



Founded in 1924

HEINL NEWS SERVICE

Radio — Television — FM — Communications

2400 California Street, N. W.

Washington 8, D. C.

Robert D. Heinl, *Editor*

~~NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO. Inc.~~
~~LEGAL DEPARTMENT~~
~~RECEIVED~~

SEP 30 1948

INDEX TO ISSUE OF SEPTEMBER 29, 1948

Coy Calling TV Threat To Films Knocks Theatre Owners Cold.....	1
Planning In Big Way For Fort Industry Detroit TV Opening.....	3
Crosley Buys WHAS, Louisville, For \$1,925,000.....	4
Long Time Before Color Television Ready, Craven Tells FCC.....	5
Wanted Book On Station Management; Later Wrote One Himself.....	6
Hollywood Floodlights For WSB-TV Peachtree Street Debut.....	8
Sarnoff Calls Eisenhower's Education Task Great As In War.....	9
Dumont Signs Up Don Lee KTSL, Los Angeles.....	9
Figures 20,000,000 Still "Have Next To Nothing" In Radio.....	10
A. T. & T. Wins Philco Television Transmission Suit.....	11
Recording Concerns Seek Pact To End Petrillo Ban.....	11
Electronics Firm Head Heard By Congress Un-American Probers.....	12
Dr. Louis Cohen, Radio And Cable Expert, Dies.....	12
Scissors And Paste.....	13
Trade Notes.....	15

No. 1844

8
K my p G

COY CALLING TV THREAT TO FILMS KNOCKS THEATRE OWNERS COLD

One could almost feel the cold chills running up and down the backs of the Theatre Owners of America in Chicago last Saturday when Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, gave them the works on what he believed to be the future of television and told them what he thought it might do to the moving picture business.

"I have always had the deepest sympathy for those who are worried about having the bread taken out of this mouths", the FCC Chairman declared. "The theatermen of America who once worried about the competition from a new house opening across the street or around the corner are now wondering what is to happen to them when every home in the city boasts a television set and becomes a little theater. Can the nation's 18,000 commercial movie houses hold their own with 39,000,000 home theaters?

"Today there are only 37 stations on the air. There is every indication that in two years from now there may be as many as 400 stations on the air. They will cover the 140 metropolitan areas and some other areas also. * * * *

"You are pondering how you can compete with a diabolical, fiendish screen in the living room that miraculously produces vaudeville, motion pictures, news reels, musical comedy, drama, opera, grand opera, soap opera, circuses, prize fights, football games, world series games, air races -- news and history in the making.

"You are wondering who will stand in the queue, buffeted by the wind, the rain and the snow to see your show when he can see all that without stirring from his easy chair.

"Does television mean curtains for the theater?

"Admittedly, the victim of technological unemployment is a melancholy figure.

"It would take a heart of stone not to feel a surge of pity for the theater owner who wonders if he is to be the next victim of our machine age. Is he to join those other displaced persons of by-gone days -- the horsecar driver, the town crier, the lamplighter, the carriage-maker, the canal boatman, the hurdy-gurdy man?

"Are breadlines, soup kitchens and backdoor handouts staring him in the face?

"Come to think of it, I am beginning to suspect that perhaps you have not invited me here to advise with you because of my present position as Chairman of the FCC. You may be seeking my advice because of the experience I gained during the depression as regional administrator of the WPA."

Chairman Coy said that theater interests have evinced little interest up to date in entering television and that most of the applicants are standard broadcasters.

"These electronic home theaters will not change their billings once a week or twice a week", the speaker continued. "They will change shows daily.

"I foresee the day when television will be the most powerful instrument of communication ever devised, the most universal and most effective purveyor of education, information, culture and entertainment.

"They will boldly invade what has hitherto been the theater's exclusive field. They will exhibit motion pictures on a scale far surpassing the present rate of theater showings.

"The theater is not the only institution brooding over the growth of this electronic juggernaut.

"Sound broadcasting is wondering how long it can retain its customers when television is available to regale two senses for the price of one.

"The world of sports is doing some tall thinking about the prospect of having television turn a whole nation into one vast knot-hole gang.

"Newspaper publishers are mulling changes in format to interest readers who have both seen and heard far more of the biggest news events of the day than a big stable of trained seals can write or them or a large staff of still photographers can show them. Recent televised news events like the political conventions left the newspapers wondering about that old-hat look.* * * *

"Well, for one think, he can look back upon past triumphs over other seemingly potent agents of destruction. The automobile took millions out into the highways and byways. But theater attendance kept growing. Sound radio was highly-touted as the theater's Lord High Executioner. But theater attendance went on to new highs.

"On the other hand, institutions do get rubbed out.

"Who should know better than the moviemen?* * * *

"There the matter stands at the moment.

"The Commission has not received any requests for channels for large-screen theater television on a regular commercial basis. Neither has the Commission been advised of any developments pointing to theater television in the immediate future.

"I hasten to add that any proposals advanced by the theater industry for the use of television channels will be given careful consideration by the Commission.* * * *

"The Federal Communications Commission welcomes any contribution that the exhibitors may decide to make toward the greater utilization of this great electronic discovery.

"I see the next five years as decisive ones in shaping the destiny of television. They will also be decisive ones for the motion picture exhibitors. In that time I am sure that you will plan how you can best serve the American public in this new era of changing conditions. I know that an intensive industry-wide study of television development and the part you can play in it will result in a three-way benefit: to the motion picture exhibitors, to television, and to the American public."

X X X X X X X X X X

PLANNING IN BIG WAY FOR FORT INDUSTRY DETROIT TV OPENING

Elaborate plans are now under way for the October 24th premiere of WJBK-TV, one of Detroit's newest and most modern television stations, owned and operated by The Fort Industry Company, of which Commander George B. Storer is President and J. Harold Ryan, of Toledo, Vice-President. WJBK-TV began transmitting a test pattern on Channel 2, 54-60 mc., last Monday. From now on until October 24th, there will be a test pattern daily from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. which will assist dealers and servicemen in the selling and installation of television sets throughout the Detroit area.

Construction has already begun on completely new and especially designed studios and laboratories for WJBK-TV. These will be located in Detroit's Masonic Temple Building in the heart of the city's entertainment world and completed about January 1st. Twenty thousand square feet of space has been leased for television programming of The Fort Industry Company's Detroit outlet. With a majority of the city's finest concert and light opera presentations emanating from the Masonic Temple, it is the hope of WJBK-TV that many of these programs will be brought into the homes of Detroiters by means of television.

Planning to occupy both the sixth and seventh floors of the Masonic Temple, the site will not only house the studios and offices of WJBK-TV, but also the studios and offices for WJBK-AM and FM. Plans call for two television studios, of ample size, a master control room, and a fully equipped studio control room. The studios will be connected with the television transmitter by means of microwave radio link.

The October 24 opening of WJBK-TV and first broadcasts will originate from the newly constructed transmitter building located in northwest Detroit. One of the opening features will be the hour-long premiere of the Fort Theatre from New York. There will be a 5 kilowatt General Electric transmitter, type TT-6-A. Located adjacent to the transmitter building, a newly-erected, 400 foot tower supports both the TV and FM antennae.

One of the latest and most functional models of a mobile TV unit has been received from the Linn Truck and Coach Company of Oneonta, New York. This unit contains an RCA two camera field chain and a microwave transmitter, by which all remote broadcasts will be relayed to the television transmitter.

Plans are now under way for installation of a "dish" at the 250 foot level of the TV tower. This will enable WJBK-TV to exchange programs with WSPD-TV, The Fort Industry Company's Toledo outlet.

The rise of Station WJBK, both in the field of radio and television, has been rapid. Known for many years as a small, foreign language station, it was only fifteen months ago that an intensive expansion program was begun with the purchase of the station by The Fort Industry Company. All foreign language programs were discontinued as of November 1, 1947.

Commander Storer is a well-known and established resident of Detroit. A pioneer in the field of radio, he purchased the first of a seven station radio group in 1927. This was Station WSPD in Toledo, which has already begun television operations as WSPD-TV. The Company owns directly or through subsidiaries Stations WAGA, Atlanta; WGBS, Miami; WJBK, Detroit; WLOK, Lima; WMMN, Fairmont, West Virginia; WSPD, Toledo; and WWVA, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Concerning the inauguration of WJBK-TV, Ralph G. Elvin, Managing Director of WJBK-TV said:

"Years of research in the fields of science and radio are at last culminating with the realization of television in this vast motor city area. And WJBK-TV fully intends to do everything in its power to bring the finest in both local and network entertainment to Detroiters. Taking into consideration the fact that only one city in the country now has more television outlets than Detroit, we believe it highly probable that this area will have one of the greatest and finest selections of television programs within the industry."

X X X X X X X X X X X X

CROSLEY BUYS WHAS, LOUISVILLE FOR \$1,925,000

WHAS, Kentucky's oldest radio station, yesterday was sold to the Crosley Broadcasting Corporation subject to approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

The purchase price was \$1,925,000, according to Barry Bingham, President of the station and of The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times. The 50,000-watt station has been operating for twenty-six years in connection with the two newspapers.

If the FCC approves the purchase, the Crosley Corporation will add another major station to its extensive broadcasting facilities which include New York's WINS and Cincinnati's WLW.

A Columbia Broadcasting System affiliate, WHAS holds one of the few clear-channel broadcasting licenses. It also holds permits for frequency modulation, facsimile and mobile-transmitter short-wave operations. It has a construction permit from the FCC for television and has been preparing to go into the television broadcasting.

X X X X X X X X X X

LONG TIME BEFORE COLOR TELEVISION READY, CRAVEN TELLS FCC

Judging from the testimony of Commander T. A. M. Craven, Vice-President of the Cowles Broadcasting Company, at the Federal Communications Commission hearing last week, looking into the possibility of expanding of television into the 475-890 mc. band, color television "is something else again", and we may have to wait quite awhile to get it."

"The illusion of color television is an attractive one", Commander Craven told the Commission. "However, it appears it will take a long time of development before it is ready for practical application in the service of the public."

With regard to allocating television to the 475-890 mc. band, Mr. Craven said:

"The Cowles Broadcasting Company does not propose or oppose the adoption of any specific plan of allocation. We are interested primarily in the orderly development of television in such manner that the entire public will receive adequate service. Naturally, we hope to participate in that service at some time."

Commander Craven stated that while it is well known that the upper frequencies will have more spotty coverage than the lower frequencies, it must be remembered that the lower frequencies also have spots.

"In so far as I can ascertain, there is no perfect channel from the standpoint of ideal coverage", the witness continued. "All channels either have ghosts, shadows, tropospheric interference or ionosphere interference to contend with."

"It seems obvious that something must be done now to provide for a better television service to the public than is possible with only the 12 lower channels. The only available spectrum space appears to be between 475 and 940 megacycles. Consequently, we have no other choice at this time."

Prior to reaching this conclusion, the former FCC Commissioner presented two allocation plans. Craven Plan I calls for 14-mc channels, 33 of them in an expanded UHF band of 470 to 940 mc. Present 6-mc monochrome transmission would be retained, leaving an 8-mc guard band until a color system is developed which would use the full 14-mc channel. If simultaneous color system is evolved the monochrome receivers could still give service by using only the green portion of the color signal.

Craven Plan II calls for 6-mc channels within 500-890 mc for immediate monochrome transmission as now. Space would allow 68 new channels.

Mr. Craven discarded Plan I on grounds that color television is not imminent and any advantages in adoption of a plan providing for ultimate transition to color without future reallocation is outweighed by "serious disadvantages". Among the disadvantages he

listed the assumption in Plan I that simultaneous color would win out over the sequential or any other method, whereby monochrome set obsolescence would be reduced; sales resistance if the public thought color was coming; and plan could not provide for full competitive color system with limited channels.

Wide geographical spacing of Plan II allocations would allow eventual reallocation for color, Commander Craven said. Presently it could provide national integrated monochrome system with communities having as little as 25,000 population getting at least one channel each. Plan II would leave the present operating and under construction VHF stations substantially the same.

At the end of the four day hearings last week, the idea of extending television into the 475-890 mc. band appeared to be gaining favor with a good chance of its adoption.

X X X X X X X X X

WANTED BOOK ON STATION MANAGEMENT; LATER WROTE ONE HIMSELF

In the old days when Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover and Inspector William Terrell were handling radio all by themselves, a new reporter asked, "Isn't there a book in which I can read up on this thing?"

"You don't need a book", someone replied. "If you want to know anything about radio, just ask Terrell."

Almost the same question was asked years later by J. Leonard Reinsch, who was to become one of the best known radio men in the country and General Manager of the stations of ex-Gov. James M. Cox, of Ohio, WHIO, Dayton, WSB, Atlanta, and WIOD, Miami, Fla.

"Isn't there some book that tells me how to run a radio station?" Mr. Reinsch wanted to know when he first went into broadcasting. However, apparently not finding what he wanted after he himself had made a success in the business, Mr. Reinsch at the suggestion of two other young men who had done all right, Frank Stanton, CBS President, and Sol Taishoff, Editor of Broadcasting, Mr. Reinsch began the two year task of writing a book, "Radio Station Management" which is to be on the bookstands today (Wednesday, September 29).

Mr. Reinsch writes pretty much as he talks. He has a crisp, interesting and friendly style. Also he gives the impression of knowing the business thoroughly which should make the book a "must" reading for the broadcasters. Likewise, Mr. Reinsch's knowledge of radio is not confined to the commercial side. Mr. Reinsch in his coaching of President Truman proved his ability along other lines although there is no reference to this in the book. Anyone who heard the President's early broadcasts and compared those with his 5-star midnight oration when he accepted the Democratic nomination at Philadelphia, will realize that.

What Mr. Reinsch has to say in his new book about political broadcasts is timely especially as it follows so closely FCC Chairman Coy's appeal to Congress to clear up the question as to whether or not the broadcaster can be held liable for what the politico says under the libel laws of the State without getting Congress on his neck for censoring.

"During a heated campaign you may find your station sued for libel", Mr. Reinsch writes. "Even though you have no right to censor the script, the courts may still decide that you are liable. Station WMMN, in Fairmont, West Virginia, was sued for \$30,000 because of one candidate's unfounded statement against another candidate. The case never went to trial but was settled out of court for \$17,000.

"Defamation by radio may be defined as either libel or slander. Libel, of course, is considered the more serious and in most states it is a criminal offense. Slander involves only civil damages. Decisions of the courts are about equally divided as to whether defamation by radio is libel or slander. In general, however, the most convenient common-law form of action applicable to broadcast defamation is libel. Some states have passed laws protecting radio stations from libel suits. Check your local law.

"One way to avoid suit is to request the script in advance. If some statement appears libelous, point out to the speaker that, although you have no right to censor the material, it would be much better to reword the statement.* * * *

"Well-operated stations have gradually abandoned the broadcast of political announcements -- whether of the chain-break or one-minute type -- and have prohibited political programs in a dramatic form. Such stations accept political broadcasts only in the form of five-, fifteen-, or thirty-minute speeches by or on behalf of the candidate.

"Some stations charge candidates during the campaign and then on the eve of the election set aside a period for use by all the major candidates without charge.

"It is inadvisable to broadcast any political speeches on the day of election. In fact, the Legislative Committee of the NAB, after a discussion with former Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, considered a recommendation prohibiting political broadcasts later than twenty-four hours before the opening of the polls."

"Many stations have made what some consider a serious error in doubling the time cost for political broadcasts. Since one of the candidates will be elected and will be in position to pass on legislation that will affect broadcasting, this policy of 'charging what the traffic will bear' is considered by most executives inadvisable.

"Regardless of the rate charged, the same rate must apply to all candidates for the same office. There should be no rebate by any means -- directly or indirectly -- to any candidate. It is not permissible to charge one candidate and to give the period free to another candidate.

"Also required by law is a record of requests for time and the disposition of the requests.

"To avoid confusion in station operation and trouble with the regulatory body, prior to the campaign assign one individual to handle all requests for all political broadcasts. Set up a record to make a note of all requests for political time - either informal or formal."

The chapter headings of the new book are as follows:

How to Get a Radio Station; How to Judge Network Affiliation; How to Set Up the Organization; How to Use Surveys; How to Handle Union Relations; Program Department; News Department; Engineering Department; Sales Department; Accounting and Traffic Departments; How to Train the Staff; How to Promote Circulation; How to Fulfill Community Responsibility; How to Prepare Renewal and Annual Reports; How About the Future?

The two appendices contain the "WIOD Announcer's Handbook of Policy-Mechanics-Procedure" and "Statement of Policies in Effect at Radio Station WSB".

The publishers of "Radio Station Management" are Harper & Brothers, New York, and the price is \$3.50.

X X X X X X X X X X

HOLLYWOOD FLOODLIGHTS FOR WSB-TV PEACHTREE STREET DEBUT

Atlanta's famous "Peachtree Street", which contrary to all reports has refused to be "Gond With the Wind" will be aglow with light tonight (Wednesday, September 29) at the opening of WSB-TV first television station in the deep South.

Politics, which are really taken seriously in Georgia, will be forgotten. Top officials to appear at the invitation of Leonard Reinsch, Station Manager, will be Gov. M. E. Thompson; Gov.-Elect Herman Talmadge; Mayor William B. Hartsfield; R. L. Doyal, Chairman of Fulton County Commission; A. L. Zachry, President of Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; Dr. William Paty, Chancellor of University System, and Miss Ira Jarrell, Superintendent of Atlanta public schools.

Opening day ceremonies will be divided into three segments: official opening, preview of WSB-TV programs and full length motion picture.

During second segment programs to be previewed include: Gilpin Marionettes, "Monkey Business"; a sports show; news, "Pantry Party" and the Sunshine Boys.

The full length feature film is "Cheers for Miss Bishop" with Martha Scott. WSB-TV will operate on Channel 8, 180-186 mc.

X X X X X X X X X X

SARNOFF CALLS EISENHOWER'S EDUCATION TASK GREAT AS IN WAR

That our great war general should turn to the field of education was hailed in an address by Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Radio Corporation of America, at the convocation last Monday (Sept. 27) of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America conferring on General Eisenhower the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

"As one who has had the honor to serve abroad under the command of Dwight D. Eisenhower, General of the Army, I am grateful for the opportunity to join in this welcome to an eminent American", Mr. Sarnoff said.

"Great was General Eisenhower's role as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces when they broke the terror of the German onslaught. Equally great and urgent is the task that now faces him. Civilization, it has been remarked, has become a race between education and catastrophe. In this conflict the principles of true education are arrayed against the false philosophies which seek to undermine the basic values of our civilization. Today, this conflict is reaching a climax. The crisis calls for inspired leadership.* * * *

"General Eisenhower has seen how technological power can be harnessed to achieve victory in war. He knows, too, that Science can be an even greater force in the preservation of peace.* * * *

"No man could have entered the educational world with a greater knowledge of so many minds, so many peoples, so many arts, as has General Eisenhower. To obtain effective cooperation in the war, among millions of men and women of diverse training and background, was an achievement unparalleled in history. General Eisenhower's deeds emphasize, what this Seminary teaches, the virtues which are common to all good men. Let us, therefore, join with him in unifying these social forces, rather than to dwell upon the minor differences which cause misunderstandings and divide people."

X X X X X X X X

DUMONT SIGNS UP DON LEE KTSL, LOS ANGELES

The Dumont Television Network has signed the Don Lee television station KTSL in Los Angeles as an affiliate, it was announced Monday.

A joint statement by Lewis Allen Weiss, President of the Don Lee Broadcasting System, and Humboldt J. Greig, Dumont Sales Manager, said the station would be served by film recordings until network relay facilities are extended to the Pacific Coast.

X X X X X X X X

FIGURES 20,000,000 STILL "HAVE NEXT TO NOTHING" IN RADIO

Addressing the annual convention of the FM Association in Chicago this week, Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, said that about 20,000,000 persons in the United States still had "next to nothing" in radio service.

Mr. Coy noted that while broadcasting service in most big city areas was excellent and that in suburban areas it was usually fair to good, many communities still lacked adequate service.

The FCC Chairman reported that nearly 3,000,000 sets incorporating FM had been distributed, and expressed the view that a receiver with only FM (and not including standard radio) might have a wide acceptance.

Zenith already has such a set and several companies are reported to be making plans to bring out others.

The exhibits at the convention included a simplified, inexpensive FM transmitter which was hailed by Maj. Edwin H. Armstrong, the inventor of FM, as opening grass-roots fields to FM broadcasting. The transmitter costs less than \$3,000.

"This development has opened up all sorts of new broadcasting possibilities", said Major Armstrong. "One can visualize the operation of unsupervised transmitters of a few watts' power, controlled from pulpits, school house assembly halls, and similar places, the transmitter requiring no more attention than the common public address system."

It is believed such a transmitter may well stimulate the establishment of more educational stations which have been kept out of the field because of costs.

Stewart Warner Corporation exhibited a console which prints radio facsimile and provides ordinary radio programs.

The company said it was prepared to manufacture the instruments in volume as soon as demand made mass production practical. Samuel Insull, Jr., Vice-President of the Corporation, said he believed the set could be retailed at a price "somewhere in the \$400 bracket."

X X X X X X X X

A.T. & T. WINS PHILCO TELEVISION TRANSMISSION SUIT

The Philco Corporation Monday in Philadelphia lost a suit to restrain the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from interfering with its Philadelphia station, WPTZ, sending to and receiving from the National Broadcasting Company certain television broadcasts.

Judge William H. Kirkpatrick ruled that the Federal Court had no jurisdiction in the controversy. He held the matter was one solely for the Federal Communications Commission to decide.

NBC uses A. T. & T. transmission facilities but Philco has its own wire connection with New York. Under a contract with NBC, Philco sends certain of the telecasts originating in Philadelphia to New York and receives some from NBC.

Philco contended that A. T. & T. violated the Federal Communications Act by refusing to accept for transmission over telegraph company lines a program originating at WPTZ and relayed to New York via Philco's radio beam.

Counsel for A. T. & T. said the case should have gone to the Federal Communications Commission.

X X X X X X X X X

RECORDING CONCERNS SEEK PACT TO END PETRILLO BAN

The record companies decided Tuesday in New York to seek a meeting with James C. Petrillo, President of the American Federation of Musicians, in a further step looking toward an agreement that would end the union's ban on the manufacture of new disks. The ban has been in effect since Jan. 1.

Attorneys for the five largest companies - Columbia, RCA Victor, Decca, Capitol and Mercury -- conferred among themselves and then telephoned Milton Diamond, counsel to Mr. Petrillo. They suggested that the meeting be held next Tuesday, but whether this would be convenient for Mr. Petrillo was not immediately ascertained. The union leader was in Chicago yesterday.

The action of the record companies comes ten days after Mr. Petrillo first advanced a proposal for a union welfare fund to replace the one outlawed under the Taft-Hartley Law. His proposal calls for a trustee to administer the fund, which would be financed by fees paid by the companies on each disk they sold. The union stopped disk manufacture when the Taft-Hartley Law prohibited payment of such fees directly to the union itself.

X X X X X X X X X

ELECTRONICS FIRM HEAD HEARD BY CONGRESS UN-AMERICAN PROBERS

Samuel Novick, President of the Electronics Corp. of America last week was questioned in secret session before the House Committee on Un-American Activities which is currently looking into Communist espionage in atomic energy and related fields.

Novick denied under oath that he was a member of the Communist Party and answered all questions asked in what a committee member described as "after a fashion".

His company which manufactures radar equipment boomed during the war years from a \$50,000 outfit to a six million dollar one.

Before going into his own company, Novick was a director of the People's Radio Foundation, which was established by the late Joseph R. Brodsky, well-known Communist attorney.

The Daily Worker of May 3, 1946, carried a message of greeting from Novick. Novick also contributed \$500 to the American-Russian Institute and was a director of it. Courses sponsored by the American-Russian Institute were barred from the New York Public Schools on December 12, 1947.

The subcommittee was inquiring into Communist attempts to steal radar as well as atomic secrets during the war.

The New Yorker's firm produces radios, radar equipment and public address systems.

Representative John McDowell (R., Pa.) said that Novick gave "highly important evidence to corroborate the story we have put together."

X X X X X X X X X X

DR. LOUIS COHEN, RADIO AND CABLE EXPERT, DIES

Dr. Louis Cohen, engineer consultant and inventor of many devices in radio and cable telegraphy, died Tuesday of a heart attack at his home in Bethesda, Md. (a suburb of Washington, D.C.) at the age of 72.

Since joining the Bureau of Standards staff in Washington in 1905, Mr. Cohen had become internationally known for his researches into radio and telegraphy. During the first World War he developed for the Navy an instrument that became known as the Cohen receiver. Later he served on several international commissions on communications, and wrote technical books and papers in the general field of electricity.

Mr. Cohen was born in Kiev, Russia, in 1876. Brought to this country as a boy, he attended the University of Chicago and Columbia University, the latter of which conferred on him a doctor's degree in 1905.

X X X X X X X X X

:::
 ::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
 :::

Miami Daily, Radio Station, Merge Newscast Operations
 ("Editor and Publisher")

Something new in newspaper-radio coordination has been announced at Miami, Fla.

WQAM, the ABC affiliate in Miami, and the Miami Herald, both owned by Knight Newspapers, Inc., have merged their radio news broadcasting departments.

The combined operation will be manned by three WQAM newsmen, but will function in the Herald's news room. The Herald's local, state, AP and INS reports will be used in the preparation of all WQAM broadcasts originating locally. Newscasts will be aired from a studio on the news room floor.

Lee Hills, Herald Managing Editor, added a broadcast department to the paper's news operation four years ago. Since then it has aired three 15-minute newscasts daily as Herald public service features.

Broadcast Editor John T. Bills and his assistant, Newscaster William P. (Bill) Carey go over the new WQAM set up. Bills will be news editor. The third member of the staff will be Gordon Shaw, former newscaster for WJR, Detroit.

The new department will take over the Herald newscasts as well as the 15-minute local newscasts aired by WQAM. Others will be added later on.

Owen Uridge, WQAM's General Manager, said ABC network newscasts now aired in Miami will not be affected by the change. He pointed out that the new setup would provide WQAM with a daily news report of hundreds of thousands of words.

"We're confident that with this much material to work from and the high calibre men we've chosen to man the new department", Uridge said, "we can do a more complete job of newscasting."

"The Herald's main business is news and news is an important part of WQAM's activities. We think it only natural for the two operations both owned by Knight Newspapers, to join forces in this field."

- - - - -

Dewey Catches Onto The Broadcasting Wrinkles
 (Thomas L. Stokes, "Washington Daily News")

Tom Dewey can do things with his eyes and hands that one never suspected four years ago, and has discovered new tricks with his deep and melodious voice which has been pronounced by radio engineers as perhaps the best on any circuit today, with a bottom and a top that register equally well.* * * The Deweys, as always, stage a delayed entrance, walking onto the platform or stage just the right number of seconds before the radio time begins, beaming like a bride and bridegroom in a musical extravaganza.

- - - - -

Radio Fire Communications Recorded
("Fire Engineering")

Further progress in fire and police radio communications is indicated by the successful application of wire recording to the operation of fire and police radio station WPDI in Columbus, Ohio.

James Harkins, Columbus Superintendent of Police and Fire Communications and his staff, along with L. C. Murphy, representing the Peirce Wire Recorder Corp., developed a dual recording system employing two Peirce wire recorders. The two machines record all incoming and outgoing calls over station WPDI.

The machine is ready to record as soon as a voice energizes the movement of the wire. One two-hour spool of wire lasts 24 hours, according to tests made in Columbus. When one machine has recorded all of its wire, the second one automatically goes on and is ready to record.

The wire is filed for one year in Columbus. It can later be reused since the magnetic erasing feature permits reuse of the same wire indefinitely without a deterioration. It can be transcribed as necessary, or can be stored. It can be replayed at any time.

Since the Federal Communications Commission required complete logging of time on the air, many police and fire radio stations are expected to plan similar installations. Those participating in the Columbus project in addition to Harkins and Murphy are Robert Swepson, chief technician of fire and police communications and George Brannon, assistant chief technician.

- - - - -

Entertainment Industry Declines To Pre-War Level; TV Grows
(Murray Schumach, "New York Times")

Trapped between rising costs and shrinking attendance, the nation's entertainment industry has been squeezed steadily until it is now well on the way down to its pre-war status. The present decline, a survey indicates, is beyond that of last Summer's lull and may be the most serious manifestation to date of a trend that set in eighteen months ago.

Domestic box-office volume of movies is reported to have fallen between 7 and 12 per cent this year from the same period in 1947. The number of legitimate shows on Broadway is less than for this time last year and several current productions are in precarious financial condition.

Many radio stars are fighting salary cuts, and among the numerous night clubs that have closed are some that never before shut down in warm weather. Decreases in the sale of records, estimated between 10 and 35 per cent from last year, have compelled closing of some plant facilities. Sheet music is off almost 40 per cent.

Television has thus become virtually the only major entertainment field, - with the possible exception of some concert programs - to show continued growth. Yet, despite the accelerated pace of video's progress it has not yet begun operating at a profit."

X X X X X X X X

TRADE NOTES

John Cowles, Vice-President of the Cowles Broadcasting Company, and publisher of the Minneapolis Star, a member of former President Hoover's Commission on Reorganization of the Government was in Washington last week attending a meeting of the Commission.

Apropos the hearings held in Washington by the FCC looking into the possibility of new television allocations, a subscriber of this service took exception to the following statement which he characterized as "misleading", made by J. R. Poppele, President of the Television Broadcasters' Association, in a recent newspaper television supplement:

"You, the prospective owner of a television receiver, can be sure that the set you buy today will not be obsolete tomorrow or even ten years from now."

"A reason why television sets will not undergo any changes overnight is that the Federal Communications Commission and manufacturers have set standards to be followed by all industry."

"Irresponsible statements such as Poppele's", our subscriber commented, "are not only harmful to the public but unfair to the FCC."

Production of television receivers in the United States will reach the 100,000 a month mark by the last quarter of 1948, it was predicted by James H. Carmine, Vice-President of Distribution, of Philco Corporation, last week, speaking in New York.

In New York City alone, television receivers are being installed in private homes at the rate of 1,000 per day, and this number promises to increase substantially in the weeks just ahead, according to Mr. Carmine. At the same time, television is coming to additional cities across the country, so that New York, while still the nation's television center, will obtain a smaller proportion of new set production than in the early days of the industry, he said.

"Philco television production, already running well above 4,000 receivers a week or 200,000 a year, will step up to 8,000 a week or 400,000 a year by the latter part of 1948", Mr. Carmine predicted. "Philco plans to increase its production to 10,000 sets a week early in 1949. Our dollar volume of television production will exceed our radio business within the next three months. The unprecedented growth of television has not been equalled by any other industry in the nation's history.* * * The potential television audience is 50,000,000 at the present time. By December 31st as many as 65,000 stations may be on the air, with a potential audience of 65,000,000."

Marking another important step forward in television programming, Mr. Carmine announced that Philco would start to televise a series of top Broadway hits in all major television cities in October.

X X X X X X X X X X