

HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

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INDEX TO ISSUE OF FEBRUARY 28, 1945

31 Organizations Whet Axes For Reallocations Scrap.....	1
RCA 1944 Net Climbs To \$10,263,291; New War Products.....	4
Petrillo Arouses House Group; FDR May Also Crack Back.....	5
Former FCC Counsel New All America Cables Radio V-P.....	7
RMA Secures Expert Newsmen For Publications Director.....	8
Music House Nailed For "Coast-to-Coast" Hookup Claims.....	8
ASCAP Wins Minnesota Licensing Victory; Three Year Fight.....	9
Chemical Warfare Promotes Former FCC Publicity Expert.....	9
Tom Joyce Out At RCA.....	9
Warwick Co. Denies Alleged Radio Misrepresentation.....	10
Marconi Slew Himself, Rome Newspaper Claims.....	10
Lifeboats To Get 2-Way Federal Radio Corporation Sets.....	11
Britisher Sees Tele Problems Economic; Favors 800 Lines.....	11
OWI Hits Back At Rep. Taber's Censorship Charges.....	12
Scissors And Paste.....	13
Trade Notes.....	15

February 28, 1945

31 ORGANIZATIONS WHET AXES FOR REALLOCATIONS SCRAP

Judging from the number of organizations - thirty-one to be exact - which have requested permission to participate in the oral argument on the proposed frequency allocations of the Federal Communications Commission, which begin in Washington today (Wednesday), things may not be so quiet along the Potomac during the next week or ten days the hearings are expected to run.

In addition to those who desire to appear, some twenty-five firms or individuals have filed briefs or statements with regard to the proposed new set-up.

A last minute list given out by the FCC of those who have asked to be heard includes: Association of American Railroads and Committee 7, Panel 13, RTPB; American Telephone & Telegraph Company; American Trucking Association, Inc.; Aireon Manufacturing Corporation; American Radio Relay League; American Transit Association; Major Edwin H. Armstrong; Columbia Broadcasting System; Capitol Broadcasting Co., Inc., licensee of FM Station WBCA, Schenectady; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway; Cowles Broadcasting Co.; Eastern States Police Radio League; FM Broadcasters, Inc.; Interstate Broadcasting Co., licensee of FM Station WQQX; Lorain County Radio Corporation; National Association of Broadcasters (brief filed by general counsel of Panel 4, RTPB).

Also, National Association of Taxicab Owners; National Association of Motor Bus Operators, Milo M. Dean, Chairman, Subcommittee 8, Panel 13, RTPB; Radio Corporation of America; National Broadcasting Company; R.C.A. Communications, Inc.; Radiomarine Corp. of America; Television Broadcasters' Association; Subscription Radio, Inc. (brief filed by Joseph Weiner); Westinghouse Electric International Company; U. S. Office of Education, Dr. R. R. Lowdermilk; Zenith Radio Corporation; Yankee Network, Inc.; Society of Plastics, Inc., and U. S. Independent Telephone Association.

Those who have filed briefs are: Edison Electric Institute and the Association of Edison Illuminating Co. (to be represented by Philip H. Chase); Forestry Conservation Communications Association, Committee 3, Panel 13, RTPB; Wabash Telephone Company; Tri-County Telephone Company; Union Telephone Company; Texas Telephone Company; Southern Continental Telephone Co.; The Journal Co. (Milwaukee Journal), FM Radio Station WMFM; Herbert A. Friede, Chairman, Committee 2, Panel 13, RTPB (will be present); National Council of Private Motor Truck Owners; Haraden Pratt, Chairman, Panel 8, RTPB; FM Station WENA, The Evening News Association; Association of American Railroads (joint brief filed by counsel of Association and John L. Niesse, Chairman, Committee 7, Panel 13, RTPB).

Also Medical and Surgical Applications, A. W. Mathis, Panel 12, RTPB; Austin Bailey, Vice Chairman, Committee 8, Panel 13, RTPB; R. V. Dondanville, Chairman, Committee 4, Panel 13, RTPB; Alexander Senauke, Chairman of Committee on Industrial Heating, Panel 13, RTPB; Aeronautical Radio, Inc.; K. M. Hoover, Chairman, Transit Utilities Radio Communication Committee, Panel 13, Committee 5, RTPB; Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith, on "Centercasting"; Press Wireless, Inc.; American Broadcasting Co., Inc., Frank Marx, Director of General Engineering; C. M. Jansky, Chairman, and W. R. David, Vice Chairman, Panel 5, RTPB; John V. L. Hogan, Chairman, Panel 7, RTPB; Daniel E. Noble, Chairman, Panel 13, RTPB; Stromberg-Carlson Company.

FCC officials have again stated the list of frequency allocations is a provisional one, open to discussion and argument at the hearing. The final allocations, they said, will be revised on the basis of evidence submitted at the hearing which will involve twenty or more other questions of importance in radio besides the problems of FM broadcast service.

The biggest fight though will come on FM. Leaders in this will be FM Broadcasters, Inc., Panel 5 of the Radio Technical Planning Board, and Major E. H. Armstrong, inventor of FM itself. The National Association of Broadcasters neither endorses nor opposes the proposed FM allocation.

FM Broadcasters, Inc. contend that the shift of FM to 84-102 mc. would cause a two-year delay that would "paralyze this new industry". The shifting of the spectrum location would entail cost to public "of many millions of dollars".

Panel 5 contends the proposal to move FM above 84 mc. is based largely on the calculations of Dr. K. A. Norton, formerly of the FCC, which calculations are challenged as inaccurate. A Panel 5 off-the-record subcommittee report was to the effect that the proposed FM change would require the engineers six months longer to work out the receiver details, would increase the price of sets as much as \$32 and would require three months longer testing time. Major Armstrong likewise charges that Dr. Norton made an error in his calculations.

Among differences of opinion about FM's place in the spectrum, some seem to be influenced by economic factors, says the Cowles Broadcasting Company brief, while others based on ignorance of co-channel interference, fear of unknown factors in the new band and belief that Commission engineers have insufficient data, are unsound.

Television will also come in for a great deal of attention. The National Association of Broadcasters approves television allocation above 400 mc. but criticizes allocation below 300 mc.

The Radio Corporation of America and the National Broadcasting Company offer compromise allocation involving FM and television. Temporary allocation of FM 42-44 mc., as proposed pending transition to 84-102 mc, held undesirable. RCA and NBC counter with

this proposal: Television 44-50 mc. and 54-84 mc.; FM 90-108 mc., with band 84-90 mc. unassigned for possible video or FM use later.

Suggested that if 84-102 mc. proposal becomes permanent, FM be given temporary haven 42-50 mc., since no present television operators would have use for 44-50 mc. channel. By time television is ready for proposed Channel 1 "it will be feasible for the FM station to move directly to its permanent frequency assignment in the 84-102 mc. band."

On television, RCA-NBC comment "immediate needs of television should have priority over possible future needs of FM", therefore it's unwise for FCC to designate 102-108 mc. for allocation later; it should be given television immediately.

Television should be moved to higher frequencies the Columbia Broadcasting System argues, to obtain wider bands. This would permit better black-and-white pictures with more elements, as well as color television. Technical difficulties of current video, tending to preclude nation-wide competitive service, will be avoided and larger service areas will result. Larger service area is possible, the network claims. Multipath effects, or ghosts, in lower frequencies may be solved by use of sharply directional receiving antennas in higher bands.

Cost of receivers would be no higher and the improved service would result under high-definition standards. Dual operation would be a mistake, CBS argues, doubling costs and penalizing pioneers in favor of newcomers with no investment or experience in television. The public should be kept fully informed on television.

Regarding television, the Cowles Broadcasting Company brief states the allocation below 216 mc. is not ideal but justified because of necessity for providing channels for aviation and Government services between 108-180 mc. Therefore, regardless of FM, it is impossible to provide better television facilities.

The Blue Network supports FCC proposal and points out that since the Blue owns no FM or television stations at present, it is in the "unique position of being well qualified to judge the adequacy of the overall fairness of the proposed allocations for these services". They believe Commission proposal represents "best possible overall arrangement to permit both services to progress rapidly toward a nationwide service with a maximum benefit in the public interest."

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At the invitation of the State Department, CBS takes its "Vox Pop" program to the Statler, Washington, D.C. on Monday, March 5, at 8 P.M., EWT. Members of the foreign and domestic agencies of the State Department will participate in the broadcast.

State Department executives invited to attend the broadcast include Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Under Secretary Joseph C. Grew, and Assistant Secretaries Archibald MacLeish, James C. Dunn, William L. Clayton, Dean G. Acheson, Brig. Gen. Julius C. Holmes and Nelson A. Rockefeller.

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RCA 1944 NET CLIMBS TO \$10,263,291; NEW WAR PRODUCTS

The Radio Corporation of America in 1944 reached new peaks in production of radio-electronic equipment vital to the war effort, established new records in radio communications, and completed more than 100 research projects for the Armed Services, Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff revealed in the 25th Annual Report released yesterday.

Net profit of RCA in 1944 was \$10,263,291, compared with \$10,192,452 in 1943. After payment of preferred dividends, earnings per share of common stock were 51.2 cents, compared with 50.5 cents per share in 1943. Total gross income from all sources amounted to \$326,421,913, compared with \$294,535,362 in 1943.

The report states that war products delivered to the United States and its Allies by the RCA Victor Division during 1944 established an all-time record, exceeding 1943 deliveries by 16%. More than a thousand RCA engineers have been working on research, development and production of radio and electronic equipment vital to the war effort resulting in RCA building more than 200 new types of electron tubes and more than 350 types of apparatus not manufactured by anyone prior to the war.

While the complete story of RCA's war achievements remain secret for security reasons, it is disclosed that RCA Victor has been, and is, the designer and first producer of many radio altimeters used by the Army, the Navy and the British. This essential device enables airmen to measure their distance from the ground so accurately that it makes possible more effective flying operations at night through fog and other difficult weather conditions. It also increases the effectiveness of low-level, high-speed attacks and hedge-hopping missions; and is equally valuable in paratroop operations and in dropping supplies from the air.

One of the major achievements in the field of electron tubes was the development by RCA scientists of additional miniature tubes and other types to perform new functions. These tiny tubes will shrink the size of many postwar radio products, including home and portable radios, phonographs, television receivers, hearing aids and business machines. They make possible greater flexibility of receiving set designs and the use of improved features without enlarging the cabinets.

Vastly increased quantities of the miniature tubes were manufactured by RCA Victor in 1944. First introduced by RCA in 1940, these tubes made possible the walkie-talkies, the handie-talkies and other electronic devices for planes, tanks, and motor transports where weight and size of equipment are important factors.

Creation of other special electron tubes has enabled engineers to construct a television transmitter to operate at frequencies up to 300 megacycles, that is, a wavelength of one meter. It is the first time a transmitter with a power output of 5,000 watts has been devised for television broadcasting on a frequency so high in the radio spectrum.

Another achievement of RCA Laboratories is a highly efficient optical system for projecting television pictures. This will have important applications in home television receivers to produce brighter pictures as large as 18 x 24 inches. It also involves a development - that of molding lenses from plastic material to reduce costs and to make the system economically practicable for home receivers.

With respect to television, the report recalled that in January of this year the Federal Communications Commission issued a report proposing the assignment to television of 12 channels below 300 megacycles for commercial operation and a large band of higher frequencies for experimental work and future services. "RCA believes this proposal to be a constructive step toward the postwar development of television", the report commented. "If the proposal is adopted, it will make possible the expansion of television as a service to the American people immediately upon the release of manpower and materials from war demands."

During 1944, NBC broadcast a record-breaking total of 2,173 programs which originated in foreign countries. This was over 400 more than those broadcast in 1943. At the year-end, the NBC staff of news commentators and reporters numbered fifty-eight, compared with thirty-six the year before, serving in strategic locations all around the globe.

R.C.A. Communications, during 1944, handled 150,000,000 words of radio traffic, largely related to the war. New direct circuits were established with India and Gambia, British West Africa. Direct service with Paris, interrupted since the German occupation of France, was resumed late in the year. At the request of United States military authorities, and in cooperation with them, RACA established and operated its own stations at Naples, Rome, and in Southern France.

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PETRILLO AROUSES HOUSE GROUP; FDR MAY ALSO CRACK BACK

James C. Petrillo and the American Federation of Musicians did themselves no good ignoring the hearings of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee on the Vandenberg Bill (S-63), sponsored in the House by Representative Dondero (R), of Michigan, which would prevent Petrillo's interfering with the broadcasts of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan. Furthermore, there were indications that not only would the Committee approve the bill and probably put more teeth in it and that the House would pass it with a whoop, but that when the measure went to President Roosevelt for final approval, the President might take the opportunity of giving Jimmy the works. This he no doubt would like to have done when the "autocrat of listening", as Petrillo has been dubbed, so boldly defied Mr. Roosevelt in the presidential campaign. The President is noted for his long memory in such matters and those who know him

are not inclined to believe he would overlook such an opportunity as the Vandenberg Bill would give to tell Jimmy exactly where to get off.

At the conclusion of the sessions last week, Representative Lea (D), declared that the scope of the hearings might be extended, which was construed to mean that Mr. Petrillo himself might be summoned. Furthermore, Representative Lea said he intended to suggest to the House Committee that fines and imprisonment be written into the bill as penalty for any person interfering with radio broadcasts by educational institutions. The bill as passed by the Senate did not include this. Also it is believed there will be something in the bill to prevent Mr. Petrillo from short-circuiting Congressional action by having put the music camp on the unfair list.

When no one responded for the American Federation of Musicians in the House hearings, Representative Wolverton (R), of New Jersey, said:

"Can we assume that they are not interested in what this Committee does? In my eighteen years of Congressional services I have never seen a situation where a man so directly involved in proposed legislation was not even present or represented when it was up."

Several Committee members nodded approvingly and Representative Brown (R), of Ohio, interjected:

"I don't believe the bill goes as far as desired. Seemingly Mr. Petrillo is not interested in this Committee. Perhaps he is doing the same thing he did toward the President of the United States - taking a defiant attitude. Mr. Petrillo has asked for it, and it is about time that Congress let him have it!"

Representative Dondero (R), of Michigan, sponsor of the bill in the House, told the Committee that requests for a Navy band to participate in a soldiers' memorial service in his home town of Royal Oak had been refused "without any definite explanation", and Secretary Forrestal had not replied to his request for an explanation.

"I asked when did a musicians union become more powerful than the Government of the United States?" said Mr. Dondero. "That question has not been answered yet."

Declaring that the anti-Petrillo bill represents a desirable objective and merits approval by the House Committee, Paul Porter, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, said:

"The evil inherent in the ban by the American Federation of Labor on the Interlochen broadcast so far as broadcasting is concerned is two-fold. In the first place, this action of the American Federation of Musicians results in a severe restriction upon what may be broadcast over the air. Under the American system of broadcasting, as you know, the Government is expressly forbidden to dictate to broadcasters what shall and what shall not be broadcast. This

is in order to guarantee a free radio. But more than this is necessary if radio is really to be free. We must make sure that no arbitrary restrictions are imposed by private groups concerning material which shall be broadcast. It is the Commission's constant endeavor to see that the radio industry keeps itself as free as possible of all unreasonable restraints so that radio stations are in a position to discharge their obligation of operating in the public interest. Radio's ability to fulfill this obligation is hampered fully as much when its freedom of action is imposed by a labor organization as when it is self-imposed. If an organization can prevent radio stations from broadcasting a concert by high school students, a precedent is established whereby broadcasts of speeches, forums, conventions, etc. will be prevented. Such a precedent should not be permitted to be established.

"The second evil is found in the effect of the American Federation of Musicians' action on small stations. We all are familiar with the fact that most professional talent is concentrated in the large cities. For the small station this means that it must to a great extent rely on amateur talent which it can find or develop in the community. Many of these communities have a good deal of latent talent that can be developed to the benefit both of the talent and the community; this is particularly true of communities which have universities located nearby. However, the action of the American Federation of Musicians prevents radio stations from using musical talent of this kind. And if the American Federation of Musicians can prevent the use of musical talent, other groups will direct this activity at dramatic groups, singers, etc. This forces small stations either to broadcast network programs all day or to use records and transcriptions instead of developing their own individuality and contributing to the growth of their community."

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FORMER FCC COUNSEL NEW ALL AMERICA CABLES RADIO V-P

James A. Kennedy, General Attorney of All America Cables and Radio, Inc., an affiliate of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, has been elected a Vice President of the Company.

Mr. Kennedy was Assistant General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission before becoming associated with the I.T.&T. System. He was a member of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C., in 1934 when he joined the FCC, and remained in the latter agency until 1941, the last four years as Assistant General Counsel.

A native of Williston, South Carolina, Mr. Kennedy attended the University of Richmond, the University of Virginia, and was graduated with an LLB Degree from George Washington University in 1920.

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RMA SECURES EXPERT NEWSMAN FOR PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

If you are ever hiring a newspaper man, be sure he can write because, believe it or not, many of them can't. Such is not the case with James D. Secrest, currently making his debut as Director of Publications of the Radio Manufacturers' Association. For a number of years the star reporter on the Washington Post, Mr. Secrest might have been one of the editors had he remained with the paper.

With the outbreak of the war, however, the Office of Emergency Management, through which all war agency news cleared, beckoned to him and he left the Post to enter the Government service. Subsequently in the Office of War Information, he became Chief of Field Operations with 60 offices throughout the country in his charge.

When OWI appropriations were so ruthlessly slashed by Congress, Mr. Secrest went to New York where he has been conducting a publicity and promotion campaign of the Pulpwood Consuming Industries, at New York City, as assistant to Frank Block, Director of that industry's War Activities Committee.

Mr. Secrest is a graduate of Duke University and was in newspaper work for a long time in Cincinnati and elsewhere before coming to Washington. In addition to covering Congress and other Government agencies, the Federal Communications Commission was likewise in his bailiwick. He also was on the editorial staff of Broadcasting magazine.

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MUSIC HOUSE NAILED FOR "COAST-TO-COAST" HOOKUP CLAIMS

The Dave Minor Company, Chicago, Ill., engaged in the sale of a set of piano lessons entitled "Music is Fun for Everyone - the Ear Way" and a collection of songs entitled "Dave Minor's Famous Play by Ear Song Book", has entered into a stipulation with the Federal Trade Commission to cease and desist from:

(1) Describing their business as a publishing company or representing that they engage in the publication of books, music or other printed matter;

(2) Using the word "Studio" in connection with their place of business or in any manner implying that they maintain a place devoted to the teaching of music or other fine art; and

(3) Representing that Dave Minor is "on the air from coast to coast", or that their radio continuities broadcast from local stations are programs rendered through a national radio hookup.

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ASCAP WINS MINNESOTA LICENSING VICTORY; THREE YEAR FIGHT

Ruling that the theatre-licensing operations of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is not in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye of the U. S. District Court in Minneapolis has found for the plaintiff in several copyright infringement actions begun by ASCAP against a group of Minnesota motion picture exhibitors. Judge Nordbye awarded ASCAP damages of \$2,000 from the Associated Amusement Company and \$500 from Harry Dickerman, operators of the unlicensed theatres. This ends a three-year controversy between ASCAP and Minnesota exhibitors.

Judge Nordbye's decision was announced after a three-day trial, most of which was occupied with testimony as to the theatre-licensing operations of ASCAP. Attorneys Louis D. Frohlich and Jack Nitzburg, for the Society, called several of its executives, including John G. Paine, General Manager.

Defendants claimed that the fact that individual members of ASCAP had granted synchronization rights to the film producers estopped the Society from insisting on a license for the public performance of such works. Mr. Paine testified that so far as the Society is concerned the producer is not restricted in his selections of works for film production. The Society's interest is only in the public performance for profit of its members' copyright music.

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CHEMICAL WARFARE PROMOTES FORMER FCC PUBLICITY EXPERT

It's a bus-man's holiday for Maj. George O. Gillingham, U.S.A., on leave as head of the Federal Communications Commission's Press Service. One of the best publicity men in the business, Major Gillingham has just been appointed to the important position of Chief of the Information Branch of the Army Chemical Warfare Section.

George came into fame as the editor of the National Press Club paper, the Goldfish Bowl. He wrote anonymously and soon made himself the best known unknown editor in the United States.

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TOM JOYCE OUT AT RCA

Tom Joyce, General Manager of the Radio, Phonograph and Television Department of RCA Victor, has resigned from the Radio Corporation of America after 23 years of service with that company.

Mr. Joyce will announce his future business plans about April 1st.

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WARWICK CO. DENIES ALLEGED RADIO MISREPRESENTATION

Warwick Manufacturing Corp., Chicago, Ill., in an answer to a complaint issued by the Federal Trade Commission, denies having made false and misleading representations concerning the tube capacity, television equipment and prices of certain radio sets it sold in interstate commerce. According to the answer, the respondent no longer manufactures and sells radio sets but is now engaged in producing equipment for the armed forces.

The complaint charged that the sets did not contain the number of active, necessary, fully-functioning tubes specified in the respondent's advertising, but were equipped with one or more other type tubes which do not perform any customary, recognized function in the detection, amplification and reception of radio signals. The respondent admits that its sets contained ballast, tuning beacon tubes or rectifying tubes, as alleged in the complaint, but denies that such tubes are "non-functioning" or that they do not perform any customary, recognized function of radio tubes in detecting, amplifying and receiving radio signals.

With respect to the respondent's allegedly false representation that certain sets were wired or equipped for television, the answer admits that they were not capable of receiving and reproducing picture signals in visual form, but denies that such representation was made. The respondent states that its sets were wired so as to be utilized as a sound unit for microphones, phonographs and television sets when the latter would be available.

The respondent also denies the complaint's allegations that its prices advertised as "special" were not special reduced prices, but were the prices at which it sold radio sets in the usual and regular course of business; and that the prices represented as "list" were fictitious and not the prices at which it sold its products or authorized its dealers to sell them.

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MARCONI SLEW HIMSELF, ROME NEWSPAPER CLAIMS

The newspaper Libera Stampa in Rome said Tuesday, according to the United Press, that Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of the wireless, committed suicide in 1937 to avoid turning over to the Fascists his "death-ray apparatus". The newspaper said he tested the apparatus in the presence of Benito Mussolini. The ray caused all automobiles in the area to stop, it said.

Mussolini referred to this ray in a prewar speech when he said, "Italy will use, if necessary, a new powerful secret weapon", the article asserted.

Marconi, a devout Catholic, saw the Pope for the last time July 18. He reportedly was in perfect health, yet died the next day. The paper contended that Marconi confessed to the Pope and then committed suicide rather than hand over such a deadly machine to the Fascists.

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LIFEBOATS TO GET 2-WAY FEDERAL RADIO CORPORATION SETS

Two-way radio sets, as part of standard lifeboat equipment, are being perfected by the Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation, an affiliate of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, to allay the anxiety of cast-aways because, even without wireless training, they can learn by the returned signals that their distress calls have been heard, according to the New York Times.

The receiver will pick up the usual wireless signals on both long and short-wave, but is not adapted for vocal use. The new equipment also can serve to warn off rescue vessels.

The present equipment sends signals only on the international distress frequency of 500 kilocycles. The new transmitter will send on that frequency and also is capable of sending on short-wave. The latter will be especially valuable in determining the exact location of the craft by means of the instantaneous direction finder, another of the Federal Corporation's developments.

The new apparatus will occupy no more space than is taken up by the single frequency transmitter, now in use in lifeboats. Like the present equipment the new set will be contained in a water-tight case that will float unharmed if it falls out of a lifeboat. Power for the new transmitter and receiver will be furnished by a manually-cranked generator.

Like the present lifeboat transmitter, no previous training or technical knowledge is necessary to operate the new one. Regularly used SOS signals are radiated automatically by the transmitter by the simple process of setting a switch and turning a crank. The signals are interspersed by four-second dashes to permit operation of the direction finders on the impulses.

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BRITISHER SEES TELE PROBLEMS ECONOMIC; FAVORS 800 LINES

B. J. Edwards in "Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers", London, recently presented for discussion a general picture of the problem of post-war television. He suggested that the factors influencing the expansion of television will be mainly economic rather than technical, and he surveys the possibilities of obtaining the necessary revenue.

Radio links operating on centimetre waves are advocated for distributing television throughout the country. Cable distribution was rejected on the score of cost and great technical difficulty.

It is also advocated that as soon as possible an improved system of television be adopted with definition of the order of 800 lines. This implies a band-width of 20 megacycles and a carrier frequency of at least some hundreds of megacycles.

A great difficulty that will be encountered with an improved system is interference with the main picture by reflection of the signal from buildings, etc., which gives rise to secondary images laterally displaced a short distance from the main image. One method of minimizing the effect of this unwanted signal is to increase the directional properties of the receiving aerial by some form of reflector.

To achieve a polar diagram in which the read and side lobes are very small compared with the main lobes complicates the aerial design and emphasizes the serious practical difficulty of erection unless the frequency is such that an extremely small aerial system with paraboloid reflector can be used.

In conclusion, the author presents for discussion two alternatives for post-war television: first, to commence transmissions on the old standard and operate for a period of, say, 5 years, the development of an improved system to run concurrently; secondly, to commence experimental transmission for an improved system within a period of, say, one year, which may be possible in view of the technical resources that have been built up in this country during the war.

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OWI HITS BACK AT REP. TABER'S CENSORSHIP CHARGES

Neil Dalton, Director of the Domestic Branch of the Office of War Information, was quick to defend the OWI against the charge of Representative John Taber (D), of New York, that the Office of War Information had been holding out or coloring the news.

"The Office of War Information was created by Executive Order of the President", Mr. Dalton stated. "One reason for its creation was an insistent demand by the press and the radio for better coordinated government information. The Congress is fully acquainted with the manner and methods of its operation and year after year has voted it funds with which to carry out its functions. Mr. Taber is a member of the Appropriations Committee which went exhaustively into every phase of our operations before the Committee recommended to the Congress the appropriation of funds under which we are currently operating.

We are confident that newspapers, press associations and broadcasters generally know after long dealings with us that this Office is not engaged in censorship. On the contrary, we promote as far as we can the free flow of accurate information. Any accredited representative of any publication or radio can ask information of any official in the government and OWI does nothing whatsoever to keep him from getting it. The only censorship in this country is a voluntary censorship subscribed to by all publications and based solely on military security.

"OWI knows that Mr. Taber is mistaken as to the scope of Mr. Brackett's experience and disagrees with his judgment as to Mr. Brackett's competence. The letter to which Mr. Taber takes exception was written to make procedures clear to all Agencies at a time when when the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion was enlarging its activities in connection with functions in which other Agencies participated. This necessitated more careful coordination of information to insure accuracy and to avoid confusion."

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::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
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Time To Challenge Petrillo
"Terre Haute Star"

A Minneapolis radio station has capitulated to the unchallenged power of Boss James Caesar Petrillo of the American Federation of Musicians, who demanded that it hire, in this day of labor shortage, more staff musicians than it wants or needs.

We commend to Congress the statement by Stanley Hubbard, the station's president, which accompanied the capitulation. Here are samples:

"If the Petrillo system of forcing an employer to contract for men he does not need, and to pay royalties directly to the union because union members are employed in the manufacture of his commodity (a provision in the recent contract signed by the record companies) is adopted by other unions, it means the finish of American business.

"The difficulty which exists today in our country is that labor and management cannot deal on a parity. The remedy of this situation lies in the hands of the legislative branch of our government, and that is where immediate relief should be worked out."

These statements are not new. Congress has heard them before. They remain unchallenged. But so does Mr. Petrillo. It is time that Congress did something about the situation that makes Mr. Petrillo's power possible, before he does irreparable damage to both business and labor.

Theatres Keeping An Eye On Television
"Television Broadcasters News Letter"

Charles P. Skouras, President of National Theatres, addressing the annual meeting of circuit executives held in Los Angeles recently, declared that "television may occupy a very vital position in the future of our business.

"We have been keeping up with all developments in the science for a long time now", he asserted. "Its possible and probable future has long been recognized by us as a milestone that may change the business as radically as did talking pictures.

In Five Years - Post War
("Electronic Industries")

100 television stations - \$60,000,000; 4,000 FM transmitters - \$120,000,000; 20 million FM receivers - \$2,000,000,000; 6,000 airports, all radio-radar equipped; 200,000 vehicles with radio transmitters; 5,000,000 interstate trucks with 2-way radio; Sixteen railroads installing radio in yards.

Calls Commercials Radio's Biggest Headache
(Robert U. Brown in "Editor & Publisher")

Methods of presenting the commercial, or "plug" is getting to be radio's biggest headache as we predicted not so long ago. Subscription radio is proposed by one group to provide non-sponsored programs and thus to get away from the annoyance of spelling announcers. Several years ago a gentleman visited our office in New York trying to find an angel to back him in production of a gadget that would automatically cut the radio set off when the commercial came on then turn it on again at the right time.

There is probably a large amount of public goodwill toward the sponsor of a first-rate radio program, but the manner in which the commercial is presented is liable to alienate the listeners. It is no secret that many radio listeners have developed their own automatic "turner-offers" in their minds when the commercial starts, and they pick that time to talk, read or do other things at home.

Petrillo vs. U.S.A.
"Minneapolis Star-Journal"

For the first time in 10 months, "live" music today emanated from KSTP's Minneapolis studios as result of settlement of the Petrillo strike of the A. F. of L. Minneapolis Musicians association.

During the strike, all such broadcasts originated in St. Paul studios of the station. KSTP officials said many of the programs now will be transferred back to Minneapolis.

The new contract is for 2 years and calls for hiring of 8 musicians at not less than \$52 a week, the leader to get \$75. The station also has agreed to employ only union musicians.

New Era of Distant Radio Control
(Gen. David Sarnoff in "Radio Age")

A new era in communications is opening - the era of control at a distance.

Television enables us to see action at a distance. After the war by the use of television techniques we shall be able to reach out and operate many of these actions that we see. Just as human fingers press buttons and triggers, snap switches, and release energy to make wheels turn or control machines and vehicles, now radio-electronic fingers touch off new magic.

Man has long dreamed of using radio to start, steer, control and operate aircraft, tanks torpedoes, automobiles, boats, and other objects. With uncanny manipulation of electronics, wartime research has made some of these dreams come true. Man has achieved radio control over wheels, rudders, wings and guns. Rockets no longer move only as phantoms of the imagination.

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::: TRADE NOTES :::

Phil Hoffman, Vice-President of the Cowles Broadcasting Company, and Station Manager of KRNT, Des Moines, Ia., will be in New York the middle of March to attend a meeting of the Blue Network and a special conference of Cowles broadcasters.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company is experimenting with "micro waves" - very short waves - for possible use as alternative or supplemental to telephone and television transmission wires and cables, President Walter S. Gifford disclosed in the company's financial report for 1944.

Herman S. Hays, Manager of Field Service Engineering, Philco Radio and Television Corporation, Philadelphia, has been appointed a consultant to the Office of Price Administration Service Trades Price Branch.

Mr. Hays, who will serve on a part time basis, will advise OPA's national office chiefly on matters relating to radio and household appliance repairs. His appointment is in line with OPA's policy of having available the advice of representative business men when price control matters arise affecting a particular industry, it was said.

The recent RMA meeting in New York considered the campaign of the Institute of Radio Engineers for a \$500,000 building fund and the matter was deferred for further information and consideration.

The News Bureau of the General Electric Company - and an excellent one it is - is going high hat by changing its name to Technical Press Service.

"This will replace the familiar source designation 'News Bureau' on most of the releases we send to you in the future, so I thought I had better take this means of introducing it to you", C. P. Fisher, Jr. explains.

"We like the new name because it more accurately describes our job: editorial service to you. Incidentally, if you have any suggestions for improving on that job, send them along. Such comment from you is always welcome."

The National Labor Relations Board has set March 6th at 10:30 A.M. in Washington for the hearing of oral argument on the Intermediate Report of the Trial Examiner in the NABET-AFM dispute with the National Broadcasting Company and the American Broadcasting Company relative to the jurisdiction over "platter-turning".

The RMA Board of Directors accepted an invitation from the Canadian RMA to hold Board meetings together at Montreal, April 25 and 26, to develop further cooperation between the two neighboring industry organizations and to exchange information on military radio production. Arrangements were made for the joint meeting by President R. C. Cosgrove of RMA and President R. M. Brophy of the Canadian RMA.

David Sarnoff speaking at a luncheon given by the Radio Corporation of America to the mission from Brazil of six professors of leading Brazilian scientific institutions said: "Education is not a one-way street, but a thoroughfare on which to learn as well as to teach."

Macy's in New York City, will continue its weekly telecasts over WABD, the DuMont station, in New York for another 19 weeks, it was announced by RKO Television Corporation, producers of the program.

Listening post for receiving foreign broadcasts has been constructed by the Cowles KRNT Des Moines Engineering Department under the direction of Charles Quentin, engineering consultant. Special programs analyzing the propaganda will be broadcast under the direction of George Cremeens, special events head for KRNT.

Engineers at Station WCAE, Pittsburgh, Have hung up what is believed to be an all-time high in maintaining a cathode ray monitoring tube in continuous operation for more than 50,000 hours, according to H. C. Vance, of the RCA Tube and Equipment Department. The RCA type 904 cathode ray tube, used for monitoring radio programs, was installed in the station's transmitter in August 1939 and is still visibly providing the same clear monitoring picture as it did five and a half years ago. It is reported that the tube shows no perceptible depreciation in sensitivity or definition.

Press Wireless, Inc. announced Monday that its communications circuit between the Philippines and the United States, discontinued December 31, 1941, after the Japanese operation, was resumed Sunday morning.

A meeting of the RMA Special Committee to promote equipment of public schools with sound systems was held recently in New York City. L. A. King of St. Charles, Ill, Chairman, is cooperating with a similar committee of the U. S. Office of Education. Specifications for central sound systems in schools and other educational institutions are being developed.

The Canadian international short-wave broadcasting service call letters CHTA at Sackville, New Brunswick, was officially opened last Sunday. The cost of the station was paid by the Canadian Government, but the construction work was done by engineers of the publicly-owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which will operate the station. For the present it will be used exclusively for sending news and programs to Great Britain and to the Canadian troops overseas.

Announcement of "excellent progress" in three critical programs - cotton duck, dry cell batteries, and field wire - was made by Hiland G. Batcheller, Chief of Operations of the War Production Board at a meeting of the Production Executive Committee Monday, WPB reported today.

Dry cell battery production in February will exceed the 197,600,000 cells of January, in spite of a shorter production month, and as the new facilities get into operation, it is hoped to get the rate up by May or June to within five per cent of the monthly requirement of 311,000,000.