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INDEX TO ISSUE OF JANUARY 14, 1948

"Radio In Straitjacket; Should Editorialize" - Gov. Thurmond.....	1
Sales Of Receiving Tubes 183 Million In 11 Months.....	2
Zenith Retains Additional Counsel In RCA Patent Fight.....	3
Full Steam Ahead For WSB's New TV Station In Atlanta.....	3
Burkland Heads CBS Radio Sales; Mitchell New WTOP Skipper.....	4
Pulliam Notes Absence Of Radios In Europe And Near East.....	5
Radio Servicing Becoming Big Business.....	5
A. E. Johnson, NBC Washington Chief Engineer, Is Dead.....	6
Emerson Aims To Make 500 Television Sets A Day.....	6
Petrillo Wanted Justin Miller To Get Truman To Veto Lea Act.....	7
Radio Industry Employment Threatened By AFM Bans, Says Geddes.....	8
Ohio, Md., Okla., Montana Win "Voice Of Democracy" Prizes.....	9
Radio Taxicabs Are Also Catching On In England.....	9
Estimate 6,600 Television Sets In Greater Washington.....	10
RMA Mid-Winter Conference Set For Chicago, Jan. 20.....	10
Radio Women Will Be Feted By Mrs. Truman.....	11
Garment Workers To Spend \$1,000,000 On 6 FM Stations.....	11
Petrillo Is Acquitted In Second Trial Under Law To Curb Him.....	12
Scissors And Paste.....	13
Trade Notes.....	15

"RADIO IN STRAITJACKET; SHOULD EDITORIALIZE" - GOV. THURMOND

That there may be strong arguments in favor of broadcasting stations being allowed to editorialize the same as newspapers when the Federal Communications Commission reconsiders its ban on this, Monday, March 1st, was indicated by Gov. J. Strom Thurmond (D), of South Carolina, who said at the dedication of WSPA-FM, Spartanburg:

"I believe our radio stations have been placed in too much of a strait-jacket with reference to taking a stand on public questions which affect the people they serve. Certainly, radio stations must be fair and impartial in presenting controversial questions. But I do feel that radio stations could and should have programs for the social and economic betterment for the communities and sections they serve. Radio stations should be free to editorialize in promoting these programs designed to improve the community life and promote good government.

"I have had much experience with radio and I have come to the conclusion that it is a tremendous force for good."

Undoubtedly with practically a new FCC to re-try the case including a new Chairman Wayne Coy, himself an ex-radio man, there will be a big turnout of radio representatives when the question of whether or not a station should be allowed to editorialize is again taken up.

Discussion will be confined to these issues:

1. To determine whether the expression of editorial opinion by broadcast station licensees on matters of public interest and controversy is consistent with their obligation to operate their stations in the public interest.

2. To determine the relationship between any such editorial expression and the affirmative obligation of the licensees to insure that a fair and equal presentation of all sides of controversial issues is made over the facilities.

"The pro-editorial faction is directing its criticism at the FCC's so-called 'Mayflower decision'", Jack Gould writes in the New York Times, "the decision which the Commission promises to re-examine in two months. In this decision in 1941 the Commission condemned a Boston broadcaster for using his station to promote the cause of one political candidate as against another. In essence, the Commission decreed that a broadcaster should not be 'ad advocate'.

"For all the current furor over the broadcaster's 'freedom', the basic reasoning behind the Mayflower decision still seems eminently sound, particularly if the more valid criterion - the freedom of the listener - is considered.

"The main weakness in the case advanced for radio editorials is that it overlooks completely the fundamental difference between a newspaper and a radio station. That distinction lies in the fact that a radio station must operate under a license issued by the Federal Government while a newspaper does not operate under such a license. * * * * *

"The requirement that a radio station secure a Federal license automatically imposes different conditions than those prevailing in the case of the Fourth Estate. In the first place, the wave length on which a station makes itself heard is not the property of the broadcaster who uses it but is the property of the people as a whole. In the second place, there always have been more applicants for those wave lengths than the air could accommodate; the competition for the few available FM channels in New York City being a current example. * * * * *

"If the property of the public is to be used in the interest of all who own it, as certainly is implied in the acceptance of a Federal radio license, strict impartiality in the presentation of opinion is the only sound policy. Once an attempt is made to decide which of two opinions is the proper one to be voiced over a medium belonging to all the people, then the first step away from democratic radio would appear to have been taken.

"But the issue of a radio station editorializing in its own name raises an even graver question. If, for example, there were 'Republican stations' and 'Democratic stations' by what standard should the FCC approve the new applicant anxious to obtain a license? Would the Commission in the 'public interest' be expected to maintain a 'political balance' in a given community? Would not the government bureau sooner or later find itself investigating a man's political beliefs as a condition of issuing a license?

"The proponents of editorials in the name of greater 'freedom of the air' indeed may be jeopardizing that very freedom far more than they realize at the moment."

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SALES OF RECEIVING TUBES 183 MILLION IN 11 MONTHS

Sales of receiving tubes in November totalled 17,137,891 and brought the number of tubes sold in eleven months of 1947 to 183,022,419, the Radio Manufacturers' Association has announced. This latter figure compares with 180,743,639 tubes sold by member-companies in the same eleven months of 1946.

Of the November total, 12,232,082 tubes were sold for new sets; 3,405,427 for replacements; 1,410,535 for export, and 89,847 to government agencies.

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ZENITH RETAINS ADDITIONAL COUNSEL IN RCA PATENT FIGHT

Since the death of Samuel E. Darby, Jr. last December, who was chief patent counsel for the Zenith Radio Corporation in its suit against the Radio Corporation of America, Zenith has retained two additional groups of patent counsel.

The complete list of Zenith attorneys in the case is now as follows:

Irving Herriott of Chicago, General Counsel of Zenith Radio Corp.; former Senator Burton K. Wheeler, of Montana, Washington counsel in charge of the anti-trust section of the suit; Darby & Darby; Pennie, Edmonds, Morton & Barrows; and Kolisch & Kolisch, all of New York, representing the patent end of the Zenith suit; and Arthur G. Connolly of Wilmington, Delaware.

Zenith filed suit in the U. S. District Court at Wilmington a year ago last December charging that 103 of RCA's pool of radio patents do not apply to Zenith sets, as claimed. Potentially, the suit involves millions of dollars in license fees and would affect every manufacturer of home receivers.

Zenith's suit asks declaratory judgment that RCA's patents are involved plus an injunction restraining RCA from suing Zenith or any supplier, distributor or user of the sets.

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FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR WSB'S NEW TV STATION IN ATLANTA

J. Leonard Reinsch, Managing Director of WSB, the Atlanta Journal's station, and radio adviser to President Truman, didn't allow any grass to grow under his feet after being notified that the Federal Communications Commission had granted WSB a license for a new television station in Atlanta.

Construction will be started immediately on a 20 acre site on famous Peachtree Street. Complete RCA equipment has already been ordered. WSB-TV has been assigned to Channel #8.

John M. Outler will be General Manager of WSB-TV; Harry Daugherty, Chief Engineer; Marcus Bartlett, Program Manager, and Frank Gaither, Sales Manager.

WSB is operating on an interim basis with FM. Facsimile will be introduced to Atlanta by WSB as soon as delivery is made of General Electric equipment. WSB is a member of the newspaper owned stations developing Hogan Faximile.

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BURKLAND HEADS CBS RADIO SALES; MITCHELL NEW WTOP SKIPPER

Although everyone apparently was delighted when the royal command came for Carl J. Burkland, General Manager at WTOP, Washington, to climb the golden stairs to become General Sales Manager of SBC Radio Sales in New York, there wasn't any cheering at the thought of losing Mr. Burkland, who has proved so popular. Great regret was expressed at his leaving.

However, there was a silver lining to the cloud Tuesday when the flash came that Earl H. Gammons, CBS Vice President in charge of Washington operations, had appointed Maurice B. Mitchell, former Sales Manager of WTOP, General Manager of WTOP to succeed Mr. Burkland. It was hard to see "Burk" go but if this had to be, Mr. Gammons, who originally brought Burkland with him from Minneapolis to Washington, had again evidently used his unexcelled batting eye to good advantage in naming Mitchell, one of the most popular executives at WTOP to succeed Mr. Burkland.

As a result of Mr. Burkland's administration, WTOP is now said to be the most-listened to station in Washington during the daytime, and leads all other stations in the share of audience for daytime local programs.

Mr. Burkland joined CBS at WCCO in Minneapolis in 1929 when he was working his way through the University of Minneapolis. He has been with CBS ever since.

After service as writer, producer, Mr. Burkland joined the sales staff in 1932 and was made Sales Manager of WCCO in 1938. The network brought him to New York in October, 1941. After a year in Radio Sales, he became General Manager of WTOP in 1942.

Mr. Mitchell joined WTOP in February, 1945, as Director of Press Information and Sales Promotion. He became Sales Manager in January, 1946. Last week (Jan. 9) he joined the staff of Radio Sales in New York, but the promotion of Mr. Burkland and the resulting vacancy at WTOP brings Mr. Mitchell back to Washington immediately.

Before entering the radio field, Mr. Mitchell served 2½ years as editor of the Gouverneur (N.Y.) Tribune Press, where he won a New York Press Association award for the best written weekly newspaper and a national NEA award for advertising excellence. He spent one year with the New York Times advertising department and six years as advertising manager and national advertising manager with the Gannett Newspapers in Albany, Rochester, and Ogdensburg, N.Y. During the war he served with the Armored Command of the U. S. Army.

Mr. Mitchell is active in Washington civic affairs, and is well known as a speaker on business and radio subjects. He is an instructor in commercial radio at American University, and a member of the National Press, Optimist, and Advertising clubs, and the Washington Board of Trade.

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PULLIAM NOTES ABSENCE OF RADIOS IN EUROPE AND NEAR EAST

Eugene Pulliam, Indianapolis, publisher and broadcaster, upon returning from overseas said:

"The contrast between living conditions in America and almost every country of Europe and all those of the Near East is sharp and stark. The average industrial worker or the average farmer of America lives in Utopia as compared to the lot of the workers and farmers of Europe and the Near East. Industrial workers of America have automobiles, electric lights, radios, refrigerators, a variety of good food and warm clothing. On the continent the workers struggle to remain alive. They know nothing whatever of modern conveniences or simple luxuries. For the most part they live in one- or two-room hovels or in crowded flats.

"Not one in 50,000 owns an automobile; very few have radios. There are electric lights in some of the flats, but no electric refrigerators. Their one absorbing interest is to get enough food and clothing to keep alive and warm."

A summary of Mr. Pulliam's conclusions on the entire trip was inserted in the Congressional Record of January 6, Page A3, by Louis Ludlow (D), of Indiana.

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RADIO SERVICING BECOMING BIG BUSINESS

The business of radio servicing is growing rapidly with the increase in radio set ownership, the rapid progress of FM and television broadcasting, and the expanding uses of radio equipment, Max F. Balcom, President of the Radio Manufacturers' Association, said in Philadelphia last Sunday night at the opening session of the Town Meeting of Radio Technicians.

"The radio technician of today is somewhat in the same position as the automobile mechanic of twenty years ago", Mr. Balcom said. "With the widespread increase in radio sets in the home, in the car, and outdoors, plus the growing use of mobile radio communication equipment by taxicabs, buses, et cetera, radio servicing is rapidly becoming a big business. Tomorrow it will be even bigger and with bigness will come greater stability and adequate profits."

Mr. Balcom said that the Philadelphia Town Meeting of Radio Technicians is "an encouraging sign that the radio servicing trade is vitally interested in doing something about a problem that has bothered the entire industry, particularly during periods of wartime and postwar shortages. RMA and the radio manufacturers who comprise it, he added, also are seriously concerned with the problem and hope to present an industry plan following a Mid-Winter Conference in Chicago January 20-22.

"While the radio service trade often has been the victim of unjust attacks and exaggerated complaints", he continued, "we must admit that abuses do exist in varying degrees in a number of communities. These abuses are of three general types: (1) incompetent workmanship; (2) unnecessary replacement of receiver parts still in good working order, and (3) charging for work not done.

"Of course, these abuses are confined to a small minority of radio technicians and service shops. But, just as a rotten apple may make a whole barrel of good apples suspect, so one unscrupulous radio service shop can impair public confidence in the entire profession of a community."

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A. E. JOHNSON, NBC WASHINGTON CHIEF ENGINEER, IS DEAD

Funeral services for Albert Emmitt Johnson, 46, Chief Engineer of the National Broadcasting Company in Washington will be held tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 15) at 1:45 P.M. Burial will be in Arlington Cemetery.

Mr. Johnson was found early Monday in his exhaust-fume-filled car near Bethesda, Md. Attempts of the Chevy Chase First Aid Squad to revive him with oxygen were unsuccessful.

A native of Manatee, Fla., Mr. Johnson served five years as a radio operator with the Merchant Marine before coming to Washington as an NBC radio operator in 1924. Since 1928 he had been Chief Engineer of NBC in Washington.

During World War II he served as a radio specialist in the Navy with rank of Lieutenant Commander. Mr. Johnson was an expert on television and frequency modulation and handled many of NBC's major installation jobs.

He is survived by his wife, who was formerly the telephone operator at WRC-NBC, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rollo H. Johnson, and a brother, Harold, all of Bradenton, Fla.

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EMERSON AIMS TO MAKE 500 TELEVISION SETS A DAY

Dorman Israel, Executive Vice President of the Emerson Radio and Television Company, said in New York Tuesday that Emerson expects to produce 500 television sets daily. This is one-quarter of the total rate of the industry at present.

Mr. Abrams, President of the company, telling of a 10-inch direct view table model television his company will list at \$269.50, said that Emerson is aiming at a minimum billing volume of \$50,000,000 for all its products this year.

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PETRILLO WANTED JUSTIN MILLER TO GET TRUMAN TO VETO LEA ACT

Testifying before the House Labor Committee, of which Representative Fred A. Hartley, Jr. (R), of New Jersey is Chairman, Justin Miller, President of the National Association of Broadcasters, yesterday (Tuesday, Jan. 13) revealed the fact that his own efforts to reach agreement with James C. Petrillo, the AFM leader, broke down when he refused to attempt to persuade President Truman to veto the Lea Act.

"If your Association or the recording industry were to monopolize as Petrillo does", Rep. Graham A. Barden (D), of North Carolina, asked, "how long do you think you could stay out of jail?"

"Only long enough for a good prosecutor to get busy and put us there", the NAB President replied.

"Despite his (Petrillo's) statement that he is 'helping the boys'", Judge Miller stated, "there is plenty of evidence that he is hurting the real professional musicians and is likely to hurt them a great deal more although, while so doing, he will try to convince them that economic forces are against them."

Judge Miller explained that the AFM leader would continue negotiations with the four national networks - the American Broadcasting Co., Columbia Broadcasting System, Mutual Broadcasting System and National Broadcasting Company - Thursday. The network contracts with the AFM expire January 31st.

"Perhaps by the time Mr. Petrillo appears before you, next week", the NAB head told the Committee, "we will know whether - at long last - he will bargain collectively and whether, finally, he will abide by the law of the land."

"I think we have a little stiffer backbone this time", Mr. Miller said. "We have been encouraged by the work of this Committee."

Representative Arthur G. Klein of New York, and Ray J. Madden of Indiana, both Democrats, made the inference that perhaps Mr. Miller's organization and other employers' associations were counseling their members not to be in a hurry with their collective bargaining, in the hope the Taft-Hartley Act would supply them with new ammunition. Mr. Miller disclaimed any such meaning, and Mr. Hartley undertook a heated defense of the measure he helped to sponsor.

As the hearing began, Committee Chairman Hartley recalled that a subcommittee investigated Petrillo in Los Angeles last year. He said the group reported that Petrillo and his union "exercise monopolistic control over all commercial phases of musical production, including recordings, radio, movies and television, and have used their great power to block the technological development of frequency modulation (FM) radio and of television."

Mr. Petrillo is expected to testify at these hearings next Monday.

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RADIO INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT THREATENED BY AFM BANS, SAYS GEDDES

American Federation of Music restrictions have retarded the development of both FM and television broadcasting, while the ban on music recordings threatens disaster to the radio industry and to the huge public investment in record playing apparatus, Bond Geddes, Executive Vice President of the Radio Manufacturers' Association, today told the House Education and Labor Committee.

Testifying as chief spokesman of the radio manufacturing industry in the inquiry called by Representative Hartley (R), of New Jersey, as Chairman of the House Committee, Mr. Geddes said that the American public has an investment of more than \$1.25 billion in radio-phonographs, record players, and phonographs which will be impaired if the AFM ban on recordings becomes permanent.

"The arbitrary AFM order ending all production - 'forever' - of all phonograph records and also radio transcriptions on December 31, last, would be of tremendous disastrous damage to our industry in the future", Mr. Geddes told the committee.

"Over 40 percent of our industry volume is in combination radio-phonograph receivers and apparatus for playing records, and such a loss would cause wide unemployment, bankruptcies, and would put many manufacturing companies out of business, if the AFM ban, stopping 'forever' the production of phonograph records, should become permanent and effective. And the mammoth investment of the public in record-playing radios and phonographs would cause great loss to the public owners."

Mr. Geddes said that prior AFM restrictions against duplication of music on standard AM stations by FM broadcasting stations has greatly retarded the development of this new service and consequently the manufacturing of FM receivers.

Mr. Geddes also recalled an industry survey made by RMA which indicated set manufacturers planned to produce 2,666,000 FM receivers in 1947.

AFM restrictions on music for television "unquestionably" have "reduced the value and public interest of television programs", Mr. Geddes said, and continuance of this ban "will retard what many in the industry believe will be an even greater new American service and industry than radio."

The welfare and continued employment of about 500,000 workers are dependent upon radio broadcasting service, including FM and television, plus the public demand for phonograph records, Mr. Geddes said. Factory workers in the industry number about 300,000, but in addition there are 1,500 distributors and wholesalers, 35,000 to 50,000 radio dealers with an employment of about 125,000, and between 40 and 50,000 radio servicemen.

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OHIO, MD., OKLA., MONTANA WIN "VOICE OF DEMOCRACY" PRIZES

Four national winners of \$500 scholarships in the "Voice of Democracy" contest for high school students have just been named by the sponsors of the competition - the National Association of Broadcasters, the Radio Manufacturers' Association, and the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The winners, selected as having written and voiced the best five-minute broadcasts on the subject, "I Speak for Democracy", are:

Miss Janet Geister, Cuyahoga Falls High School, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Miss Laura Shatto, Hagerstown High School, Hagerstown, Md.; Miss Alice Wade Tyree, Lawton High School, Lawton, Okla., and Miss Rose Ellen Mudd, Sacred Heart Academy, Missoula, Mont.

The four successful contestants will be awarded their prizes Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 12:30 P.M. in Washington.

The final national judging, just completed, brought to its climax the contest which began as a feature of National Radio Week last October, supervised by the three co-sponsors and endorsed by the U. S. Office of Education and Dr. John W. Studebaker, Commissioner of Education.

Contests were first conducted in schools, then in communities, and afterward by States, by means of transcriptions made by the contestants. Local radio dealers gave prizes of radios to winning schools and students. Approximately 20,000 High School students in about 500 communities were represented.

The panel of national judges was made up of:

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Administrator of Veterans Affairs; Attorney General Tom C. Clark; Father Edward J. Flanagan, founder and director of Boys Town; Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Executive Vice-President of the Houston Texas, Post, operator of Station KPRC, and wartime director of the WAC; U. S. Senator Warren S. Magnuson (D), of Washington State; Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and James Stewart, motion picture star.

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RADIO TAXICABS ARE ALSO CATCHING ON IN ENGLAND

A Bristol, England, taxicab company, Streamline Black and White Taxis Associated, is considering a plan to equip its 130 cabs in Bristol, Bath, and Clevedon with two-way radio sets and direct them from a control center covering a radius of 14 miles, thus dispensing with telephones on stands. The system is in operation in Cambridge, England, where a private hire firm is reported to be directing its cars by radio.

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ESTIMATE 6,600 TELEVISION SETS IN GREATER WASHINGTON

A committee representing the three operating television stations in the District of Columbia has reported that there are 6,600 television receiving sets now privately owned and in use in the Greater Washington area. The stations' committee, consisting of James Seiler for WNBW, Sam Cooke Digges for WMAL-TV and Gordon Williamson for WTTG, stated at a meeting Tuesday that the estimate of 6,600 sets in private hands here as of January 1, 1948, represents the minimum number operating in this locality. The figures are based on the monthly estimates compiled by the Electric Institute of Washington and other sources.

For the last three months of 1947, retail television dealers in Washington sold sets at a rate slightly under one thousand per month. The Stations' Committee will issue the next estimate on February 1st.

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RMA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE SET FOR CHICAGO, JAN. 20

Industry promotion in 1948, especially of television and FM, and many other projects will be considered at the three-day RMA Mid-Winter Conference at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, on Jan. 20-22. More than 100 industry leaders are expected to attend the series of meetings which will include those of the Board of Directors, the various Division Executive Committees, and several sections and committees.

President Max F. Balcom will preside at a meeting of the Board of Directors on Thursday, Jan. 22, which will receive many recommendations for industry projects to be drafted at prior meetings of all five RMA division executive committees and major standing committees.

Among the major industry programs to be considered is continuance of the "Radio-in-Every Room" campaign under the direction of the RMA Advertising Committee of which Stanley H. Manson, of Rochester, N. Y., is Chairman; Renewal of National Radio Week in the Fall of 1948, under joint sponsorship of RMA and the National Association of Broadcasters, and RMA participation in the joint industry action against music restrictions imposed by President James C. Petrillo and the American Federation of Musicians, also will be considered.

Mutual problems in the development of television, FM and other broadcasting services, discussed at recent RMA committee conferences with National Association of Broadcasters and FM Association, will be discussed during the three-day sessions.

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RADIO WOMEN WILL BE FETED BY MRS. TRUMAN

Mrs. Truman will be hostess to the delegates of the Association of Women Broadcasters, National Association of Broadcasters, at a tea from 4:30 to 5:30 Friday, January 30, at the White House, according to Ruth Crane, WMAL, Washington, Acting National President.

The fifth annual convention of AWB will be held in Washington from January 29 through February 1. This will be the first national convention of the Association to be held in Washington.

National officers of the Association are: Miss Crane, Dorothy Lewis of the National Association of Broadcasters, New York, Second Vice President; Eleanor Handson, Cleveland, Ohio, Third Vice-President; Ann Holden, San Francisco, Calif., Fourth Vice President; Nell Daugherty, Stanford, Conn., Secretary; and Norma Richards, Toledo, Ohio, Treasurer.

The Washington Planning and Program Committee includes Elinor Lee, WTOP; Nancy Osgood, WRC; Esther Van Wagoner Tufty, WWDC; Meredith Young, WOL; Jessie Stearns, WEAM; Ruth Crane, WMAL, and Hazel Markel, WTOP.

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GARMENT WORKERS TO SPEND \$1,000,000 ON 6 FM STATIONS

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union purchased from the Massachusetts General Hospital last week an eight-story building in the heart of the garment district in Boston. Officials of the union said the structure would house a health center, and a frequency-modulation radio station. The purchase price was announced as \$315,000.

The FM station, which will share with the union's New England home offices, is expected to be on the air within eight months. It will be one of six stations being established throughout the country by the ILGWU.

The union, it was said, had been forced "to go into the business of producing AM-FM receiving sets for its members." The hope was expressed that these could be sold to union members "somewhere under \$50."

It was estimated the Boston station would reach 25,000 members in that area. The New York station would reach another 200,000 of the total membership of 400,000. Total cost of the six stations would represent an investment of more than \$1,000,000.

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PETRILLO IS ACQUITTED IN SECOND TRIAL UNDER LAW TO CURB HIM

James C. Petrillo today (Wednesday, Jan. 14) was acquitted on a charge of violating the Lea Act, which Congress passed to curb his broad union powers, according to an Associated Press report from Chicago.

Federal Judge Walter J. LaBuy in his written opinion of eight pages, said "there is no evidence whatever in the record to show that the defendant had knowledge of or was informed of the lack of additional employees prior to the trial of this case."

The Government alleged in its criminal case that Mr. Petrillo, head of the AFL American Federation of Musicians, had violated the law by calling a strike to coerce Station WAAF, Chicago, to hire extra help.

The judge added:

"Nothing contained in the letters and telegrams between the defendant and the representatives of the station disclosed to the defendant the lack of need for additional employees as a reason for rejecting the defendant's demands.

"Neither does the testimony in this case show the defendant had knowledge or or was told that the station had no need for additional employees."

Mr. Petrillo, stern-faced, was present as the verdict was read.

The Government may not appeal the acquittal because the judge did not pass on the Lea Act's constitutionality. In a previous trial Judge LaBuy held the law was unconstitutional, but the Supreme Court refused to pass on his ruling in an appeal by the Government and ordered instead that a new trial be held on the facts in the case.

In dealing with the question whether Mr. Petrillo was bargaining in good faith in an effort "to obtain honest employment for additional musicians", or if his actions established "union racketeering", or "feather-bedding", or an attempt through threats to compel the hiring of more persons than needed, the judge said:

"In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, this request (Mr. Petrillo's request for WAAF employment of three additional union musicians) can only be interpreted to mean that these additional musicians were to perform actual services. * * * *

"The demand for the employment of additional employees was unaccompanied by threats of the use of force, violence, intimidation or duress. * * * *

"The evidence further shows that in all previous negotiations between the station and the defendant, their relationship was cordial and cooperative."

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 ::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
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Noted Critic Wonders "If The Movies Will Muff Television"
 (Ashton Stevens in "Chicago Herald-American")

Memory poked back almost half a century as I wondered if the movies would muff television as they themselves had been muffed when the most inexpensive item in a variety show was the bit of film that made a boat sail like a boat, a locomotive puff like a locomotive, and a man walk like a man. The novelty of the photograph that moved didn't last as long as that of "living pictures" or trained Indian clubs.

When the boat began to sail and the locomotive began to puff and the man began to walk, we all walked. Managers, customers and critics alike held this flickering upstart in baser contempt than the tramp comedian or the female impersonator.

Nobody had the wit to foresee the hour when the despised celluloid peddlers would make a dishonored corpse of vaudeville and raze for parking lots the theaters they didn't buy on practically their own terms.

D. W. Griffith, an only so-so stage actor I knew in our youth, when I was an equally so-so critic of the stage, did a terrible thing to the theater he had deserted when he presented his "Birth of a Nation" in legitimate theaters and invited the opinions, not of the movie critics but of the dramatic critics.

It is on my conscience that my praiseful paragraphs about Griffith's invasion of the beat I trod may have slightly assisted in summoning the sheriff, the auctioneer, and the blackwagon to the playhouses in which I earned my nightly bread. I almost wrote myself out of my job. * * * * *

So it is with some caution and caginess that at this time of day I strike the keys in celebration of a gadget that may do me out of my job in very fact. It would be an ironical end for a dean of theatrical diehards to go to a pauper's grave remembered only as a televisionary who had dreamed himself penniless and unemployed.

But it is a certitude that my occupation's gone like poor Othello's when television enters my home, rendering no longer necessary for attendance on a show, the top hat, the white tie, the ebony stick, the Rolls-Royce and the Annie Oakley. Such slippered unease would be unbearable to an ancient firstnighter whose theater-going has yet to be halted by heat or hurricane or blizzard.

And even if I ducked the little televised quickies, with their sponsors' commercials that are known to the ulcerated as plug-uglies, there would yet be my friend Gene McDonald's Zenith Phonovision, a miraculous device which promises presently to televise an entire photoplay at my fireside when such service is requested and charged to my account with the telephone company.

Not for me, says this old die-hard - but the movie moguls are going to show red faces and red ink if they muff a sideline that should be surefire with millions of firesiders whose arteries are softer than those of this confirmed inhabitant of Row A, Seat 1.

The Ineffable Petrillo
("Washington Post")

You will recall that a short time ago Mr. J. Caesar Petrillo announced that at the end of this year the members of his American Federation of Musicians would cease to make any more records. The reasoning was that the phonographs and juke boxes were putting Mr. Petrillo's boys out of work. As long as the recording companies were paying royalties to the American Federation of Musicians on every record made, Mr. Petrillo tolerated the competition of canned music. However, such royalties have been made illegal under the terms of the Taft-Hartley Act.

But now Mr. Petrillo by an ingenious stroke of logic, has decided that the Taft-Hartley Act is not retroactive, and does not in any way impair the validity of contracts made before the passage of the act. Therefore, the recording companies, although they will get no new records from the boys, must go on paying the royalties on all records impressed from the master records made when the contracts were in force. This would mean the continuation of an unearned revenue of approximately two million dollars a year.

It is not clear precisely what steps Mr. Petrillo intends to take to enforce the payment. One possibility, of course, is that he will forbid performances by any members of his union on any program to be broadcast over any network which includes any station which plays records on which the royalties are in default.

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Tele's Bar B.O.
("Variety")

Baseball is the best boxoffice stimulant (no pun intended) for the bars; football the poorest, because it's a longer time between drinks due to the progression of the action. Only time-outs create a slackening of interest, whereas the national pastime permits twice-an-inning hiatuses for tanking up.

On the other hand the baseball fans favor beer (the weather is the influence there); the gridcast lookers favor the harder stuff.

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Do You Get It?
(From London "Punch")

Interference in recent Alexandra Park television station broadcasts caused the picture to look like Harris tweed. Engineers tried frantically to trace the cloth.

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TRADE NOTES

Chairman Fred A. Hartley, Jr., (R), of New Jersey, co-author of the now famous Taft-Hartley Act and inquisitor of James C. Petrillo, as well as Chairman of the House Labor Committee, last week announced his "definite and final conclusion" to retire from Congress at the end of his present term.

An amount of \$1,000,000 is being asked in the President's budget for 1949 for a building for the Radio Propagation Section of the National Bureau of Standards.

Raytheon Manufacturing Company and Subsidiaries - Six months to Nov. 30: Net loss, \$65,154, after giving effect to \$44,000 tax carryback credit, contrasted with net profit of \$1,149,440 or 71 cents a share for six months to Nov. 30, 1946; net sales \$25,823,426 against \$31,801,264.

Gene Buck, former President of the American Society of Composers was among the friends of former Mayor James J. Walker, present last week when Mayor O'Dwyer officially accepted an oil painting of the late Mr. Walker which was afterwards hung in the New York City Hall rotunda.

The National Broadcasting Company spent about \$75,000 last week to advertise its television network plans in 38 newspapers in 17 cities. Copy told of NBC's development of three regional nets and mentioned some newspaper-owned stations as probable affiliates.

The Board of Directors of The Institute of Radio Engineers at its December meeting approved participation in the I.R.E.-Radio Manufacturers' Association Spring meeting on transmitters to be held in Syracuse, N.Y., on April 26, 27 and 28.

The Spring Meeting Committee will consist of: Dr. W.R.G. Baker, Vice-President of General Electric Co., 1947 President of I.R.E. and Engineering Director of RMA; E.A. LaPort, RCA International Division, acting as I.R.E. representative; M.R. Briggs, Westinghouse Electric Mfg. Co., acting as RMA representative; V. M. Graham, Sylvania Electric Mfg. Co., member of the Board of Directors of I.R.E. and Associate Director of Engineering of RMA, and J. J. Farrell, General Electric Co., who will handle arrangements for the technical program.

A new record of 10,581 miles for regularly scheduled direct radiophoto transmission has been established between Washington and the U. S. S. Burton Island, headquarters ship of the present Navy Antarctic Expedition off the Shackleton Ice Shelf of the Antarctic Continent, it was announced Sunday by Navy headquarters in New York. The previous record, it was said, was established in 1940 by The New York Times-Wide World Photos and Press Wireless, transmitting pictures from Little America to Baldwin, L.I., a distance of 8,952 statute miles.

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