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No. 1839

August 25, 1948

RUSSIAN N.Y. BUNGLING EXPOSE PROVES "VOICE AMERICA" VALUE

The State Department's sharp note demanding the recall of Russian Consul General Jacob M. Lomakin in New York, and the sensational attempt at suicide of Mrs. Oksana Kosenkina, Russian School teacher, who flung herself from a third story window in the Russian Consulate in New York, seemed almost made to order for the comeback of the streamlined and entirely reorganized "Voice of America". News of both of these top drawer events was flashed to the world by the new "Voice" in 22 languages leading all news presentations.

"This is what we have been waiting for in our war of words", a "Voice" official said. "This is something that can be easily understood by people all over the world."

The "Voice's" short-waved accounts of Lomakin getting the boot and Kosenkina tragedy were translated into Russian and eight other behind-the-Iron-Curtain languages: Polish, Czech-Slovak, Slovene, Serbo-Croat, Bulgarian, Rumanian and Hungarian. It was carried also in Russian on the "Voices" Far Eastern broadcasts beamed at Vladivostok, as well as on other regular programs to the Orient Latin-America and Western Europe.

Treatment of the case of the Lomakin and Kosenkina cases in the master script - which is translated into the "Voice's" twenty-two foreign tongues - was sober and factual, "straight" narratives. Within this framework and without detracting from the objectivity of its approach, however, the scripts managed to include direct rebuttals of all the Soviet charges against the United States.

Thus, the program quoted prominently Mrs. Kosenkina's statement to Russian Vice Consul Zot I. Chepurnykh: "You kept me a prisoner," and her statement to hospital officials: "I fear them (Soviet consulate members), and I do not want to see them."

In the case of the programs beamed to Russia, the news editors let the text speak for itself. No interpretation or background was supplied. On other programs, when the full text was not used, a factual "rewrite" of the note went on the air.

At another point one comment read: "We are forced to the conclusion that it is more important, in the eyes of the highest Soviet officials, to prevent the escape of a single school teacher from Russian authority than it is to maintain good relations with friendly countries."

Over the week-end, listeners of the programs abroad were provided with editorial comment as a follow-up to the straight news. This was confined pretty much to excerpts from editorials in the papers of the United States.

Thus in the words of Austin Stevens of the New York Times, the "Voice of America" which Congress almost succeeded in killing off, has been stepped up from a mild information service to a

full-fledged, hard-hitting propaganda machine which will concentrate its chief output against the Iron Curtain.

George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, in charge of the "Voice" stated the new policy when he said:

"It is clear now that we are in a shirt-sleeve contest. We are in a struggle between two concepts and while 'The Voice of America' will not get into name calling, we are going to take a stronger line. If we are going to influence anyone, we cannot afford to be apologetic when everybody else is shouting boasts."

Advised of increased short-wave radio receiver production within Russia and of widespread listening that may amount to an audience of 3,000,000, the "Voice" only recently started to operate in England five additional high powered transmitters that double the number of "Voice" signals into Russia and satellite countries.

On Oct. 1 the State Department will take over the output of all broadcasts that go out in the name of the "Voice of America". On that date two commercial networks will drop out of the short-wave program, and the control and guidance of news broadcasts and policy-inspired commentaries will be centered in an expanded news staff at the 57th Street headquarters of the "Voice".

The prospective withdrawal of the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System from the Government's international radio broadcasts will end an arrangement that was far from satisfactory to any party.

In a special report from London to the New York Times, the following was set forth:

"The American battle of the airwaves with the Soviet Union - pushed into high gear by recent developments in New York in the "spy" case in Washington - seems for the first time in many months to be swinging in favor of the United States.

"Reports from European capitals, including some behind the Iron Curtain, indicate that the 'Voice of America' broadcasts are 'getting through' and causing more concern among Communist authorities than they have for some time past.

"From Vienna comes this information:

"The 'Voice of America', and other American propaganda broadcasts have been playing an increasingly important role in South-east Europe in the last few days and have been playing it better. Their role has grown in importance because the Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) has intensified the Russian propagandistic attack, and this had to be answered. Furthermore, they, together with the British Broadcasting Company broadcasts, form almost the only source of truthful news to the inhabitants of the 'curtain' countries, since the intensification of censorship denies them knowledge of much that is going on in their own countries."

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FCC PROPOSED RULES TO LIMIT RADIO CONTROL AND OWNERSHIP

To clarify policy with respect to multiple ownership of commercial AM, FM and television broadcast stations, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to revise its rules on this subject, with particular reference to number of stations in which there may be joint control or interest.

The Commission's present rules ban operation of more than one station of the same category in the same community or service area by the same person or group, or more than six FM stations or five TV stations throughout the country as a whole.

Contemplated amendments to Section 3.35 of the standard broadcast rules would further preclude a person or persons under common control from owning, operating or controlling more than seven AM stations in the country as a whole, or serving as a stockholder, officer or director of more than 14 standard broadcast stations.

In a further step to prevent concentration of control of standard broadcast facilities, the Commission would limit those interests having fewer than the foregoing specified maximum limitations to a graduated number of stations with interest less than control, as follows:

<u>If the Number of Stations Controlled is:</u>	<u>Then the Maximum Number of Stations with Interest less Than Control May be:</u>
7	0
6	1 or 2
5	3 or 4
4	4 or 6
3	7 or 8
2	9 or 10
1	11 or 12
0	13 or 14

Section 3.240 of the rules would incorporate these limitations for FM:

(Same headings as above)

6	0
5	1 or 2
4	3 or 4
3	5 or 6
2	7 or 8
1	9 or 10
0	11 or 12

In Section 3.640, the TV limitations would be:

<u>If the Number of Stations Controlled is:</u>	<u>Then the Maximum Number of Stations with Interest less Than Control May be:</u>
5	0
4	1 or 2
3	3 or 4
2	5 or 6
1	7 or 8
0	9 or 10

In applying these provisions to the stockholders of a corporation which has more than 50 voting stockholders, only those stockholders would be considered who are officers or directors or who directly or indirectly own one percent or more of the outstanding voting stock.

These rule changes would not become effective until January 1, 1953, for existing situations in order to permit the orderly disposition of interests by those affected. This extended time, however, would not be applicable to any case where complete disclosure of all facts has not heretofore been made to the Commission.

Briefs and statements in connection with this proposed rule making will be received by the Commission on or before September 27, 1948.

The proposed new rules apparently would not affect the four major networks, with the possible exception of the Columbia Broadcasting System, the Associated Press reported.

The CBS owns seven standard stations and has a minority interest in another. It has four FM stations and one television station.

The American Broadcasting Company has five AM and five FM stations, and construction permits for five television stations, of which one is operating.

The National Broadcasting Company owns six standard stations has three FM stations on the air and permits for three more, has two television stations on the air and permits for three more.

The impression in radio circles is that the proposed new rule on AM station ownership was aimed primarily at individuals holding substantial interests in large numbers of stations.

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Funds sufficient for the purchase of four television receivers for installation in Washington area hospitals have been received by Bill Herson of Station WRC from his morning radio listeners. The first receiver purchased was installed this week in a ward at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda. A second set, a Philco table model made available at cost by the Joseph M. Zamoiski Co., will be presented Friday by Mr. Herson to patients at the Glen Dale Sanatorium, Washington.

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FORT INDUSTRY RE-ALIGNS EXEC. DUTIES OF DETROIT STATIONS

The Fort Industry Company has announced re-alignment of certain managerial responsibilities to give effect to the growing importance of its operations in Detroit, Mich., where the Company owns sound broadcasting stations WJBK and WJBK-FM and television station WTVO.

Richard E. Jones, for the past eight years Commercial Manager of CKLW, has been appointed Managing Director of WJBK and WJBK-FM. Ralph G. Elvin, who for the past year has been coordinating the activities of both sound and television broadcasting, has been named Managing Director of WTVO and will be responsible for the operation of that station, which is expected to be on the air by November 1. The appointments were announced by Lee B. Wailes, Vice-President in charge of operations of The Fort Industry Company.

Mr. Jones is widely known in Detroit radio circles and has been connected with the broadcasting industry since the Spring of 1941 when he became Sales Promotion Manager of CKLW. He was made Sales Manager one month later, which position he has since held. He is a native of Bay City, Michigan.

Mr. Elvin brings to his position as head of television station WTVO, a background of both newspaper and radio experience and has been associated with The Fort Industry Company for the past nine years, first in Lima, Ohio, then in Detroit.

The Fort Industry Company, of which George B. Storer is President, owns television station WSPD-TV in Toledo, Ohio, which started operations on July 21. In addition to television station WTVO in Detroit, the Company is building television station WAGA-TV in Atlanta. The Fort Industry Company owns directly or through subsidiaries Radio Stations WAGA, Atlanta; WGBS, Miami; WJBK, Detroit; WLOK, Lima, Ohio; WMMN, Fairmont, West Virginia; WSPD, Toledo, O.; WWVA, Wheeling, West Virginia.

"The re-alignment of executive duties in Detroit as announced by Mr. Wailes", said Mr. Storer, "has been made in line with the Company's development in both the sound and television broadcasting fields. It is expected that our Detroit television station WTVO will take to the air approximately November 1 and by the first of the year both our sound and television activities will be housed in new quarters in Detroit's Masonic Temple Building."

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RCA OPENS FIRST DIRECT RADIOTELEGRAPH CIRCUIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

Opening of the first direct radiotelegraph circuit between the United States and the Union of South Africa was announced Tuesday, Aug. 23, by Harry C. Ingles, President of RCA Communications, Inc., 66 Broad Street. The circuit connects New York and Capetown.

Emphasizing the importance of the direct communications service, Mr. Ingles said that millions of words are handled annually between these distant trade centers. He said American exports to the Union of South Africa had amounted to \$414,000,000 in 1947, with imports from there totalling \$111,000,000.

The first message from New York to Capetown over the new circuit was filed by H. T. Andrews, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Union of South Africa to the United States, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. It was sent to Prime Minister D. F. Malan of the Union of South Africa.

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"AXIS SALLY" LIKELY TO FACE JURY WITHIN 10 DAYS

"Axis Sally", the 47-year old American woman who the Government says used to broadcast on Hitler's radio to GIs reminding them of the comforts of home and of the company of girls and wives, arrived in Washington last Saturday from Germany to face a charge of treason.

After going through the customs, she was taken to the offices of United States Commissioner Cyril S. Lawrence where she was arraigned on a charge of treason, and the hearing continued until August 31 to permit her to obtain counsel and discuss the case.

Two hours after she stepped from a C-54 luxury plane at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D. C., she was in District Jail, held without bond on a charge for which the maximum penalty is death.

Treason charges against her will probably be presented to the District grand jury within 10 days, the Justice Department announced Monday.

John M. Kelly, Jr., Special Assistant to the Attorney General, said, "We are moving ahead with routine preparation of the case and with as much dispatch as possible to present the facts to the grand jury."

"Axis Sally", in real life Mildred Elizabeth Sisk, alias Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, broadcast for the Nazis during the war. She allegedly started broadcasting Nazi propaganda to England in 1940 for the Reich Broadcasting Corp. When the United States entered the war, officials said, she beamed her propaganda to American troops in North Africa and Italy.

After the invasion of Normandy in 1944, she is said by officials to have made recorded hospital interviews with wounded American soldiers, and in the introductions to her broadcasts described the horrible wounds and the blood bath of American lives.

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HOUSE GROUP QUESTIONS FCC ON RADIO GIFTS BAN

The Special House Congressional Committee which is investigating the Federal Communications Commission, last Saturday said that the law on which the FCC is basing its crackdown on "give-away" radio programs has been repealed.

Last Friday the Committee, through its attorney Frank T. Bow, made public a letter which it had sent to Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Commission, asking if the FCC "still plans to proceed and under what authority." Mr. Bow said the rules would apply to Section 316 of the Communications Act prohibiting certain programs, but that the section was repealed last June by a recodification act.

"We are taking no position in the matter", Mr. Bow told a reporter. "We are merely inquiring what procedure they are going to follow."

Mr. Bow said that a section of the criminal code covers lotteries and give-away programs in much the same language as the repealed section; criminal violations, he said, must be prosecuted by the Justice Department, rather than the FCC. Perhaps, he said, the Commission could get at the give-aways under its rule making powers, with any criminal violations to be prosecuted by the Justice Department. Or, he said, it might be able to take some action against the programs to which it objects when it considers renewal of licenses.

Mr. Bow said today that up to this time (4 P.M. Wednesday, Aug. 25) no reply had yet been received from the FCC, but intimated that perhaps by Friday there might be something to report.

In the meantime, the National Association of Broadcasters, whose members would be affected by the proposed rules, issued a statement by its General Counsel Don Petty, who was in Minneapolis attending the 11th NAB District meeting, due to many inquiries from broadcasters on the subject which had reached large proportions. NAB will file a brief in connection with the proposed rules at the proper time, Mr. Petty said.

Mr. Petty's complete statement follows:

"On August 5, 1948, the FCC issued its proposed rules and regulations relating to lotteries and gift enterprises on radio programs based on Section 316 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, a criminal provision. Some months ago, Congress repealed Section 316, effective September 1, 1948, and the substances of that section was incorporated in Section 1304 of the United States Criminal Code. Thus, after Sept. 1, there will be no section in the Communications Act relating to lotteries for the Federal Communications Commission to administer. It is clear, therefore, that the Department of Justice is the appropriate agency to enforce compliance with the lottery statute."

The FCC, in its notice of the proposed rules, had announced that interested parties should file statements or briefs by Sept. 10.

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MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND ANNA SIGN ABC RADIO CONTRACT

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and her daughter, Anna Roosevelt Boettinger, have signed a contract with the American Broadcasting Co. to present a five times a week afternoon radio program series starting October 4, Charles C. Barry, ABC Vice-President in charge of radio and television programming, announced Monday.

The program, tentatively titled "Eleanor and Anna Roosevelt" will discuss national and world events of interest to women, as well as items of general interest in the fields of fashions, the theater, literature and education.

The programs, exact time of which will be announced later, will originate in Hollywood where Anna Roosevelt Boettinger will make her home, and from wherever Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt is at the time of broadcast. Mrs. Roosevelt sails for Europe and the Paris meetings of the United Nations on September 13. During her stay in Europe her portion of the programs will be short-waved to America. However, her discussions will not be restricted to United Nations' activities, but will cover European problems as a whole, including food, travel and housing conditions, fashions and clothing problems, and the general progress of reconstruction.

To be broadcast over the coast-to-coast network of the American Broadcasting Company, "Eleanor and Anna Roosevelt" is available for commercial sponsorship.

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FCC PROPOSES REVISION OF RULES ON MOTIONS AND INITIAL DECISIONS

The Federal Communications Commission proposes revising its Rules and Regulations to provide for initial decisions to be issued by hearing examiners or Commissioners presiding at hearings, and for motions presently handled by the Motions Commissioner, with certain exceptions, to be acted upon by hearing examiners. Thus, an initial decision would take the place of and serve the same purpose as a proposed decision of the Commission.

These and other changes are intended to relieve the workload of the Commission in such matters, especially that of the Motions Commissioner, and also be a convenience to practicing attorneys. They were proposed after Commission study which involved consideration of suggestions by the Federal Communications Bar Association.

Statements or briefs on these proposals will be received by the Commission on or before September 27, 1948.

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NBC MIDWEST TV NETWORK OF 5 STATIONS BEGINS OPERATION SEPT. 20

The National Broadcasting Company's Midwest television network comprising five stations at the outset will begin regular program operation on Monday, Sept. 20, it was announced Tuesday by I. E. Showerman, NBC Vice-President in Charge of the Central Division.

Original members of the Midwest net will be stations KSD-TV, St. Louis; WWJ-TV, Detroit; WTMJ-TV, Milwaukee; WSPD-TV, Toledo, and WBEN-TV, Buffalo.

Plans for the network operation were made Tuesday at a meeting of NBC and station officials in Chicago. Showerman said that St. Louis and Detroit will serve at key program origination points with a minimum service of 12 hours of programming a week planned during the early stages of the operation.

Some programs also will be telecast from Toledo with Station WNBQ, NBC video outlet in Chicago, and WNBK, NBC, Cleveland, scheduled to become the hub of the skein when they go in the air later in the season.

The Midwest network is expected to be joined with the NBC East Coast Network by Jan. 1, 1949.

Coaxial cable will be used for program transmission between all points except Chicago and Milwaukee and Detroit and Toledo where service will be by micro-wave relay.

Programs to be offered on the network will be announced later, but George M. Burback, General Manager of KSD-TV, and Harry Bannister, General Manager of WWJ-TV, said that the schedules will include a full variety of programs from musical shows to sports events.

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RMA GROUP NAMED TO PRESS EXCISE TAX RELIEF

Before a new Congress and Administration next January, the radio industry's efforts to repeal or reduce the 10% radio excise tax will be pressed vigorously. RMA President Max F. Balcom has appointed a new and enlarged committee, representative of all important industry groups, to wage an intensive tax reduction campaign, promptly and vigorously with assembly of the new Congress.

President Joseph Gerl of Sonora Radio & Television Corp. continues as Chairman of the RMA Excise Tax Committee and the Vice Chairman is A. M. Freeman of the RCA Victor Division. The personnel includes tax experts, several RMA Directors and representatives of the set, tube, parts, transmitter and other groups, for united action on the radio excise tax. Congressional leaders have announced that the excise tax schedules will be overhauled and that those, like the radio tax, bearing directly on the buying public and retarding sales will be eliminated, presenting an opportunity in the continued RMA campaign for tax reduction.

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND U.S. ON FM IS ANNOUNCED

The Federal Communications Commission announced last week the text of an agreement between the United States and Canada concerning FM broadcast station assignments in both countries in the 88-108 mc. band, after a series of meetings had been held between representatives of the Department of Transport of Canada and the FCC. This agreement has been officially confirmed by an exchange of diplomatic notes between Canada and the United States.

The purpose of the agreement is to coordinate FM broadcast station assignments on both sides of the United States-Canadian border in order that no objectionable interference will occur between stations in the two countries, and involves correlation of assignments within 250 miles of the border.

The text of the agreement follows:

"Allocation plans for United States Frequency Modulation Broadcasting Stations and for Canadian Frequency Modulation Broadcasting Stations are described in Appendices I and II. The channel number system used in these appendices is in accordance with Appendix III.

"Assignments will normally be made on the basis of omni-directional antennae but it is recognized that directional antennae may advantageously be used in certain instances to reduce interference between stations.

"Assignments made at points which are more than 250 miles from the nearest point on the border of Canada and the United States will normally have no international significance and need not be notified except in cases of unusual powers and unusual antenna heights.

"Where distances less than 250 miles are involved, all assignments shall be notified in the following manner:

- (1) Notification shall be made by an exchange of documents between the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Transport.
- (2) Notifications shall include full information on transmitting antenna locations by geographical coordinates, antenna height above average terrain, antenna height, above mean sea level, and effective radiated power. In the event an antenna, directional in the horizontal plane, is proposed, the directional pattern and other pertinent information shall be submitted.
- (3) Each country shall have 15 days from the date of notification in which to protest the proposed assignment.
- (4) If, within the 15 day period prescribed in (3) above, no objection is raised, a notified assignment shall be considered final.

"Wherever possible assignments made within 250 miles of the border should be in accordance with Appendices I and II.

"No allocation plans have been adopted as yet for assignment of stations in the 88 to 92 megacycle portion of the band, which has been designated for use by non-commercial, educational broadcasting in both countries. When such a plan has been formulated, the procedure specified above shall apply."

Copies of the complete agreement may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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CONSTRUCTION STARTS FOR KTTV, COLUMBIA TV LINK IN LOS ANGELES

An advance corps of construction workers, broadcasting engineers and technicians last week converged on the Bekins Building in Hollywood to start transforming its entire 14th floor into main offices and studios for KTTV as the Los Angeles link in the Columbia Broadcasting System's nationwide television chain.

Meanwhile work is being pushed to completion on a new building atop 5,700-foot Mt. Wilson for KTTV's transmitter. Considered one of the most advantageous transmitter sites in Southern California, it adjoins the Frequency Modulation transmitter of KNX, Columbia-owned station in Hollywood.

Construction on both the KTTV office-studio and transmitter plans is scheduled for completion by October at a cost of more than \$250,000, exclusive of equipment, according to Harry W. Witt, Acting General Manager for the station, which will be operated by the Times-Mirror Company of Los Angeles. CBS has applied to the FCC for permission to acquire a 49 percent interest in the station.

These KTTV units are to be joined, Mr. Witt said, by other studios, as soon as adequate locations can be determined, and mobile equipment for remote pickups, providing thorough coverage for the local outlet, and, eventually, the CBS-TV transcontinental network from the world's movie capital.

In addition to offices for a staff of more than 50, the Bekins Building 14th floor, when converted, will include one large television studio, with accommodations for three sets, a telecine studio for film telecasting, a master control room, announcer's booth, newsroom, etc.

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ROBERT E. KINTNER ELECTED TO BOARD OF TBA

Robert E. Kintner, Executive Vice-President of the American Broadcasting Company, has been elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Television Broadcasters' Association, J. R. Poppele, President of the TBA announced Monday. Mr. Kintner's term as a Director will run until the annual meeting of the Association in January, 1949.

The Television Broadcasters' Association, the guiding body of the video industry, is comprised of member of a majority of the television stations now in operation in this country as well as representatives of many video stations now under construction.

ABC Executive Vice President Kintner has held this position since November 16, 1946, having previously served as a Vice-President of the network since September 15, 1944. Prior to joining ABC, he wrote a syndicated newspaper column with Joseph Alsop, and previous to that he was a Washington correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune.

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ABC LEASES CHICAGO CIVIC THEATRE FOR AM-TV STUDIOS

The Chicago Civic Theatre, stated to be the world's most elaborate, modern and comfortable legitimate theatre, has been leased on a long term basis by the American Broadcasting Company and will be converted into AM and television studios prior to Friday, September 17, according to an announcement made Monday. Extensive reconstruction and redesign of the theatre already is underway and will be completed prior to the night of September 17 when Chicago's newest television station, WENR-TV, makes its jubilant debut on Channel 7.

"The station, which opens appropriately on Channel 7 at 7:00 P.M., on September 17, is continued proof that the American Broadcasting Company intends to become the world leader as a television network", Mr. Paul B. Mowrey, National Director of ABC television said, in discussing the opening of the television station. "Via the facilities of WENR-TV, we will bring, from the initial program, programs of network calibre to the midwest.

"Our main efforts in the Chicago inaugural will be directed toward presenting to the WENR-TV audience a preview of some of the programs and stars who will entertain and inform them during our regular daily schedule of television. City, State and Federal officials will join with officials of the American Broadcasting Company in our premiere presentation, in a salute to Chicago's newest television station."

When completed, the new studio will surpass in ultra-modern equipment any present video installation in the mid-West. It will be equipped with the latest types of studio, motion picture and field cameras, a hand-out declares. The television control room will contain picture monitors, camera controls and audio equipment as well as a push-button operated video switching system which will permit the producers to make full choice of studio cameras, film cameras, remote programs, or combinations thereof, for the production of the most elaborate television shows.

In addition to the television control booth, an AM control room will be constructed offstage and to the left.

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TERRY NAMED VICE-PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF CROSLY TELEVISION

The appointment of Marshall N. Terry as Vice-President in Charge of Television activities of the Crosley Broadcasting Corporation was announced Tuesday by R. E. Dunville, Vice-President and General Manager of the company.

At the same time Mr. Dunville disclosed the appointment of James B. Hill as Sales Service Manager for WLW-T, Crosley television outlet in Cincinnati. The merchandising responsibilities of Mr. Terry's recent post will be taken over by Jack M. Zinselmeier. David E. Partridge, WLW Sales Promotion Manager, who previously reported to Mr. Terry, will be responsible directly to the General Manager's office.

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Radio Religion
("Washington Post")

A group calling itself the Religious Radio Association has revived an ancient controversy by petitioning the Federal Communications Commission to clarify its stand on atheist radio programs. Three or four years ago, one Robert Harold Scott petitioned the Commission to revoke the licenses of three California stations on the ground that they refused to make any time available to him, by sale or otherwise, for the broadcasting of talks on the subject of atheism, while permitting the use of their facilities for direct arguments against atheism as well as for indirect attacks in the form of religious programs. The Commission did not revoke the licenses of the three stations. It did use the occasion, however, to remind broadcasters that "freedom of religious belief necessarily carries with it freedom to disbelieve, and freedom of speech means freedom to express disbeliefs as well as beliefs. . . The holders of a belief should not be denied the right to answer attacks upon them or their belief solely because they are few in number.

Thus the broadcasters are under a vague directive from the FCC to afford atheists some opportunity at least to defend themselves against attack. It is by no means an easy problem from the broadcasters' point of view. They have had trouble enough with competing claimants for time among proponents of religion - some of whom have proved mere mercenaries. Some broadcasters sell time for religious broadcasts, some give their facilities gratis to preachers of their choice, thereby inciting the resentment of those to whom the same facilities are denied; still others deal with the problem by devising and supporting religious programs of their own. One way or another they make available to the listening public a good deal of religion on the air.

The broadcasters have an obligation to serve the public taste and inclination as well as to provide a medium for the expression of conflicting ideas. This is not to say that atheism should be ruled off the air simply because it is unpopular; it is merely to note what must be obvious, that the public interest in a balanced program structure would scarcely be served by permitting atheists to reply every time someone advocated the worship of God. The prohibitionists could as rationally insist that they be allowed to answer every program promoting the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Plainly, however, no such construction of the FCC dictum in response to the Scott petition is warranted. The Religious Radio Association seems to be seeing ghosts. All that is required of the broadcasters is that they give bona fide organizations of free-thinkers or atheists in communities where these exist a chance to rebut direct assaults upon their beliefs. Believers in religion will certainly suffer no hurt from affording such an opportunity for expression to those with whom they deeply disagree.

Editor's Note: A hearing is to be held September 1 on the question of free time to atheists by the Federal Communications Commission.

Truman's 2 A.M. Next-to-Closing Act Deemed Poor Showmanship
("Variety")

The broadcasting industry's post-mortem verdict on President Harry S. Truman's acceptance speech in Philadelphia was that it was a hit "special events" show which played to an almost empty house.

Undoubtedly, but for bad timing, the No. 1 Democrat's fighting, almost entirely off-the-cuff talk would have copped a sock Hooper both on tele and radio. Its 2 A.M. teeoff, however, amounted to a case of poor showmanagement which conceivably cost Truman a great many votes.

For the speech - general conceded to be the best of Truman's career - lost much of its punch in print; it was a cinch to get no favorable play in the predominantly Republican press of the country; it broke too late for the morning papers' home editions, and, by the time the afternoon sheets were out, the Republicans had had time to top it with loud cries of "cheap politics".

If the Demo party bosses' planning hadn't been fouled up by the Dixie revolt, a long series of nomination seconding harangues and such incidents as the ill-fated pigeon stunt, the President might have taken to the air between 10 and 11 P.M. That was the blueprint. And the time was still not too late to give Truman a whopping AM-TV audience.

As it turned out, the consensus is, he probably lost virtually all of his tele audience (it being confined to the eastern time zone), and most of his radio audience except in the west.

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Strange State Of Mind For Industry's Right To Free Speech
(Harry MacArthur in "Washington Star")

The radio broadcasters are indulging themselves in some curiously contradictory behavior these days. Over in Baltimore they are standing to the battlements to defend freedom of the speech and the press. Five Baltimore radio stations are facing contempt-of-court charges for broadcasting crime news in alleged violation of a 1939 court rule in the Maryland city and the radio people are not the only ones viewing with alarm. * * *

The American Newspaper Publishers' Association has joined the broadcasters in their stand against what appears to many an abridgment of freedom of speech and the press. So, at least in spirit if not actively, must any one else who cherishes the basic freedoms of the Bill of Rights.

At the same time, the broadcasting industry is showing a strange unconcern in another quarter, when it might have been expected to howl that those same rights were being hacked away. The Federal Communications Commission has hinted that some of those uninhibited give-away shows might be considered lotteries and may be told to get off the air. Instead of charging the FCC with overzealousness, which they often feel called upon to do, the broadcasters are just nodding their heads in solemn agreement.

It has been suggested that lotteries, if that's what the programs actually are under law, are the concern of the Department of Justice and the Federal courts, rather than the FCC. The House Select Committee to investigate the FCC Saturday turned out to be a supporter of this point of view. Before this the industry's reaction

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TRADE NOTES

One of the nation's largest high-frequency two-way police communications system was recently installed and put in operation by the City of Richmond, Va., it was disclosed this week by the RCA Engineering Products Department, which furnished the equipment. The system, broadcasting over Station WPHF, will operate at 155.01 megacycles for the station transmitter and mobile receivers, and at 156.09 megacycles for the mobile transmitters.

Paul A. Porter, former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, who was drafted by President Truman several weeks ago to "sell" the Administration's anti-inflation program to Congress, went back to his private law business last week. The President announced that he has accepted Porter's registration as a temporary special assistant.

Robert G. Thompson has been named Manager of Network Technical Operations for the Columbia Broadcasting System and Chief Engineer of Station WCBS, New York, and John D. Gilbert becomes Assistant Manager of Network Technical Operations, in two new appointments announced last week by Henry Grossman, CBS Director of Broadcast Operations.

Royal V. Howard, Director of the National Association of Broadcasters Engineering Department, has been awarded a certificate of appreciation for his "outstanding contribution to the work of the Office of Scientific Research and Development during World War II". The certificate, given by the War and Navy Departments jointly, was signed by Robert P. Patterson, Secretary of War at the time of the official award, and James Forrestal, then Navy Secretary.

The NAB engineering director's award was in recognition of his work as Director of the Operational Analysts Staff, Headquarters U.S. Army, European theater, the group known as "combat scientists".

An Initial Decision by Presiding Commissioner Sterling was released Tuesday looking toward suspension of amateur station and operator licenses of Joseph Allen Jurkowski, Horseneck Road, Caldwell, N.J., for a period of three months, commencing on the effective date of the Decision, and further ordering that the provisions of all Orders not in conformity with the Decision be revoked.

A similar decision was released looking toward suspension of amateur licenses of Reuben E. Gross, Staten Island, N.Y. for a period of six months, commencing on the effective date of the Decision, and that the commercial operator licenses and permit presently held by respondent be continued in full force and effect; further ordered that the Commission's Order of suspension and revocation, dated March 17, 1948, be rescinded and revoked insofar as it is inconsistent with the findings, decision and Order.

WPTZ, Philco Television Broadcasting Corp., Philadelphia, will install a new television transmitter during September. At the cost of \$87,000, the new equipment promises improved quality and better coverage for the Philadelphia station.

Robin D. Compton, veteran television engineering consultant, has been appointed Technical Director of WOIC, Washington, D. C., WOR's television outlet in the Nation's capital. Mr. Compton's appointment was made by Eugene S. Thomas, General Manager of WOIC, who said that Compton takes up his duties immediately. Mr. Thomas also pointed out that Mr. Compton's activities will be coordinated with WOR-TV, and WOR, by J. R. Poppele, Vice-President in charge of Engineering for the group of stations.

The Emerson Radio & Phonograph Corp. notified distributors Monday that its forthcoming price increases on its radio and television line would range from 6 to 15 per cent.

Benjamin Abrams, President, said the retail price of the company's \$14.95 table model radio, for example, would be \$16.95 under the new price schedule effective September 1. A table model television set now retailing for \$269.50 will go up to \$299.50.

The company had announced earlier in the month that it would raise its prices because of higher costs of materials and labor.

A new folder cataloging the complete RCA line of miniature electron tubes - the most comprehensive selection of these tubes available in the industry - has been prepared by the Commercial Engineering Section of the RCA Tube Department. Covering 64 miniature types, the new folder, MNT-30B, supersedes the Tube Department's MNT-30A and includes sixteen additional types.

A plaque, carefully carved out of wood and painted by the youths of the Washington Junior Police and Citizens' Corps, Inc., was awarded last Saturday to WTOP and the Columbia Broadcasting System as "a token of appreciation for outstanding community service rendered"

The plaque was awarded for WTOP's "unselfish service in bringing before the radio audience the work of the Junior Police and Citizens' Corps", according to Officer Oliver A. Cowan, Director.

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seemed to be one of grudging welcome of the threatened FCC action. They'd be happy to give radio back to the entertainers and be rid of the give-away shows, the broadcasters say. Nothing could please them more than to have the FCC tell them to do just that.

For an industry jealous of its right to speak freely without censorship, this is a strange state of mind, indeed. The movie industry once cleaned itself up when that needed doing, without waiting for some outside agency to step in and do the job. If the fabulous give-aways should be dispensed with, the broadcasters could look better by assuming some of their own responsibility.

Better, that is, than they will look by waiting for the FCC, or the Department of Justice as the case may be, to stop the music.

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