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No. 1855

December 15, 1948

STANFORD GRABS STANDARDS' TOP RADIO MAN AT TWICE SALARY

It has been the practice for years for commercial institutions to lure top Government scientists, but when even a State University can pick off one of Uncle Sam's best men by offering him more than double the money he is making, that is news. Also it is a situation which almost screamingly calls attention to the relatively low Government pay and one which even the new salary increase if approved by President Truman goes through will likely not remedy.

The case in question is that of Dr. Clelio Brunetti, 38 years old, noted radio scientist and one of the group who developed the radio proximity fuse and the radar guided bomb, who has just resigned from the National Bureau of Standards to become Associate Director of the Stanford Research Institution at Stanford, California. His salary, which is \$9,500, will be more than twice that at Stanford.

Three times in the last two years, it is said, Dr. Brunetti has turned down offers from private industry - the smallest for \$25,000 a year - to remain as Chief of the Engineering Electronics Section at the Bureau.

President Truman has one of Brunetti's tiny radio sending stations in his office at the White House. It is no larger than a flat cigarette case and broadcasts perfectly within a range of 200 feet.

Dr. Brunetti was Director of Electronic Research at Lehigh University in 1941 when he came to the Bureau of Standards to assist in war research.

His invention of the printed electronic circuits made possible the production of radio transmitters no larger than a lipstick.

"It's perfectly possible", Dr. Brunetti said, "to abolish the wire which now dangles from the earpiece of hearing aids. We've shown industry how to build tiny broadcast units which can be worn in a vest pocket to pick up sound and broadcast it to a receiver which can be hidden in the ear."

Among Dr. Brunetti's tiny radio broadcasting stations is one which can be worn on the wrist.

"It may not be long", Dr. Brunetti said, "before women can carry a transmitter in their compacts and call police if they are bothered while walking home on lonely streets at night."

Dr. Edward Condon, Director of the National Bureau of Standards, said he hated to accept Dr. Brunetti's resignation, but added:

"You can't honestly expect a man to stay in Government, however, when he receives such an attractive offer from outside."

"Until Congress raises the salary limitation, we cannot hope to retain our best scientists without asking them, in effect, to make substantial payments each year for the privilege of working for the Government."

"I hate to leave my work here", Dr. Brunetti told the Washington Star. "Right now we are striving to develop civilian uses for the wartime electronic discoveries - to utilize in hearing aids, for instance. The work is fascinating and useful. Dr. Condon has given me every encouragement - he is a wonderful man to work with."

"I suppose if the salary were higher, I would stay. As I told you, I've had to face this problem before when I've received offers from private industry."

"I love research - basic research and the opportunity to follow such leads as may develop into broad fields. Here, in the electronics section, for instance, we have broadened out into chemistry, mechanics and medicine. Because of this, I could convince myself in the past that I should turn down opportunities to make more money."

"But when I am offered an opportunity to continue my research at substantially more money, I can not, in justice to my family, turn it down."

Dr. Brunetti cited other difficulties of working for the Government:

"I have to go out of town on Government business a lot. I am allowed \$6 a day. In New York on my last trip, I had to pay \$6.50 for a hotel room. If I want to be repaid for telephone calls, I have to fill out forms listing each person called and when and why they were called. Naturally I don't fill out those forms. When I'm out of town, people frequently buy my lunch. When they come to Washington I take them out. I have picked up a check of from \$25 to \$40 after a dinner conference. I can't afford to pay that much to do business for the Government."

Despite the fact that his invention revolutionized anti-aircraft warfare, Dr. Brunetti never received a cent for developing the proximity fuse. Government sources said that he sold the patent to the Government for "1 and other valuable considerations".

However, when Dr. Brunetti made an effort to collect his dollar, he was told that no money had been appropriated to pay Government inventors, regardless of the importance of their inventions.

Dr. Brunetti said that the Government's loyalty checks were no factor in his decision to resign and that the investigation of Dr. Condon had inspired himself and other scientists to remain with the Government. He said he had been "cleared" by the Army, Navy and FBI, but felt an obligation to his family he could no longer ignore.

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CHEAP AT PRICE, SAY STORER, RYAN BIDDING \$1,925,000 FOR WHAS

As exciting as any chapter in the new book about the late John W. Gates, "I'LL Bet You A Million", was Commander George B. Storer and his equally well-known brother-in-law, J. Harold Ryan, President and Vice-President respectively of The Fort Industry, stepping up to the Federal Communications Commission counter and coolly duplicating the Crosley Broadcasting bid of close to \$2,000,000 for the purchase of Station WHAS, owned by the Louisville Courier-Journal, but is to be disposed of by competitive bids. Even Washington takes notice when that kind of money is kicking around.

Fort Industry owns seven AM stations but told the FCC it would "dispose of certain radio facilities" if required to do so under terms approving its acquisition of WHAS and affiliated FM and television properties.

The FCC has no rule numerically limiting common ownership of AM stations, but has pending a proposed regulation which would set the ceiling at seven. The same proposal would continue the present limits of five stations under common control in TV and six in FM. Fort Industry has three TV stations, two TV applications, and six FM stations, but is opposing the terms of FCC's proposed regulation on grounds that the limit should be no less in TV and FM than in AM.

Fort Industry told the Commission that its radio experience, and its operations in States neighboring Kentucky, provide "a unique reservoir of broadcasting know-how" which would permit it to give the WHAS area "the best programming and public service possible."

Commander Storer controls 73% of the voting stock of Fort Industry. J. Harold Ryan, Senior Vice President and Treasurer, has 11.8%, and Mrs. Ryan has 14.9%. The application showed the 1947 income of the company and subsidiaries was \$1,016,591 before Federal taxes.

FCC was told that Fort Industry has made preliminary arrangements to borrow \$1,500,000 from the Society for Savings in the City of Cleveland, to finance the purchase of WHAS. If FCC requires the company to sell one of its existing stations, the application noted, these proceeds also would be available for use in the WHAS transaction.

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T.A.M. CRAVEN ALL SET FOR THE NEW PARTNERSHIP

The following cards have been received:

"T.A.M. Craven announces his resignation as Vice President, Cowles Broadcasting Company, effective December 31, 1948, and that he will become associated with George M. Lohnes and Ronald H. Culver, as a partner in the firm of Craven, Lohnes and Culver, Consulting Radio Engineers, Munsey Building, Washington 4, D. C."

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GEN. SARNOFF PATENTS STATIC-PROOF SECRET SIGNAL

U. S. Patent No. 2,455,443, covering a secret signalling system by which ordinary messages are converted to a succession of arbitrary symbols and transmitted by facsimile or television to a receiving and decoding terminal, has been issued to Brig. General David Sarnoff, President and Chairman of the Board of the Radio Corporation of America. Following the same practice of other inventors employed by the Corporation, General Sarnoff has assigned his patent to the RCA.

In one form of the invention, use is made of a special typewriter which prints pictorial characters or any arbitrarily chosen symbols instead of the common letters of the alphabet. After a message comprising the symbols has been transmitted by radio facsimile or television to the receiving terminal, it may be decoded either manually or automatically by alternate means revealed in the patent papers.

Under the manual method of translation at the receiver, an operator, using a typewriter equipped with keys carrying the symbols, reads the characters, depresses the proper keys and converts the message to its original text. The patent explains that sender and addressee, by prearrangement, may change the combination of symbols as often as necessary to insure secrecy, even when transmitted by a common radio carrier.

The manual method may be made automatic at the receiving point by adding coded impulses to each secret symbol at the time of facsimile transmission. When a message prepared in this manner reaches the receiver, the pulses accompanying each symbol actuate the key of an automatic printer to record the corresponding letter or figure on a moving tape.

Errors normally caused by static, fading of signals and similar troublesome conditions are overcome in General Sarnoff's invention through the ability of the receiving operator to recognize the distinctive characters even when they have been distorted in transmission.

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JOE LOUIS TO BOOST HIS TELEVISION PRICE TO \$250,000

Joe Louis said in Philadelphia Monday he will demand \$250,000 from television and radio rights when he defends his heavyweight title next June in New York.

"I told myself too cheap in my last fight with Jersey Joe Walcott", the champion told a reporter. "My end from the television and radio was \$40,000. But it's going to be a lot more the next time."

The television-radio fee for the Louis-Walcott bout last June 25 was \$100,000. The Brown Bomber received \$40,000, or 40 per cent; Walcott 22-1/2 per cent.

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ALL AMERICA RADIO, MACKAY RADIO, CITE ICC ACT IN RATE PLEA

A memorandum filed with the Federal Communications Commission by James A. Kennedy and associates, attorneys for All America Cables and Radio, Inc., Mackay Radio and Commercial Cables, supporting the views of these companies, recommends that in determining the proper overseas telegraphic rate level, the Commission should consider the industry as a whole.

"The closest analogy to the situation with which the FCC is now confronted is to be found in the Interstate Commerce Act", the memo stated. "Recognizing many basic differences between the Transportation Act and the Communications Act, it is apparent that the responsibility of the two Commission in respect to maintaining a sound industry and at the same time providing reasonable rates to the public is very much the same. Such fundamental differences as do exist between the Acts are more favorable to the railways than to the telegraph carriers. Thus, while the Congress has permitted the merger of railway companies and has aided them financially in various ways, it has not enacted merger legislation in the international telegraph field nor has it provided any financial assistance. Yet the Interstate Commerce Commission when confronted with the necessity of adjusting rate schedules in meeting the revenue requirements of all class I railroads, upon application by them for general Nationwide increases in passenger fares and freight charges, considered the industry as a whole rather than the most profitable or the least profitable carrier individually. In this connection it said:

"It would be desirable, if feasible, to consider the needs of the railways individually, and to adjust their respective schedules to meet their several needs. The exigencies of the case do not permit such refinement. Further, the weak and strong lines are interlaced and in keen competition, and necessarily the rate structure must be uniform, otherwise the strong road with a lower rate system will attract the competitive traffic and exterminate the weaker line...."

"If that view was proper in the course of maintaining a sound railway system for the country, we submit that it is even more appropriate in maintaining a sound international telegraph system, which the Congress has not seen fit to endow with land grants or other subsidies.

"It is recognized that the FCC under different circumstances has heretofore considered this problem in In The Matter of Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, et al. The Commission there noted that in the Interstate Commerce Act 'There is a recognition at all times that the continued existence and operation of practically all railroad carriers engaged in interstate commerce is necessary' whereas 'in the Communications Act of 1934 there is no recognition that all carriers in communication service are necessary to care for the country's needs in this respect'. It is respectfully submitted that if the Congress, being fully aware of the competitive situation existing in the international telegraph field, had considered a sub-

stantial change in that situation as being in the public interest, it would have legislated accordingly. If the natural course of competition results in the elimination of some of the competitors, it may or may not be in the public interest. We contend, however, that it was not the intention of the Congress nor is it appropriate for this Commission to eliminate competitors from the field through its rate making power. All of the carriers are before the Commission seeking rate relief. No carrier has disagreed with the position that the Commission should consider the industry as a whole rather than the earning level of the most or least profitable carriers. RCA Communications, Inc., supported the view of the AC&R companies in this respect. No number of the public has appeared before the Commission, during the twenty-six days of hearing which have been held in the past year and one-half in opposition to increased rates or in opposition to the rate proposals of any of the carriers.

"We strongly urge, therefore, that it is entirely 'appropriate, under the Communications Act that charges for communications services between the United States and overseas and foreign points should be determined or prescribed on the basis of the revenue requirements' of the industry as a whole, using the industry average as the 'balance' point."

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MISS HENNOCK FETES FCC(WIVES) IN "BUTTONS AND BOWS"

Something new will be added to the gaiety of the Federal Communications Commission this afternoon (Wednesday, December 15) when Miss Frieda B. Hennock, first woman Commissioner, will give a reception and tea in honor of Mrs. Wayne Coy, wife of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and for the wives of the other Commissioners, Mrs. Edward M. Webster, Mrs. Rosel H. Hyde, Mrs. Robert F. Jones, Mrs. George E. Sterling and Mrs. Paul A. Walker.

In the words of Miss Hennock:

"The party will be completely informal, and one of the principal purposes is to have Mrs. Coy and the other guests of honor meet the women staff members of the Federal Communications Commission. Toward this end I have invited our women lawyers and professional workers, women section chiefs, and the women clerks, secretaries, telephone operators and others who have been with the Commission for more than ten years, to share the honors. This party is as much for them as for the guests of honor, because my objective is a dual one -- to honor the Commissioners' wives and to honor, too, the women workers of the Commission, on all levels, who contribute so greatly to the effective work of the FCC.

"Invitations have also been sent to the wives of our distinguished public servants, to women active in the fields of the Federal Communications Commission, and to the wives of the Senators from the State of Indiana.

"The Commissioners and one or two other special male guests will also attend, but otherwise it is strictly a women's affair."

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GRIDIRON CLUB GIVE TRUMAN, DEWEY, A SAMPLE OF RUSSIAN RADIO

Adding much to the evening's fun at the Gridiron Club dinner in Washington last Saturday night, was a skit giving a close-up of a Russian broadcasting station in Berlin.

Mr. Truman made the traditional speech of the Chief Executive at the close of the dinner, speaking extemporaneously. He had been preceded by Governor Dewey. Both addresses were judged as among the most striking in 64 years of Gridiron history.

However, the words of the President and his unsuccessful rival were both off the record in keeping with the Club's tradition that "reporters are never present; ladies are always present."

The Berlin Russian station was hailed as "NKVD is on the air, in the air and in your hair, 25 hours a day", according to the announcer. The theme song was given by a quartet to the tune "You Call Everybody Darling".

A Red soldier was dragged to the microphone at the point of a gun to sing to the air "Underneath the Arches":

"Always on the marches
From Moscow to Berlin.
Oh, my aching arches,
To Moscow once again.
Ev'ry night you'll find me
Tired out and worn
Dizzy when the daylight comes creeping,
Wish I ne'er was born."

The quartet returned to sing to the tune of a well-known radio commercial:

"Communism hits the spot
Uncle Joe likes it a lot -
Sickle, sickle, sickle, sickle."

The commissar of cupboards and closets was brought to the microphone to tell about housing in the Soviet Union and did so in song to the air "Penthouse in the Sky", as follows:

"Just picture a penthouse on the Red Square,
With 42 families in residence there," etc., etc.

A Soviet crooner sang to the tune of "Blue-tailed Fly", as follows:

"Before the dawn of the red star
I starved and suffered 'neath the Czar."

This time the chorus sang from "The Volga Boatman":

"Ay-ee ookh-nyem!"

The crooner was choked.

The theme song for the station's news broadcast was sung to "The Banana Song", as follows:

"Buy Pravda on Wednesday and you will see
How Comrade Wallace beat the GOP."

The news cast, interrupted by the noise of planes, concluded with the statement: "In a private audience for J. Howard McGrath, Generalissimo Stalin said, 'I just love old Harry.'"

Among those present having to do with the radio and communications industry were:

Kenneth M. Berkeley, Eugene E. Buck, Louis G. Caldwell, Gardner Cowles, Look Magazine; John Cowles, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Wayne Coy, Federal Communications Commission; Charles R. Denny, New York City; William B. Dolph, Washington; Earl H. Gammons, WTOP, Washington; Earl Godwin, radio commentator, Washington; Robert F. Jones, FCC Commissioner; Edgar Kobak, New York City; Horace L. Lohnes, radio engineer; Eugene F. McDonald, Jr., President of Zenith Radio Corp., Chicago; Edgar Morris, Zenith distributor, Washington;

Also, David Sarnoff, President, RCA, New York; Edward Sarnoff, West Hartford, Conn.; Robert Sarnoff, New York City; Niles Trammell, President, NBC, New York; Burton K. Wheeler, Washington; Wallace H. White, Majority Leader of the Senate; A. D. Willard, Jr., NAB, Washington.

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WGN-TV SIGNAL RECEIVED IN OHIO - 300 MILES AWAY

Letters received last week state that the WGN-TV signal was received in north central Ohio during the recent Saturday night telecast of the International Live Stock show. The two locations represented are 290 to 300 airline miles from Chicago.

Al Burson of Shiloh, Ohio, reported: "WGN-TV on channel nine had a very good signal ten miles north of Mansfield, Ohio, on December 4....Best TV reception from here yet."

D. E. Feters of Plymouth, Ohio, about ten miles north of Shiloh, also reported reception of the Dec. 4 telecast. Mr. Feters wrote, "You may be interested to know that we received your telecast sponsored by the Chicago Motor Club tonight of the Horse Show. Your signals faded at times but were acceptable most of the time."

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"VOICE OF AMERICA" MAY CARRY DIPLOMATS CHILDREN'S XMAS PARTY

For the first time in the 14-year series of International Children's Christmas Broadcasts sponsored by the Greater National Capital Committee, two national radio networks will carry the program. Edgar Morris, Chairman of the event, and Washington Zenith distributor, has also asked the "Voice of America" to pick up the broadcast.

On Sunday, December 19, the American Broadcasting Company will carry the "live" show at 6 P.M. EST from the Shoreham Hotel. At the same time, the Columbia Broadcasting System will make a tape recording of the show and broadcast it over their network the following day, Monday, December 20th at 5:15 P.M.

It is expected that approximately 50 children, representing as many embassies and legations in Washington, will participate in the broadcast. A marked change in the format of the program is going to be put into effect this year. It is planned to make this year's event a real Christmas party for all the participants, with a Santa Claus, Christmas tree and presents for Embassy youngsters.

"Plans for televising the program have not yet been completed", Mr. Morris stated. "We have also asked the State Department to make available the facilities of the 'Voice of America' network, to carry the program by short wave to every foreign country."

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ONE OF BOB HOPE'S JOKES? ALSO FILES FOR \$1,925,000 WHAS

Bob Hope, radio comedian and movie star, put in a bid Monday, December 13th, for the television and radio stations of the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times at Louisville, Ky.

Communications Commission officials confirmed receipt of Mr. Hope's bid. The application was not immediately made public, pending clearance of the docket section.

Leonard Marks, attorney representing Hope in Washington, told an Associated Press reporter, however, that Mr. Hope had offered to match the \$1,925,000 bid for standard station WHAS, WHAS-FM, and WHAS-TV, previously made by Crosley Broadcasting Corporation of Cincinnati, and The Fort Industry Company of Detroit.

The bid marks Hope's first venture into the ownership and management end of the radio business. His application for the Louisville properties was made in the name of Hope Productions, Inc., of Hollywood, of which he is sole owner.

Mr. Marks said the application listed his net worth at \$2,000,000 and that it was placed with the FCC Monday night, shortly before the deadline for bidding on the Courier-Journal and Times properties was to have expired.

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"I'M JUST WILD ABOUT HARRY" FIRST PETRILLO PACT RECORD

If anybody believes James C. Petrillo, President of the American Federation of Musicians, recently appointed Chairman of the Music Committee at the Inaugural, isn't on the Truman bandwagon, let him be convinced by the fact that at the RCA-Victor studios, as the first record since the Petrillo ban, a chorus of Metropolitan Opera stars made a special non-commercial recording of "I'm Just Wild About Harry", to be presented to President Truman. Mr. Petrillo, who was the guest of Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, led the singers in their rendition of the song and also recorded a greeting to President Truman.

"Mr. President", he said, "it is a pleasure and privilege to extend to you on behalf of 237,000 AFM musicians the Season's Greetings. There is no one to whom we would rather help dedicate this first recording of 1948 than to you, a fellow musician and a great President.

"If you will pardon my rewording a familiar wish, may I say to you a Merry Christmas and a Truman New Year."

The first new recordings were "cut" Tuesday afternoon after the formal signing of the new five-year agreement between Petrillo's union and representatives of the major disk concerns.

The agreement had been approved on Monday by Attorney General Tom Clark in Washington as compatible with the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Law.

The signing took place in Mr. Petrillo's office in New York. Both the union leader and Frank White, President of Columbia Records, acting as industry spokesman, expressed gratification over Mr. Clark's approval of their pact, which calls for the establishment of a royalty welfare fund to finance free public concerts.

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G-E ARC WELDERS EQUIPPED TO ELIMINATE RADIO INTERFERENCE

A new system for the elimination of annoying welder-caused radio interference has been developed by General Electric and is now being incorporated into the manufacture of all G-E Inert-Arc Welders.

Other types of welding equipment formerly used for inert gas shielded arc welding emit a high frequency radio signal which is a source of frequent annoyance to the radio listening public and to some commercial radio services. By using what G-E engineers termed a "balanced wave" combined with a new built-in control, this continuous signal is eliminated, reducing the duration of welder-caused radio noise to a small fraction of a second - an interval so short as to be comparable in effect on radio reception to the flicking of a home light switch.

In previously used combinations of ordinary welders with high frequency pilots, the arc was sustained by the use of high frequency radio voltage which forced the sparks across the gap between the welding electrode and the work. According to the engineers, this design caused serious radio interference unless the entire installation was carefully filtered and shielded.

The balanced wave welder eliminates the continuous use of high frequency voltages by balancing the current with a bank of series capacitors, so that pure a-c flows between the electrode and the work. The welding arc is stabilized without the use of radio-frequency energy, thus making filtering or shielding unnecessary.

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FARNSWORTH COMPLETES PLANT CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION

The Farnsworth Television & Radio Corporation has substantially completed the extensive consolidation and expansion program at the Fort Wayne, Ind., plant which began in 1947. Building construction completed earlier was first utilized for the consolidation of engineering and research laboratories and the company's complete administrative staff.

The company's announcement explains that additional manufacturing areas of substantial size have now been made available at the Fort Wayne plant and that it is the intention now to dispose of the Marion, Indiana, properties which will not be needed upon completion of the consolidation. Negotiations are now pending for this purpose.

"The consolidation of manufacturing at Fort Wayne provides an effective increase in manufacturing capacity and major manufacturing economies will be realized", E. A. Nicholas, President of Farnsworth said.

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RADIO'S "UNCLE ROBERT", CHILDREN'S BENEFactor, IS DEAD

Robert Spero, known for many years as a director of children's and Parents Day programs and over the radio under the name of "Uncle Robert", died Monday night in New York. He was 86 years old.

"Uncle Robert" had been retired during recent years but when he engaged in business and in the years when he was active in benefaction for children was associated with Charles Zinn & Co., of New York, manufacturers of willow ware and baskets.

He was one of the earliest of the radio "Uncles", having organized his own troupe of child entertainers and opened his own studio in the pioneer days of broadcasting.

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NAVY FORECASTS DECLINE IN SUNSPOTS; PEAK OF CYCLE HELD PASSED

A decline in the number and frequency of sunspots for several years was forecast Monday, December 13, by the Naval Observatory in Washington. These spots on the sun, which are believed to affect both weather variations and transmission of short-wave radio, reached in 1947 the peak of cycles timed by the observatory as lasting eleven years each.

Capt. Guy W. Clark, Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, predicted the decline.

"One day has already occurred this year on which only two small groups were observed", he remarked.

The Observatory pointed out that while the effect of sunspots was a matter of controversy, the spots themselves were very real. They range in size from small ones only a few hundred miles wide to "huge areas many times the earth's diameter", it was stated. The spots were defined as "turbulent regions in the sun's atmosphere which are several hundred degrees cooler than their surroundings."

It was stated also, in the special story to the New York Times, that "many observers agree" that the spots' increase in ultra-violet rays "results in pressure changes in the earth's atmosphere, which in turn affect weather conditions."

There also is considerable debate whether sunspots affect transmission of short-wave radio messages, a subject that has been studied with special observations in the last three years.

"Serious disruption of short-wave radio communication coincided with appearance of the largest group of sunspots in February, 1946", the observatory reported. "Another large group in July, 1946, was accompanied by brilliant auroral displays. A third large sunspot group was photographed in March and April, 1947, but no pronounced radio disturbances were observed."

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BARKLEY TELLS HEIDT "ONE NIGHT STANDS ARE THE HARD WAY"

Vice-President-elect Alben W. Barkley last Monday night presented an award from the Junior Chamber of Commerce to Horace Heidt "for helping the youth of the nation" with his talent-testing show.

The award was made before an audience of 10,000 in Uline Arena, Washington, during the finals of the program's talent contest, won by accordionist Dick Contino, the 19-year-old Fresno, Cal., boy who received a \$5,000 cash prize from Philip Morris Company.

Secretary of Agriculture Charles Franklin Brannan was one of the judges.

"The youth of this great nation constitutes the hope for the peace and security of our tomorrow", said Senator Barkley. "I've followed Horace Heidt's program with great interest, and to tour this country, interviewing and encouraging the young people, is no easy task. I know whereof I speak, for I have just terminated a series of one-night stands myself."

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 ::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
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A Whistle Is Better Than A Gun
 (Nate Gross in the "Chicago Herald-American")

"A whistle", says our old friend, Gene McDonald, the Mr. Zenith of radio, "is better than a gun. I always carry one. It comes in handy in emergencies."

An emergency presented itself to him the other night. McDonald, Lowell Thomas and his son, Felix Count von Luckner and Burt Massey were heading for Gene's for cocktails, in the tall Lakeview Ave. building in which he makes his home.

Between the 15th and 17th floors (the apartments are duplex), the elevator stalled, and the famous gentlemen were imprisoned. It was then Gene blew his whistle, attracting the attention of his butler on the 18th floor. The top of the lift was removed, and the butler appraised the situation.

A good servant, he wasn't going to let his cocktails go to waste. So he lowered them, in a pail, to the imprisoned group. The men sat on the floor of the elevator, drank and enjoyed themselves as best they could, until ladders were lowered and they climbed to freedom.

(Editor's Note: Years ago when this writer, fresh from Indiana, was a reporter on the New York Sun covering that section of the city between 14th and 42nd Streets and 4th Avenue and the East River, his headquarters were at Bellevue Hospital. When transferred elsewhere, Sergt. Reid, famous policeman in those days, in charge of the Bellevue prison ward said: "Young man, I want to give something to remember me by. It's my police whistle. Never carry a gun."

And the writer never has but still carries the old New York police whistle.

R.D.H.

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MINN. GOV. CONCEDES HE HAS NO (RADIO) TALENT
 ("Variety")

Gov. L. D. Youngdahl of Minnesota recently won reelection, but he couldn't win the talent search contest in which he participated on WCCO. The Governor appeared as one of the contestants on Cedric Adams' weekly radio show, "Stairway to Stardom", that seeks out non-professional talent. He sang a song in Swedish, "Greet the Folks at Home."

The winner of each show receives a week's engagement at Club Carnival, local nitery, and on Bob DeHaven's radio show. Not disappointed at his failure to be chosen as the winner, the Governor made it clear that his ambition is still political and the entertainment world holds no lure for him. He wouldn't have accepted the night club and radio engagements, he said.

Following his vocalizing, the Governor made a brief talk, praising the show for what it does to discover and encourage talent and declaring that this type of promotion is an aid to him in his campaign for youth welfare and against delinquency.

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Celestial Radio
("New York Times")

We have been squinting at stars through lenses ever since Galileo's time. Now, it seems from the discussion of physicists at Cornell, we must also listen to them. A raucous, rowdy lot they are, disturbers of the celestial peace. If we do not hear them it is for the same reason that we do not hear the songs and patter of radio without telephonic aid. The Milky Way is sending us radio waves over an abyss of millions of light years. We have only to set up what is erroneously called "a radio telescope" - nothing but an enlarged parabolic reflector of the type that Hertz used in 1887 to verify Maxwell's prediction that there are radio waves - and add a loud-speaker to let the disorderly goings-on in a star-studded vault assail the ear. Anybody to whom the sputtering, crashing, frying and hissing thus made audible is the music of the spheres would take a pathologic delight in a symphony scored for pneumatic riveters, fire-engine sirens, back-firing automobiles, and leaking steam-radiators.

Though these celestial radio noises were discovered by the American physicist K. G. Jansky in 1930, it is only recently that their astrophysical possibilities have been grasped. Already it is known that a sunspot is a more powerful radio station than any on earth, that Sagittarius and Cygnus, though much farther away, are apparently setting up a terrific radio din. There the discoveries end for the time being. That more will come seems certain. At the opening of the nineteenth century who would have suspected that it would ever be possible to analyze a distant star and determine its chemical composition as if it were a stone picked up in the road? For decades we have been splitting the light of the sun and stars into spectra and learning to read the lines and bands. Now it is known that in the sun and stars glow iron, calcium, hydrogen, helium and about all the elements with which we are familiar on earth.

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High Finance
("Variety")

Opinion is being expressed in some quarters that CBS Board Chairman William S. Paley might conceivably jump on the capital gains Music Corp. of America bandwagon himself and walk off with a neat \$90,000,000 for himself and the principal stockholders in the event of a CBS capital gains sale.

It's figured that Paley is spiraling his multiple corporate setups into total assets roughly estimated at \$120,000,000. That would include the approximate \$65,000,000 in annual network billings; the newly-acquired Jack Benny and Amos 'n' Andy corporations; the Housewives Protective League corporate setup annexed about a year ago; at least two more capital gains projects now in the works, including acquisition of Fibber McGee & Molly, the Columbia-owned-and-operated stations, and the CBS television holdings, including WCBS-TV in New York.

It's reasoned that, for the 10% off-the-top fee that would pour \$1,200,000 into his MCA coffers, Jules C. Stein could be in a position to affect a mating of Paley with one of the major film companies (spread over a 10-year period Metro, for one, would be in a position to move in lock, stock and barrel, and thus finds itself with one of the cream tele empires). With a Treasury Dept. capital gains blessing, reducing the tax nick to 25%, it would leave Paley & Co. with \$90,000,000 in the clear.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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There is a report in Chicago if the new coaxial cable is finished ahead of scheduled time (January 12) that Chicago may get an Eastern network television show sometime around Christmas.

The Broadcasting Industry Committee directing production of the All-Radio Presentation, a multi-edition motion picture to promote radio as the leading advertising medium, has formed a "more formal organization" and elected officers to direct its affairs, it was announced Monday by the new secretary, Maurice B. Mitchell, National Association of Broadcasters Director of Broadcast Advertising.

Electric & Musical Industries, Ltd. and English Subsidiaries - Year to June 30: Net profit £498,192, compared with £117,335 in preceding fiscal year. Net profit of parent company only was £143,000, compared with £115,500.

Teleguide, a weekly publication, carries the television listings of the Washington and Baltimore stations. The cost is \$2 a year.

Inter-Communication System of America, Inc., 2433 South Indiana Ave., Chicago, and its officers have been ordered by the Federal Trade Commission to stop certain false and misleading advertising representations in connection with the sale of inter-communication devices designated "Flash-A-Call".

The cease and desist order requires the respondents to stop: Using the terms "free", "free demonstration offer", "yours without cost", or similar terms to designate or describe merchandise which is not a gift or gratuity given to the recipient unconditionally;

Representing that their inter-communication devices are new inventions; that there are no products on the market sold in competition with the device; or that conversations or other communications may be transmitted confidentially.

The RCA Service Co., Inc., of 275 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, has issued the following call for television technicians:

"Men - If you Are 18 to 35, alert, personable, can see Television's golden future, and have had Radio or Electronics training and experience, you may qualify for one of these jobs with a future.

"Veterans - if you have had Navy ETM training or Army 3d or 4th Echelon Radio or Radar repair experience - Television Service Operations may be your career.

"Unusually good opportunities currently exist in installation and Service Operations in America's newest and most promising industry -

"Television! - Get In On The Ground Floor!"

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