



HEINL NEWS SERVICE

Radio — Television — FM — Communications

2400 California Street, N. W.

Washington 8, D. C.

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Founded in 1924

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June 9, 1948

WAR EMERGENCY RADIO NET IF CAPITAL IS BOMBARDED OR MOVED

Although first suggested before World War II, Congress has finally taken notice of the idea of a national wartime emergency radio communications system in case Washington were to be destroyed by bombing or because of a surprise attack the seat of government would have to be quickly moved to some other part of the country.

Such a situation was called to the attention of the House last week by Representative J. Percy Priest (R), of Tennessee. It was based on a warning in their new book "Star Spangled Radio" by Col. Edward M. Kirby, former radio chief for General Eisenhower, and Maj. Jack W. Harris, who acted in the same capacity for General MacArthur.

"Realizing the value of a radio system such as outlined by these officers, the War Department recalled Colonel Kirby to active duty to make a study of a comprehensive M-Day emergency system. His report has been made and it is my understanding that the Army Signal Corps is ready to cooperate with the radio industry in completing the plan", Representative Priest revealed.

"The success of the plan, however, would depend largely on the establishment of an alternate seat of government. And that is a matter which only the Congress can settle. A bombardment of Washington not only would result in a partial or complete destruction of the seat of government but it would result in a partial or complete destruction of telephone and telegraph lines to a great extent insofar as communications with the rest of the country is concerned.

"Should such a thing happen, and without a bombproof communications center, the rest of the Nation would be completely cut off from the government.

"It is therefore highly important, I believe, to give some attention to the development of an emergency system for broadcasting to all parts of the country.

"The distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. Trimble) has introduced a resolution to provide for an alternate seat of government. Sound judgment and proper precaution demand that some consideration be given to this proposal.

"I hope the Congress will not too long delay taking the necessary step in that respect in order that the radio industry and the Signal Corps may proceed to develop an emergency communications plan."

Representative Priest then included in his remarks the conclusions reached by Colonel Kirby and Major Harris, some of which follow:

"There is only one conclusion to be drawn from this summing up: American radio was lucky. It ad-libbed its way through its first war - and without Government control. Private management continued

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to operate on public franchise, and at a profit. The industry sent forth its young men and women and they made the American concept of radio under free enterprise work even during wartime.

"There is scant comfort in the fact that when the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor no plan existed for the use of radio as an instrument of either defense or offense, or for anything else, for that matter. For that oversight both Government and the radio industry may be criticized. Furthermore, as long as no M-day plan for radio for the future exists, so long will the public welfare be imperiled.* * * * *

"As a first step, regular liaison should be established between the armed forces, the State Department, the Federal Communications Commission, and the radio industry. The mechanism is at hand in Washington. The National Association of Broadcasters should be geared to handle such an important assignment. The armed forces should welcome an NAB committee composed, not only of management, but also of operations men as well: engineers, newsmen, and program people.* * *

"With Washington likely to be the No. 1 target in the next war, provision should be made for the broadcasting of communiques and news from bombproof studios scattered throughout the Nation. Both Government and radio must be mobile. Provision must be made for the interconnecting of all network and non-network stations. A means of transmission of network broadcasts, other than by telephone landlines, must be utilized. The United States is a big country, and no single radio transmitter can be heard from one end of the Nation to the other. No network broadcast can now be aired from one coast to the other without the use of landlines which, in a war, might quickly be bombed out. There must be alternate facilities which could be brought into use.* * * *

"Consideration must further be given to the use of new technical advances. For example, what is the place of television in a future war? What security problems are involved? What is to prevent the technical sabotage of the radio spectrum? References have been made to 'jamming', a practice wherein one station's wave length is overwhelmed by another's, so that it cannot be heard. What civilian chaos could result, under the stress of war, if the entire spectrum became an unintelligible blur of sound while citizens groped desperately for information? These are questions requiring answers which can be found only in the closest cooperation of the armed services and the radio industry."

Representative Priest has reprinted in the Congressional Record, June 2, Page 3658, the concluding chapter of the Kirby-Harris book "Star Spangled Radio", which gives in detail the plan for a national war emergency communications system.

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RADIO SAVED DAY FOR TRUMAN IN EMPTY HALL; MILLIONS HEARD SPEECH

If it hadn't been for radio, the fiasco in Omaha where only 2,000 people turned out for President Truman in a hall that seated 10,000 would have been even worse. It was one of the President's Big Five speeches to be broadcast and radio came to his rescue in magnificent manner.

"Apropos the dismal turnout last night at Omaha, there were many explanations and some alibis, but there was general agreement that somebody had blundered", Edward Folliard wrote in The Washington Post.

"Radio men said that Mr. Truman's speech came over the air very well, and since it was broadcast by all four major networks, it must have been heard by millions. They said that the applause - even though the crowd was small - seemed not at all inadequate.

"The spectacle in the Coliseum, however, was melancholy in the extreme. The vast open spaces on the floor and in the galleries had a depressing effect, even on reporters hostile to Mr. Truman.

"These were some of the explanations: A large part of the general public was under the impression that the affair in the Coliseum was open only to members of the Thirty-fifth Division Association; 160,000 people had seen Mr. Truman marching in the parade earlier and were content to hear his speech over the radio; the local Democratic organization, having heard that the trip was 'nonpolitical', did not bestir itself to drum up a crowd.

"James Quigley, Democratic National Committeeman for Nebraska, said no politician had filled the Coliseum since Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke there in 1937.

"In those days", Mr. Quigley said, "the farmers didn't have the price of a radio. They didn't have enough money to subscribe to a newspaper. So they turned out to hear Roosevelt, who was lifting them out of the depression."

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12,000 TELEVISION SETS IN USE IN WASHINGTON

As of June 1, 1948, there were 12,000 television sets installed and operating in the Washington metropolitan area, according to figures released last Friday, June 4, by the Washington Television Circulation Committee consisting of representatives of the three operating television stations in the city, WNEW, WMAL-TV, and WTTG.

This figure represents an increase of 1,200 sets over the May 1st total of 10,800. The Committee's next release will be on July 1.

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RADIO LIQUOR ADS HAVE ONE LESS FOE IN SENATE WITH CAPPER OUT

Tears will not be shed with the exit of Senator Arthur Capper (R), of Kansas, who for years has been a thorn in the side of press and radio in his efforts to ban liquor ads.

A teetotaler, Senator Capper has worked for the return of prohibition and for many years has been introducing legislation to ban all liquor advertising from interstate commerce, which would, in effect, outlaw liquor advertising in most newspapers, magazines and radio broadcasts.

At that a leading farm paper publisher, Senator Caper owns the Topeka Daily Capital, a dozen publications in all, and three broadcasting stations in Kansas.

Senator Capper, who will be 83 in July, had previously been campaigning actively for the Republican nomination. His decision to withdraw last Sunday came as a complete surprise.

Mr. Capper has served in the Senate 30 years and is the dean of the lawmaking body in point of age.

Senator Capper's retirement apparently leaves the field open to former Gov. Andrew F. Schoeffel, the only other announced Republican candidate. Although Kansas is a dry State, Governor Schoeffel is said to be not so dry.

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TV ALLOCATION HEARINGS POSTPONED BY FCC

The Federal Communications Commission decided yesterday, June 8, that it would be necessary to postpone the television channel allocation hearing which was to have been held next Monday, June 14.

This was occasioned by the fact that as a result of the numerous notices of appearance which have been filed in the proceeding, a great many of which were filed on the last day on which such action could be taken, interested parties and the Commission's staff have not been afforded adequate opportunity to fully apprise themselves of the contents of statements filed with said notices of appearance, and that in order that all participants in said proceeding may have adequate time to become acquainted with the issues and prepare more fully the testimony which they propose to submit at the hearing, a continuance of said hearing would be in the public interest. Therefore the hearing date has been postponed to June 29 at 10 A.M.

Notwithstanding the requirement that appearances and statements were to be filed by May 28, 1948, interested persons who desire to present testimony in opposition to or in support of any proposals submitted by other interested persons on or before May 28, 1948, will be permitted to do so if notices of appearance are filed by such persons not later than the close of business on June 18, 1948, except that no new proposals will be accepted.

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FRANK MULLEN GETS INTO SADDLE AS NEW WJR-WGAR-KMPC PRESIDENT

General Eisenhower taking over his new job at Columbia University didn't have a thing on Frank E. Mullen who also ascended to a presidential chair last week. Mr. Mullen, who was Vice-President and General Manager of the National Broadcasting Company, took over his new responsibilities as President of the G. A. Richards network, WJR, Detroit; WGAR, Cleveland, and KMPC, Los Angeles.

For the time being Mr. Mullen, who found he would be able to leave NBC a month earlier than expected, will operate from the Chatham Hotel in New York but later will move to Los Angeles.

Sidney N. Strotz, Administrative Vice President of NBC in charge of Television, already has taken over Mr. Mullen's duties in that field. He intends dividing his time between New York and Hollywood, retaining his position in charge of West Coast activities of NBC.

Harry Wismer, Assistant to the President of the Richards stations, continues in that capacity under Mr. Mullen, with headquarters in Detroit. Mr. Richards, who has been in frail health for several years, has ascended to the Board chairmanship and is relinquishing all operating functions to Mr. Mullen.

One report was that Mr. Mullen was said to be getting \$60,000 at NBC but is now to receive \$100,000 a year plus stock in the Richards stations. Also that he will be given an opportunity to buy out Mr. Richards entirely if he so desires and is able to secure the necessary backing.

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RMA REPORTS TV SET SHIPMENTS FOR FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR

The expanding market for television receivers was indicated in a report released Monday, June 7, by the Radio Manufacturers' Association on TV set shipments by member-companies during the first quarter of 1948. Shipments of 106,136 receivers during the three months ending March 31 brought the total distribution since Jan. 1, 1947, to 268,317.

Twenty-seven States and the District of Columbia have now received a varying amount of TV sets although some shipments have been only a handful in areas where there is no regular television broadcasting service.

The number of television receivers shipped during the first quarter of this year fell short of the more than 300,000 reported produced by RMA manufacturers for several reasons, but chiefly because many of the sets produced were in inventory at the end of the three-month period.

The New York-Newark area continued far in the lead with well over 100,000 sets in the two cities alone without counting receivers

in cities close enough to tune in New York stations. Among other cities where the heaviest shipments have been made are Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington.

A few TV sets were shipped for the first time during the past quarter into Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Utah, and North Carolina.

RMA's next report on TV set distribution will cover the second quarter of 1948 and will be issued in the near future.

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COY URGES RADIO FOR SCHOOLS AS CBS FAVORS LOCAL RADIO FOR PURPOSE

Educated listening should be the goal of the public and those in the radio industry, Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission said in Cincinnati last Thursday night as he spoke at Commencement exercises of the College of Music of Cincinnati, which granted the country's first 12 degrees of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Radio Education.

Every schoolroom in America should be equipped with a radio as a major educational tool, and as soon as possible with a television screen, "the electronic blackboard of the future", he said.

Enthusiastic public and professional reaction to new-type documentary and actuality programs developed by the Columbia Broadcasting System in the past two years has convinced the network that educational programs linked to classroom use and school methods of compartmentalizing subject matter are outmoded for network radio and have become largely the province of local radio effort, Davidson Taylor, CBS Vice President in charge of Public Affairs, announced Monday, June 7.

As a result, he said, the Columbia network has revised its programming plans so that Public Affairs productions henceforth will be designed for general family listening rather than classroom audiences or those with special educational interests.

The change in policy results in suspending the CBS "American School of the Air" series. The format of "School of the Air" has been revised several times; the last major revision occurred three years ago. Its basic philosophy, which was accepted throughout the series' life span, Mr. Taylor said, "has now outlived its usefulness."

"CBS intends to devote its energies and production abilities in the field of education by radio to broadcasts directed to listeners of all ages", he said. "School broadcasting, in which this network pioneered, is now being extensively and expertly done by local school and university authorities who are in a better position to coordinate and judge their own community and educational needs. We like to feel that in its long period of service the 'American School of the Air' has provided an inspiration and an example to educators and broadcasters in their development of such local educational programs.

"The evolution of educational theory and practice has underlined the fact that a national network can serve the public best in the area of education, not when the network tried to supplant the school, but when the network addressed itself to the broadest possible audience of radio listeners, relating education to the context of normal daily experience and knowledge to behavior."

In a realignment of the CBS Public Affairs staff under the new arrangement, Mr. Taylor announced the following organizational changes:

Gerald F. Maulsby becomes Assistant Director of Public Affairs, and Mr. Taylor's deputy.

Theodore F. Koop is designated Director of News and Public Affairs, Washington. He will report to Wells Church, Director of CBS News, for reportorial and analytical broadcasts and to Robert Hudson, Director of Education and Opinion Broadcasts, for talks and forum programs originating in the nation's capital.

Werner Michel, formerly Assistant to the Director of Programs and more recently Producer of Educational Broadcasts, is named Director of Production, Public Affairs. In this newly-created position he will be responsible to Mr. Taylor for CBS documentary broadcasts and will assist Mr. Church in the production of actuality programs employing, live or recorded, the voices of persons in the news, and will aid Mr. Hudson in the production of series programs which are educational in character.

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DISC JOCKEYS (NEEDLE TRADE OF RADIO) SET FOR TELEVISION

Off the record, disc jockeys are a business-like bunch. Some 20 members of the radio "needle" trade held a business meeting recently. They are members of the New York chapter of the National Association of Disc Jockeys, which numbers 4,000 members throughout the country, according to the Associated Press.

The newly-elected Chairman of the Manhattan chapter, Paul Brenner, spun a few remarks concerning his record-riding herd:

"Real disc jockeys - the ones who last - are salesmen", he said. "They must sell the station, the sponsor and the product through the medium of records."

Ninety-five per cent of all platter twirlers get into the business via announcing. A pleasant voice is a "must", and the more sponsors the merrier.

The wax whirlers, like any other earnest group, want to raise the status of their profession. According to Vice Chairman Fred Robbins, N.A.B.J. is interested in nurturing young talent "who otherwise would never get a hearing."

The organization, which will be a year old in August, plans ultimately to hold auditions throughout the country and give potential entertaining talent a chance to be heard.

The music recorders are hitching their artistic belts in preparation for television. Art Ford, just returned from a month's tour of France and England, already has plans for seen-and-heard programs.

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PETRILLO DEFIANT ON RECORDING; EXTENDS MISS TRUMAN HELPING HAND

James C. Petrillo key-noted the annual American Federation of Musicians' convention at Asbury Park, N. J. Monday by vigorously reaffirming the ukase against recording, by saying that he had told President Truman now that Miss Truman had joined the union, he would take care of getting his daughter on the air as a singer, and finally taking a wallop at the Taft-Hartley Act and declaring that union leaders would have to get together if they were going to survive its impact.

At its second session on Tuesday, the proposed entry of the AFM into the record-manufacturing business to avoid the Taft-Hartley Law was discarded. Milton Diamond of New York, general counsel of the Union, said "making records would be passing beyond the legitimate scope and area of a labor union", and "would expose the union to prosecution under the Sherman anti-trust law". He added that "by going into such a business the union might lose the rights it still retains under the Taft-Hartley legislation."

As to the platters themselves, Mr. Petrillo made it clear that his own union had no intention of retreating from its ban on recordings. Defending the ban as necessary to safeguard musicians against the competition of 'canned music', he announced bluntly that there would be no change in the policy and no negotiations with the record companies.

What Mr. Petrillo said about getting Miss Truman on the air puzzled some radio industry leaders as it was understood she had plenty of offers. One story was that there had been difficulty dealing with Miss Truman's teacher who held her rate too high. An agent was reported to have offered \$7,500 for a broadcast. The teacher is said to have replied: "Remember this is the President's daughter." "Yes", the agent allegedly retorted, "that is why I offered \$7,500."

Regarding the Taft-Hartley law, Petrillo said suits totaling \$9,000,000 already had been filed by employers against 101 unions, and that this was only "a drop in the bucket" against what could be expected later. The strategy of the National Association of Manufacturers, he declared was to "go easy" with the Taft-Hartley Law until after the election in an effort to prove that the law was not really harmful to labor. Once a Republican President, Congress and Attorney General had been installed, labor would "get the business" in full measure, Mr. Petrillo cautioned.

He emphasized, however, that he did not believe industry's dominance would continue forever. "They will sue; they will break some unions, but eventually, by God, they are stupid enough to break themselves", he declared.

He indicated that the same factors had been responsible for his decision to go along with the broadcasters on proposals for promoting television, instead of holding out for special guarantees for musicians. He recalled that the introduction of talking machines had thrown 18,000 union musicians out of work over night, and he warned against jeopardizing the \$26,000,000 a year the union members earn in radio by an ill-advised battle at this time.

THREE-QUARTERS OF TELEVISION USERS GO TO MOVIES LESS OFTEN

The Research Department of the advertising firm of Foote, Cone & Belding, of New York, in May made a survey of "The Effect of Television on Motion Picture Attendance". The purpose of the study was to obtain an indication of the effect of television upon motion picture attendance, feeling that such a study could suggest the extent to which television will affect box office receipts when set ownership has become more widespread than it is at present.

Telephone numbers of 550 owners of home television sets were selected at random from the four major boroughs of New York City. Interviews were completed with 415 owners of sets presently in working order.

In commenting on the results of the survey and considering them, it was cautioned that the study reflects present conditions and is not presented as a prediction of future developments as the television picture is changing rapidly from day to day. It is felt that as television programs continue to improve, the medium is likely to provide increasingly stiff competition for the motion picture producer.

It is also pointed out that since the end of the war there has been a general decline in movie attendance and it is reasonable to assume that this has affected both set-owners and non-owners.

Fifty-one percent of the people interviewed in the present study reported a change in movie attendance. The majority of persons who reported a change appear to have been very heavy movie-goers before they got their set. Their attendance has dropped from an average of "once every few days" to an average of somewhat less than once a week. Those who used to attend the movies once a week now go only every two or three weeks.

It is reasonable to assume that television would influence other forms of social behavior as well as movie attendance. In order to get a better understanding of the effect of television upon home set owners, all members questioned were asked whether or not television had affected the number of evenings they spend at home. Three-fourths of the people talked to reported that they spend more evenings at home since buying their set.

The summary of the findings of the survey is as follows:

1. Television has had a definite social impact on the families interviewed. Three-quarters of them report that they spend more evenings at home now that they have a set.
2. This effect has extended to the movies. Half of the set owners interviewed report that they go to the movies less often after buying a set.
3. Most of the people who are going to the movies less were formerly very heavy movie-goers. The movies are losing some of their best customers.

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SUPREME COURT TURNS DOWN SOUND TRUCK BAN

The use of sound trucks by political candidates and what the founding fathers might think of such devices were discussed Monday by the Supreme Court.

In a ruling written by Justice William O. Douglas, the court held, 5 to 4, that a Lockport, N. Y. ordinance forbidding use of sound trucks without a permit from the Chief of Police was unconstitutional. The ordinance, Mr. Douglas found, gave the Police Chief too much power, and to let the police bar the trucks "because their use can be abused, is like barring radio receivers because they can make a noise."

Justice Felix Frankfurter wrote a dissent, shared by Justices Stanley Reed and Harold H. Burton, while Justice Robert H. Jackson objected in an individual paper.

The ordinance, the majority held, restrained the right of free speech and had "all the vices" of other such curbs struck down by the Court in the past.

The case arose when Samuel Saia, a minister of the Jehovah's Witnesses, used a sound truck four Sundays in a Lockport park without police permit, after previous permission had expired. He was sentenced to a \$130 fine or 130 days in jail.

"Loudspeakers are today indispensable instruments of effective public speech", Mr. Douglas wrote. "The sound truck has become an accepted method of political campaigning. It is the way people are reached. Must a candidate for Governor or the Congress depend on the whim or caprice of the Chief of Police in order to use his sound truck for campaigning? Must he prove to the satisfaction of that official that his noise will not be annoying to people?"

Justice Jackson criticized the decision as neither "judicious nor sound." He said that it seemed to him to "endanger the great right of free speech by making it ridiculous and obnoxious, more than the ordinance in question menaces free speech by regulating use of loudspeakers."

"The court", he stated, "expresses great concern lest the loudspeakers of political candidates be controlled if Jehovah's Witnesses can be. That does not worry me. Even political candidates ought not to be allowed irresponsibly to set up sound equipment in all sorts of public places, and few of them would regard it as tactful campaigning to trust themselves upon picnicking families who do not want to hear their message."

In an editorial in the Washington Post entitled "Loudspeaker Freedom" the following criticism of the Court's decision is found:

"Does the right of free speech, which is one of our basic constitutional freedoms, give a crusading zealot a right to set up a loudspeaker system and proclaim his doctrines in a public park to

the annoyance of people who are seeking peace and quiet? The Supreme Court has said in the Samuel Saia case that it does. To this newspaper the decision seems to be far-fetched, as it did to four members of the Court.

"In a series of historic decisions in recent years the Court has left no doubt that freedom of speech is protected against encroachments of State and local governments by the Fourteenth Amendment. Lovell v. Griffin and Hague v. CIO are landmarks in the history of civil liberties. In the first the court struck down an ordinance requiring a license for the distribution of literature; in the second it upset an ordinance requiring a license for a local assembly in the streets or parks. The court pointed to these decisions in throwing out the ordinance of Lockport, N.Y., requiring a license from the chief of police for setting up a loudspeaker in a public place. The majority thought that the ordinance, which failed to lay down specific rules for the control of sound devices but left the issuance of licenses to the discretion of the chief of police, was unconstitutional on its face.

"If the court had been dealing with actual freedom of speech in this case, the decision would probably have been unanimous. Justice Jackson contended, however, that freedom of speech was not involved. * * * * *

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RMA TO TACKLE NEW INDUSTRY PROBLEMS AT 24TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

With more than two score industry group meetings scheduled, the Radio Manufacturers' Association has announced its complete program for the 24th annual RMA convention June 14-17 at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, where industry leaders will tackle new problems brought on by the rapid advances of television and FM broadcasting and recent Government proposals for industrial mobilization and increased buying of military equipment.

The four-day industry conference will reach its climax on Thursday, June 17, when RMA President Max F. Balcom will make his annual address and report at the membership luncheon. "Radio's Role in Industrial Mobilization" will be discussed at the same luncheon meeting by Director Fred R. Lack as Chairman of the recently appointed RMA Committee on Government Liaison, which has been studying various Government proposals for industrial mobilization.

Officers for the 1948-49 fiscal year will be elected during the membership luncheon, while earlier in the day 14 Directors will be elected to fill vacancies created by the expiration of three-year terms at meetings of members of the five RMA divisions.

The first day's sessions will be occupied entirely by meetings of Parts Division sections. On Tuesday, June 15, other sections and major committees will meet, while on Wednesday, sessions of the Executive Committees of the five RMA divisions - Set, Tube, Parts, Transmitter, and Amplifier & Sound Equipment - will be held, some of them with section Chairmen.

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BOYS AND WAR SURPLUS RADIO GIVE FCC HEADACHE

Thoughtless youth and war surplus transmitting apparatus make a combination which too frequently plagues the safety radio services and puts the Federal Communications Commission to considerable trouble, at public expense, before the illegal operation can be traced and halted.

Among eight unlicensed radio stations closed by the Commission's field staff during May was one conducted surreptitiously by two 16-year-old schoolboys. These lads went so far as to use an airlines frequency to transmit the word "Mayday", which is the international radiotelephone distress signal, and represent that they were on a plane that was running out of gas. Airfields were needlessly alerted and "rescue" search was in vain.

Such calls started last November but were so infrequent as to make tracing difficult. However, FCC monitors "fixed" the origin in the vicinity of Portland, Oregon. When another hoax message was sent on May 21, watchful FCC mobile units were able to determine that it emanated from the dormitory of a certain private military school in Portland.

Here the unlicensed equipment was uncovered and, after hearing recordings of their transmission, the youths confessed. They seemed surprised to learn that, apart from the work and expense they caused, their prank jeopardized life and property in the air.

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THREE NBC TELEVISION STATIONS WILL BE IN OPERATION BY MID-OCT.

The National Broadcasting Company will have five of its own television stations in operation from coast to coast by the middle of next October, according to Sidney N. Strotz, NBC Administrative Vice President in Charge of Television.

Speaking at a press conference in New York, the head of NBC's television network also revealed that NBC's newly rented studio space in the RKO-Pathe Building on Upper Park Avenue will be ready for partial operation by next month. Of the three studios there, the largest will begin operation in July, with the two smaller ones scheduled to be ready for program production in November and December. This will give NBC a total of five major studios in New York.

The three stations that will be added to the network's currently operating two will be in Cleveland (WNBK), Chicago (WNBQ) and Hollywood (KNBH). This will bring the number of NBC owned-and-operated video outlets to the limit allowed any one broadcaster by the Federal Communications Commission. The two now in operation are WNBT, New York, and WNBW, Washington.

Mr. Strotz said that the addition of these three stations to the network by October, far in advance of the previously planned date, is the result of television's "amazingly rapid growth during the past two months. The rate of expansion of our Eastern seaboard network, both in sponsorship and in programming generally, has far exceeded our expectations and has made possible the growth of our network as a whole much more rapidly than we had anticipated."

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20th-Fox Reported Mulling Zenith's Phone Vision
 (From "The Film Daily")

Twentieth Century-Fix, preparing for a full-scale plunge into the television field, has been exploring the potentialities of Phone-Vision, the pay-as-you-see video system developed by Comm. Eugene F. McDonald, Jr., President of Zenith Radio Corp., it is reported reliably in Chicago.

Informed sources said that there have been generalized discussions between representatives of the film company and Zenith, and that further talks are expected to be held shortly in New York when Commander McDonald visits the Eastern metropolis.

At that time, it is understood the Zenith president will confer with officials of the A. T. & T. inasmuch as the Phone Vision system, as the name indicates, relies upon the telephone for operation.

Commander McDonald raised the curtain on the Zenith pay-as-you-see video last July. System calls for a device wired between telephone and the tele receiver. On request to the phone operator, receiver would be tuned into the desired tele program. Sans connection, the receiver would bring in only a blurred image.

Twenty million potential users of Phone Vision has been estimated by one film president, whose company has an affiliated circuit, according to McDonald.

The Zenith president has estimated that the return to the producer from each film theater patron averages approximately 4-1/2 cents. For a top feature televised into the home via Phone Vision, McDonald suggests a charge of \$1. Were the feature seen by a family of five, the producer would need only 25 cents to average 5 cents per viewer, he notes. Thus 75 cents of the \$1 would be left for division between the tele station and the telephone or utility company whose power lines might be employed to bring the programs into the nation's homes.

Admittedly, the Zenith system faces several sizeable hurdles, including the necessary approval of the FCC and perhaps that of the ICC as well.

As another legal bar looming up is the Federal law which prohibits the attachment of any foreign device to a telephone.

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Congress Blamed For "Voice Of America" Mess
 (Drew Pearson, "The Washington Post")

Not in years has Congress been caught with a better case of being wrong than in the current squabble over the Voice of America. Yet the diplomats haven't been able to make the public realize that Congress, not the diplomats, are to blame.

Last year Republican economizers cut the Voice of America's appropriation to ribbons, told the State Department to broadcast through private radio channels. The State Department obeyed. It farmed out Latin American radio programs to the National Broadcasting Company, which then proceeded to concoct a series of slipshod programs that insulted Senators.

Now the Senators are angry because the State Department carried out their orders. They are also angry because the State Department didn't have enough money to hire men to monitor the daily deluge of words which NBC and other private radio networks sent abroad.

But the State Department is so meek, mild and inarticulate that it hasn't told the Congressmen in decisive, reverberating language that it was all their own fault.

Interesting fact about NBC's Voice of America broadcasts is that if NBC operated for General Foods or General Motors with the same carelessness that they worked for their Government, they would be out of business. Looks like dividends came ahead of patriotism.

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When The "Voice" Talks Out Of Turn
("The Washington Times Herald")

It seems a fair bet that as long as the "Voice of America" keeps radioing U.S. propaganda to the world there will be Congressional convulsions from time to time over what the "Voice" says.

We're speaking, of course, of the State Department's pet project for pushing the American story into foreigners' minds, to counter the persistent Russian propaganda for world Communism. The undertaking has been granted at least a total of \$18,000,000 to day and maybe more.

General title of this series was "Know North America". It was written in Spanish, under contract with the National Broadcasting Co., by a script writer who is not working any more for NBC.* * *

Lloyd Lehrbas, a veteran newspaperman and a good one, is now in charge of what the "Voice" will be saying until further notice.

However, we'd like to point out to any member of Congress who may be listening that nothing ever can make the "Voice" please everybody concerned all the time.

Lehrbas can, and it is to be hoped he will, ride herd on the programs so as to keep the "Voice" from blurping the utterances of Henry A. Wallace as being typical of U.S. thought, or from broadcasting other Communist and semi-Communist propaganda as the project used to do.

Deliberate and baldfaced lies about this country can be kept out of the "Voice" microphones in all languages.

But if Congress expects the world to be told that everything is sweetness and light in the United States, Congress will merely be asking the "Voice of America" to ape the lying methods of Radio Moscow.

Everything isn't sweetness and light in the United States. We have a wart or two on the national neck, and here and there a blemish on the face of Uncle Sam.

If capable newspapermen continue in charge of this program, they are going to clear items now and then which don't reflect credit on us but do help to point up the way life really goes in this country. That is standard newspaper practice, and we think it's the only honest practice. And if capable newspapermen are not kept in charge of the "Voice", but are replaced by a flock of amateurs and everything-is-rosy propagandists, the project will speedily bore most of its foreign listeners into tuning it out.

So Congress had better be prepared, we think, to have realistic stuff broadcast on these programs, no matter whose corns are setpped on.

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The Federal Communications Commission has postponed from June 14th to July 12th the time for the filing of written comments in the allocation of frequencies 25-30 MC, 44-50 MC, 72-76 MC, 152-162 MC and 450-460 MC.

The RMA will have no exhibits during their convention in Chicago from June 14-17 but many of its members will display new radio and television sets at the trade show of the National Association of Music Merchants to be held concurrently at the Palmer House to which all RMA members have been invited.

Union radio operators on East and Gulf Coast ships voted last Friday to strike on or after June 15, it was announced by the American Radio Association (CIO) which represents some 2,000 members.

The Federal Communications Commission last week approved the transfer of Arlington radio station WEAM and WAFM-FM from its present owners to Harold H. and Meredith S. Thoms of North Carolina for \$67,500. Control will be transferred from J. Maynard Magruder and others who founded the Arlington-Fairfax Broadcasting Co., Inc.

April sales of radio receiving tubes totalled 18,675,364 compared with 18,208,842 in March and 16,181,672 in April, 1947, the Radio Manufacturers' Association reported this week. Sales during April brought the total for the four months to 1948 to 69,986,594 tubes.

Following the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Radio Corporation of America held last Friday in New York, Brig. General David Sarnoff, President and Chairman of the Board, announced that a dividend of 87-1/2 cents per share has been declared on the outstanding shares of \$3.50 Cumulative First Preferred stock, for the period from April 1, 1948 to June 30, 1948. The dividend is payable July 1, 1948, to holders of record at the close of business June 14, 1948.

More than eight tons of glass have been installed in the new \$3,000,000 Mutual-Don Lee Television-Radio-FM broadcasting center at 1313 North Vine Street in Hollywood. Double panes of specially treated, soundproof glass have been installed in both the control and client's booths of each studio, guaranteeing absolute isolation from noise interference either within the studio or within the booths.

A new Philco television receiver, the popular Model 1001 with clear, brilliant 54 sq. in. picture, has been donated by the radio and television engineering department of Philco Corporation to the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Tool Engineers. The gift of this new television set, which includes installation and warranty for one year, will help make possible the first ASTE scholarship for the most deserving sophomore engineering student at the Drexel Institute of Technology. The value of the first \$500.00 annual scholarship will be earned by a raffle for the television receiver.

Britain's musicians' union will ban almost all its 25,000 members from playing over the British Broadcasting Corporation, after July 31 in a bid to win higher pay for radio work, according to an Associated Press report. The only exceptions from the ban will be the BBC's staff musicians who work for BBC exclusively and are considered paid satisfactorily for radio work.

The Federal Communications Commission extended to November 15, 1948, subject to possible earlier adoption of permanent rules, the temporary waiver and temporary rules regarding operator requirements for ship radar stations which are currently under extension to June 15, 1948. It amended Parts 8 and 13 of its Rules and Regulations Governing the Ship Service and Commercial Radio Operators accordingly.

Burton K. Wheeler, former United States Senator, announced last week that he is in Germany to assist Fritz Thyssen, former German industrialist, who is having denazification difficulties. The former Senator reminded the press that the aging Thyssen, who broke with Hitler before the war, had been cleared by the Allies. The German denazification tribunal was slow in acting, the former Senator said.

Philo T. Farnsworth, who played a major role in the invention and development of today's electronic television, was honored by the University of Utah and Brigham Young University during a recent visit to his native State. At the University of Utah, Mr. Farnsworth was presented the medal of honor from the Academy of Western Culture "for outstanding achievement in the field of science".

W2XNZ, Radio Corporation of America, Princeton, N. J., has been granted a Construction Permit and license to cover same by the Federal Communications Commission, for a new experimental TV station, in order to continue experiments in color television on a more permanent basis.

A discussion on WGN's "Your Right To Say It" series, recently concluded for the season, was given additional importance when a broadcast, almost in its entirety, was introduced into the Congressional Record of the 80th Congress by Rep. Lawrence H. Smith (R), of Wisconsin, one of the programs's guest speakers. The broadcast so honored was the May 11 discussion on the topic, "Must the United States Send Troops to the Middle East?" Representative Smith spoke for the negative, with Capt. Michael Fielding, author, lecturer and world traveler, on the affirmative.

The Rev. Richard E. Simms, pastor of the Broadway Methodist church, has found a new way to get his message across to the younger generation.

He installed a television set in a Sunday school room. Week nights he invites the youngsters in by turns. The only price of admission: Their promise to attend church somewhere next Sunday.

On Sunday the regular young people's meeting adjourns to the television room after devotionals and group discussion. Attendance is running about 200 a week. "If this continues", said Rev. Simms, "street corner gangs may vanish for good."

So many adults have asked for admission that the church is ordering a second set.