work, including the production of radar and radio war equipment, for the Army and Navy.

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WM. S. PALEY BACK IN U.S. TO CONFER WITH WAR OFFICIALS

Returning to the United States for what he described as a "very short stay", William S. Paley, Chief of Radio, Psychological Warfare Division, Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces, arrived by plane from England last Saturday, directly following a trip of inspection throughout the areas of the Normandy peninsula occupied by Allied troops. Mr. Paley, who is on leave of absence to the Office of War Information from his position as President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, said that while here he will confer in Washington with officials of OWI and the War Department about further plans for the functioning of his section of the Psychological Warfare organization.

As Chief of Radio in this work, attached to General Eisenhower's headquarters under General McClure, and as a member of OWI's overseas staff, Mr. Paley said he could not comment in detail on the nature of the work, but indicated that it involved the following activity: broadcasting from the United Kingdom having to do with military operations to enemy and occupied countries, such as "The Voice of SHAEF"; the SHAEF control of radio units and public address systems in the combat and consolidation zones; the planning for and eventual control and operation of the broadcasting facilities in enemy occupied territories until those territories are declared liberated; and the coordination with OWI in the operation of radio stations ABSIE (American Broadcasting Stations In Europe).

Mr. Paley likewise declined to make any comment on postwar broadcasting in the United States or the plans of his company in this field. On the ground that he doubted if it was proper for him to comment, in his present status, on his company's future activities, Mr. Paley suggested that such inquiries be directed to Paul W. Kesten, CBS Executive Vice President, who is in charge of the company during his leave of absence.

This is Mr. Paley's first return to the United States since he left in November, 1943, on his original radio assignment from OWI for the Army's Psychological Warfare Division in the Mediterranean theater. He spent several months in North Africa and in Italy and organized the radio network in Italy which has since been operated under the Psychological Warfare Division of the Allied Command. Shortly after General Eisenhower was given the Supreme Command of Allied Forces in Europe, Mr. Paley was transferred to London and given his present responsibilities at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces.

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The broadcast of the "Poem and Prayer for an Invading Army" written especially for the National Broadcasting Company by Edna St. Vincent Millay and read by Ronald Coleman, has been perpetuated in the form of a record. Also Niles Trammell, President of NBC, has had a special printing of the broadcast made.

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COL. T.H. MITCHELL SUCCEEDS MR. WINTERBOTTOM AT RCAC

Lieut. Col. Thompson H. Mitchell has been appointed General Manager of R.C.A. Communications, Inc., Lieut. General J. G. Harbord, Chairman of the Board of Radio Corporation of America announced on Monday. Colonel Mitchell succeeds the late William A. Winterbottom who had served as Vice President and General Manager of RCAC since formation of the Company until his death on July 8. Confirmation of Colonel Mitchell as Vice-President is anticipated when the Board of Directors of RCAC meets next month.

Colonel Mitchell, who first joined RCA seventeen years ago, recently has served as Chief of the Traffic Operational Engineering Section of the Engineering Branch of the U. S. Army Communications Service, Washington, D. C. He has been assigned to inactive duty after nearly two and a half years with the Signal Corps. He was in the European theater of operations for two months last Winter.

A graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis (Class of '25), Colonel Mitchell resigned from the Navy in 1927 to enter the communications field. He was Manager of the Southern California District of RCAC, with offices in Los Angeles, when he accepted a commission as Major in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer early in 1942. In March, 1943, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

During his more than fourteen years with RCA, Colonel Mitchell worked with the Pacific Sales Division and the Engineering Department. In 1929 he was District Manager for the Radiomarine Corporation of America, an RCA subsidiary, with offices in Los Angeles. The following year, he was transferred to Honolulu to become Hawaiian General Superintendent of RCAC, a position he held for five years.

When RCAC opened its new Southern California District offices in 1935, Colonel Mitchell was called back to the mainland and appointed Manager. He continued in that position until his entry in the U. S. Army.

Colonel Mitchell was born in New Boston, Texas, on May 7, 1901, the son of Dr. and Mrs. R. M. Mitchell.

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The National Association of Broadcasters has received word from Greensboro, S.C., that radio is helping to cope with absenteeism.

Three announcements are broadcast daily over WBIG urging workers to report to their regular shifts. This is followed with a weekly dramatic skit entitled "To Whom It May Concern", which depicts the efforts of our fighting men.

July absenteeism, over June, in all types of local industry, was 11.5 percent less, according to Maj. Edney Ridge, WBIG's General Manager.

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U.S. SURVEY SHOWS 28% OF RADIO SETS NEED REPAIRS

In a review presented by the Office of Civilian Requirements, WPB, of repair status, age and quantity in domestic uses of 23 household appliances, radios stand out as the item most in need of repair, followed by oil cooking stoves, vacuum cleaners and washing machines.

Although more than half of the appliances are five or more years old, the percentage found to be in working order ranges from 85 percent in the case of radios to 99 percent in the case of several items of heating equipment.

Among radio-owning households, eight per cent have none in working order. Among households with gas or electric water heaters or hot air furnaces, only one per cent or fewer have none in order.

The extent of need for service and repairs found in the survey ranged from one per cent for electric water heaters to 28 percent for radios. Seventy-nine per cent is the highest proportion of success in obtaining repairs (for vacuum cleaners); 30 percent (for gas water heaters) is the lowest. For most items surveyed, the proportion recently in need of repair is less than 10 percent. The average of the percentage of success in obtaining repairs, for all items, is 61 percent.

In estimated number in households, radios lead the list of items, with more than 46,000,000 in homes of the country. Owners report that 85 percent of these radios are in working order, but 28 percent of the households with radios state they have needed some sort of repair since January 1. More than half reported they had no difficulty in obtaining repairs. Only eight percent of households owning one or more radios say they have none in working order. Over 50 percent of the domestic radios in current use are five or more years old.

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BROADCASTERS FORESEE MORE HOME SET RADIO TUBES

Actual production of radio tubes for civilian home radio sets at a sharply increased rate is under way in the nation's tube plants.

Arthur Stringer, National Association of Broadcasters' Director of Circulation, estimates that at least 100 percent and possibly 200 percent more civilian radio tubes will be delivered in the last half of 1944 than in the first half.

Between 35 and 40 percent of the increased production is expected to be shipped in July, August and September.

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FLY RESIGNATION REPORTED TO STOP RADIO PROBE; FCC DENIAL

The Administration has begun a drive to suppress until after the November election all Congressional investigations which may bring forth evidence damaging to President Roosevelt's fourth term campaign, according to Willard Edwards in the Washington Times-Herald. Also Mr. Edwards says the head of the Federal Communications Commission, Chairman James L. Fly, will be the first to be laid on the chopping block. He reports a deal on Capitol Hill whereby Mr. Fly will resign before the middle of August in return for a cessation of the investigation the House has been making into the FCC.

Inquiry at the Commission brought forth the usual denial that Mr. Fly had any intention of resigning.

"Like Henry A. Wallace, Fly is to be dumped overboard for the good of the party and the Commander-in-Chief. He is slated either for another Government post or for temporary retirement to the private practice of law, destined to be given his reward if the Democrats triumph in November", Mr. Edwards writes.

"Representative Lea (D), of California, Chairman of the Committee, declined to comment on this report that the group may consider its work done should Fly resign. But he remarked significantly that no interim report would be filed on the testimony garnered to date.

"Members had announced such a report would be made when the FCC last month finished its defense to charges that it has reduced the radio world to a complete subjection by terroristic methods.

"If the deal involving Fly's resignation goes through, the minority members admitted, they will be powerless to stop a whitewash. In addition to Lea, the Committee is ruled by Representative Hart (D), of New Jersey, from Boss Frank Hague's district, and Representative Magnuson (D), of Washington, Democratic nominee for the seat of Senator Bone (D), of Washington, who retires with this Congress to accept a Federal judgeship."

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PEARSON GETS REP. KLEBERG'S SCALP; ADDS 57 STATIONS

Drew Pearson is credited with the defeat of Representative Richard Kleberg in the Texas primaries. Mr. Pearson charged that Representative Kleberg, member of the wealthy King Ranch family had required two page boys and an usher, whose positions he had secured in the House of Representatives, to pay him a part of their salaries for getting them the jobs. Rep. Kleberg, who has been in the House continuously since 1931, lost to Capt. John Lyle of Corpus Christi, now with the Army in Italy.

It was announced last Sunday night that Serutan, Drew Pearson's sponsors, had added 57 new stations, making a total of 169 stations on the Blue Net now carrying the Washington commentator's broadcasts.

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STORY BEHIND FDR'S RADIO ADDRESS TO DELEGATES REVEALED

The story behind the broadcast of President Roosevelt's acceptance speech to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago may now be told:

Carlton Smith, NBC executive in Washington, and Clyde Hunt, Chief Engineer of Columbia's Washington staff, were summoned to the White House. They were told there of the President's proposed trip, while the delegates would be convening in Chicago, and they were requested to communicate the details to their news chiefs - Paul W. White of CBS, and William Brooks of NBC.

These four joined with Leonard Reinsch, Radio Director of the Democratic National Committee, in working out the final arrangements for Mr. Roosevelt's acceptance broadcast.

Special wire facilities were provided from the pick-up point to CBS Master Control at Station WBBM in Chicago, and in turn to submaster control in Columbia's booth at the Chicago Stadium. From the booth, the broadcast was distributed to all the networks, and to the public address system in the Stadium.

Emergency lines were provided in case of any technical failure in the radio circuit. Besides these, emergency facilities were provided at WBBM and at the booth in the Stadium, should there be any equipment failure.

Another circuit was provided from the CBS network to the origination point on the West Coast, to receive the cue words indicating when President Roosevelt would start his address. The actual switch from the Stadium to the President was made from the CBS control room in the Stadium.

Field equipment always used by CBS for presidential pick-ups was transported from WTOP, CBS Washington station, to the coast.

In order to conform with the mandatory secrecy surrounding the President's whereabouts during all these arrangements, the pick-up point was always referred to in communication between technicians and executives - as Shangri-La.

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OWI ADDS TO POWERFUL PACIFIC COAST SHORT-WAVE STATIONS

Both the OWI and the armed forces are augmenting their radio facilities in the Pacific area. OWI has purchased equipment for the construction on the West Coast of two short wave stations, twice as powerful as any existing American facilities, which when completed will assure reception of American broadcasts to India, Siberia, China and Japan.

Each of the two plants, for which the Federal Telephone & Radio Corp., Newark, N. J., has supplied the materials, will have three separate transmitters, one of 200 kilowatts and two of 50.

Already operating is the new Pacific Ocean network of the Armed Forces Radio Service. Recently it broadcast for the first time to American soldiers on formerly Japanese-controlled land. Regular broadcasts are transcribed and flown to Honolulu from the United States.

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CONGRESS ADVICE ASKED RE HIGH PRICED RADIO STATION SALES

The Federal Communications Commission on Monday asked Congressional direction as to the policy it should follow in passing on the sale of radio stations where the sales prices are far in excess of the going-concern and physical property values of the stations and appear to involve considerable compensation for the radio frequencies themselves.

In identical letters to Senate Interstate Commerce Committee Chairman Burton K. Wheeler and to Representative Clarence Lea, Chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, FCC Chairman James Lawrence Fly suggested the "tremendously high prices" which radio stations command in the present market indicates the sellers may be profiting from their lien on a radio frequency which they have been authorized to use under the Communications Act of 1934, but whose ownership under the Act is reserved to the public.

Chairman Fly's letter follows, in part:

"The Congress has had before it proposals to limit the amount of consideration to the value of the physical properties (of radio stations) transferred but no provision of this character has been adopted. The statute does make clear that the frequencies are not in any way the property of the licensees. The Commission has rejected and is prepared to reject any transfer which on its face involves a consideration for the frequency. The Commission, apparently consistent with Congressional policy, has approved transfers that involve going-concern values, good will, etc. There remains, however, a serious question of policy and one on which the law is not clear, as to whether the Commission should approve a transfer wherein the amount of the consideration is over and beyond any amount which can be reasonably allocated to physical values plus going-concern and good will, even though the written record does not itself show an allocation of a sum for the frequency. Our concern in this regard is heightened by the tremendously high prices which radio stations are commanding in the present state of the market. This is illustrated by the fact that one local station was sold for a half-million dollars and some regional stations are selling for a million or more.

"It is the Commission's policy to disapprove of transfers which obviously represent the activities of a promotor or broker, who is simply acquiring licenses and trafficking in them. Under the present state of the law, however, it is not clear that the Commission has either the duty or the power to disapprove of a transfer merely because the price is inordinately high - even though it may well be deduced that a substantial value is placed on the frequency. In the absence of a clear Congressional policy on this subject, we thought best to draw the matter to the attention of your own Committee and the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce."

Mr. Fly then gave a list of 23 such transfers and sales as he refers to which have taken place since January 1st and which total to about \$6,536,000.

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"THIS IS MY STRIKE"; PETRILLO DEFIES WLB AND COURTS

War or no war, election year or no election year, War Labor Board or no War Labor Board, Courts or no Courts, James C. Petrillo broke loose again, and was on the front page of most every newspaper in the country today (Wednesday) with the most arrogant demands he has yet made. The pint-sized music czar declared in Chicago, according to the Associated Press, that he had ordered sixteen musicians at radio station KSTP, Minneapolis, to quit work immediately "until that management decides whether it wants the War Labor Board or the courts to handle this dispute."

"Mr. Petrillo said that three months ago after a contract dispute the WLB ordered the men back to work and they went back.

"We abided by the WLB decision, we went along with them', Mr. Petrillo said. 'Now this fellow (Stanley Hubbard, President of KSTP) goes into the courts and gets an injunction against us. Well, we're going along with the WLB. If he doesn't want to, let him say so and have the WLB withdraw. Then we'll get into the courts. It's going to be one or the other.'

"A Minneapolis District Court has temporarily restrained the musicians from striking pending a hearing Friday.

"Mr. Petrillo said the Federation's Minneapolis local was not concerned with the present order, adding that 'this is my strike now'."

To this the New York Times added:

"At St. Paul, Stanley Hubbard, President of KSTP, said he had sent a telegram to Mr. Petrillo at New York, stating that the station would 'withdraw all court proceedings so we can both await the War Labor Board's decision' if the musicians union's president would 'withdraw this strike'.

"In a statement earlier, Mr. Hubbard said that the station 'would be very happy to withdraw all court actions and abide entirely by the decisions of the War Labor Board'.

"Mr. Hubbard declared that Mr. Petrillo's statement was 'one of a series of statements by him to confuse the public. Petrillo never has been given credit for his origination of double talk of which today's statement is a good example', Mr. Hubbard added.

"Mr. Hubbard said that 'the real reason for the trouble in Minneapolis is the fact that Mr. (George) Murk, President of the Minneapolis local is opposed to old-fashioned music.'

"He has made the statement to me', Mr. Hubbard added, 'that as long as he is running the local, the hill billies, as he calls them, are not going to appear in Minneapolis.'

"The dispute could be settled by Mr. Petrillo, Mr. Hubbard added, 'if Petrillo had but one ounce of sincerity in his statement.'"

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JAPS EMPLOYED BY U.S. CAUGHT TAKING FCC FILES HOME

A special session of the House Committee investigating the Federal Communications Commission was called yesterday to hear Fred Nitti, a native born Japanese, employed by the Office of Strategic Services, and John Kitasaoka, American-born Japanese, who edits scripts or Radio Tokyo broadcasts in the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Division of the FCC, as to the possession of foreign broadcast files found in their rooms. Though now employed in confidential capacities by the U. S. Government, both were in a relocation camp after Pearl Harbor.

Both Japanese called to the witness stand Tuesday denied under oath that they had transmitted information to representatives of the Japanese government. The Government documents, marked "restricted - for Government use only - not for publication" had been taken by Kitasaoko, he admitted, from his FCC office to his home. When his room mate, Nitti, saw them, he asked for permission to study them, Kitasaoko testified, saying they would aid him in his confidential work for the OSS.

The documents consisted of digests of Japanese radio broadcasts. A mass of additional papers remained for scrutiny by the Committee staff.

FCC Counsel Charles R. Denny, Jr. came to the defense of the Japs. He told the Chairman that the "restricted" label did not mean that the papers carried information vital to the security of the country and that there was no regulation against removing them from Government offices.

He expressed confidence in the loyalty of both Japanese, although he admitted he knew little about Nitti. He conceded that it had been "improper" of Kitasaoko to show the documents to Nitti.

An article by Nitti for the Japanese camp paper at Heart Mountain, Wyo., denouncing Washington, D. C., as "an American scene of prejudice" because of the "appalling and savage treatment of Negroes" was read into the record. Nitti said it was intended merely to show Jap-Americans that they were being well treated by comparison. Denny declared Nitti had a constitutional right to freedom of speech.

"That kind of writing stamps him as an agitator, striving to promote disunity", asserted John Sirica, counsel for the Committee.

When Nitti complained that he had always been regarded in the United States as "an enemy alien" because he had been born in Japan, Congressman Lea remarked: "Your employment by this Government in a highly confidential position would seem to be fair recognition."

Incidentally it may surprise readers to learn that Japs, alien-and American-born, are not only running loose in the Capital but are employed by the Government. The office building from which this letter issues, about three blocks from the White House, fairly swarms with these Japs - men and women - supposedly all loyal and American-born, and on the U.S. payroll. Someone going down in an elevator filled with them remarked:

"Can you imagine a bunch of Americans, U.S. or Japanese born, even being allowed their freedom in Tokyo at this time, much less hired and paid by the Japanese government? Who really knows whether the Japs in Washington are loyal or what they are really up to? We are surely the world's prize saps."

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SOUTH AMERICAN TELEPHONE RATES REDUCED

General reductions in rates for 3-minute week-day telephone calls from points throughout the United States to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Colombia and Haiti and reductions on overseas calls to Puerto Rico from 16 States will become effective August 1, 1944, as the result of amended tariffs filed with the Federal Communications Commission by The American Telephone and Telegraph Co. Proportionate reductions will be made in Sunday rates.

At the same time, ocean link charges for week-day program transmission channels to all these countries, except Puerto Rico, will be reduced from 17 to 33 percent.

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SCISSORS AND PASTE

Play-by-Play Radio Account of Guadalcanal Battle

On August 5 and 6, 1942, our observation posts in the New Hebrides made out large U.S. convoys steaming North, well to seaward, and our speculations were answered with the dawn of August 7, as we learned that our comrades were at last landing in the Solomons.

Alerted against enemy counterattack, we manned not only our weapons but our radios, and were rewarded by one of the unique play-by-play broadcasts of history. By pure accident one of our radiomen chanced upon the frequency used for air-ground communication in the Guadalcanal-Tulagi area.

As the day wore on, we heard continuous reports and messages detailing the progress of our forces. Once came the thrilling order from a bombing squadron commander who launched a devastating attack simply by the radioed command, "All right boys, excavate that hill!"

When 40 enemy bombers swept over Guadalcanal next day, a staff officer, apparently carried away by excitement, continued a running description of the raid, a la Ted Husing, into a live microphone: "One ... two ... five ... we're shooting them down like flies! I personally counted 12 down from that last wave ... Oh! Oh! Here they come again! I'm signing off and going under the table!" -

-(Major Robert D. Heinl, Jr., in August issue of
National Geographic Magazine)

\$24 Radio Kept Turned On For 9 Years; Never Repaired

Warrant Officer Lloyd M. Hill of the Marines has kept a \$24 radio going continuously for nine years without repairs of any kind or replacement of tubes.

When Warrant Officer Hill was a pilot-radioman aboard an airplane carrier in 1934, the custom was to turn off radios before landing on the theory that "dead" sets would better sustain the impact of landing. He experimented by keeping his radio on during landings. At the end of a month a check up showed that although many tubes had broken in other planes, none had suffered in the ship flown by W.O. Hill.

The following year he bought a \$24 radio. Since radios have no moving parts, he theorized that breakdowns must be caused by temperature changes which cause expansion and contraction of metal and condensation of moisture on parts. -(New York Times)

7/26/44

Radio Called No. 1 Medium For Reaching Public

With the all important speeches at the National Conventions, it became apparent that political bigwigs have finally taken on radio as their No. 1 medium in reaching the American public. For the most part, big shots, while admitting that newspapers are a potent factor, contended when interviewed that the 1944 election will be won or lost via the radio. Contributing factors, according to the delegates and officers of the convention, are showmanship, on the spot commentaries by nationally known radio personalities, and actual interviews with those men who are the motivating power behind the parties.

- (Variety)

Says Petrillo Takes His Middle Name Too Seriously

Senator Vandenberg wants Congress to release the music of school children from the prohibitions imposed on it by James Caesar Petrillo. To that end, the Senator has introduced a bill to prevent Mr. Petrillo and his AFL Musicians Union from interfering with non-commercial cultural or educational broadcasts by schools.

By demanding the use of union musicians, Mr. Petrillo took the music of school orchestras off the radio two years ago and has kept it off, Senator Vandenberg says.

We venture that in the whole country Mr. Petrillo is a minority of one on the merits of the Vandenberg bill. We choose to believe that not even the members of Mr. Petrillo's union are opposed to it.

But obviously the bill does not go to the root of the trouble. Nothing less than a law making unions liable under the anti-trust statutes will limit the scope of Mr. Petrillo's dictatorship. He takes his middle name too seriously.

- (Washington Daily News)
(Scripps-Howard)

Petrillo Compared to Goebbels

Recently an announcer closed a program of symphonic music broadcast from Mexico City with the words, "This program was heard in the United States and Canada by the permission of James C. Petrillo."

It would seem that we now have in America a self-appointed Goebbels who can tell us what we may hear on the radio!

Perhaps we need to add a "fifth freedom": Freedom from domestic dictators.

- (A letter to the Washington Star from Carmel, Calif., signed "A Chaplain")

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::: TRADE NOTES :::
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J. Harold Ryan, in one of the first formal and lengthy speeches he has made since assuming the presidency of the National Association of Broadcasters, will address the State of New York Department of Health State Conference on the Use of Radio in Farm and Home Safety in New York City, tomorrow night (Thursday). The topic of Mr. Ryan's talk will be "Radio's Public Service in Time of War".

 Robert Kaufman, trading as National Birth Certificate Advisory Service, 5371 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, who through radio broadcasts and by other media has represented to war workers and others that birth certificates are necessary to prove United States citizenship in obtaining employment in war factories, shipyards and Civil Service positions, has stipulated with the Federal Trade Commission to cease and desist from (among other things) "failing in radio broadcasts to specify, clearly and unambiguously, in each commercial reference thereto, the exact nature of the commodity or service offered for sale by him".

 For the fourth time in less than two years Zenith Radio Corporation has received the Army-Navy Production Award for outstanding achievement in producing materials essential to the war effort.

 The Mutual Broadcasting System announced Tuesday, as a result of action of its Board, that the network intends to eliminate so-called hitch-hiker and cow-catcher commercials at a date not later than January 1, 1945.

 Bob Peare, Vice-President of the General Electric Company, in Charge of Broadcasting, accepted the plaque presented to WRGB, G.E.'s television station at Schenectady, by the American Television Society, for the station's outstanding contribution to television programming.

 To accommodate the increasingly large number of studio audiences, the Blue Network has leased for two years the Vanderbilt Theatre at 148 W. 48th St., New York City. The Vanderbilt, the second theatre to be leased by the Blue has a seating capacity of approximately 700. It will be available for sustaining and commercial programs sometime after Labor Day.

First theatre to be leased by the Blue was the Ritz, with a seating capacity of 900. The Blue also leases 40 percent of the studios in the RCA Building from the National Broadcasting Company.

 The Crosley Radio Corporation has applied for a new high frequency station in Columbus, Ohio, to be operated on 46,500 kc.

 All component parts going into completed wire and cable will now be handled by the Copper Division, which has been made a claimant agency, War Production Board officials informed the Copper Wire and Cable Industry Advisory Committee at a recent meeting.

Dr. A. N. Goldsmith, former Chief Engineer of the Radio Corporation of America, has been granted a patent (No. 2,354,176) for a device to improve acoustics which acts automatically. According to Dr. Goldsmith it has been found possible to change the apparent room acoustics from "dead" to "very alive" by using this device. Thus, when a symphony orchestra or a church organ makes a recording in a relatively small room, reverberations can be controlled through this mechanism to give the music depth and sonority. The high-speed reverberations made by a dance orchestra in a large auditorium also can be brought under control.

WFEM in Indianapolis seeks to operate a new commercial television station on Channel #2 (60,000-66,000 kc.)

Edgar Kobak, Executive Vice-President of the Blue Network, will speak at the 13th annual sales convention of RKO Pictures, Inc. at the Waldorf-Astoria tonight (Wednesday).

J. R. Poppele, Secretary and Chief Engineer of the Bamberger Broadcasting Service, in a talk delivered over WABD last week on the occasion of the first anniversary of WOR's television bow, predicted that within the next decade television would become as popular as radio is today and expressed confidence that international television would be achieved.

Lincoln Dellar, of Sacramento, California, has applied to the FCC for a construction permit for a new standard broadcast station to be operated on 1340 kc., power of 250 watts and unlimited hours of operation.

Edward C. Cole, Assistant Professor and Technical Director in the Drama Department at Yale University, is spending the Summer months at the GE station, WRGB in Schenectady, working with the program staff and investigating the relationship between stage and television production.

James D. MacLean in Charge of General Electric Television Equipment, has just sent out a booklet showing the large amount of space given by the newspapers in their news columns to television stories recently sent out by G.E.

NBC's coverage of the invasion will be kept for posterity in the National Archives in Washington, D. C. Frank E. Mullen, NBC Vice-President and General Manager, has had recordings made at the request of John G. Bradley, Chief of the Division of Motion Pictures and Sound Recordings of the National Archives.

The 72 records, of one-half hour each, have been cut and sent to Mr. Bradley. They are a 36-hour word picture of NBC D-Day coverage from the time the first bulletin was broadcast from the NBC news room Tuesday, June 6, at 12:41 A.M. (EWT).

Ben Murphy, radio singer, recently received a check from the National Broadcasting Company, which was returned to him marked "insufficient funds". In short, it bounced. Mr. Murphy was slightly astounded. Investigation disclosed that a heat-whacky bank clerk had stamped the check with the wrong rubber stamp. (N.Y. News)

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