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January 5, 1949

UNCLE SAM TO HAVE WORLD'S FINEST RADIO TEST LAB. - \$4,475,000

It appears to be a foregone conclusion that one of the early moves of the Eighty-first Congress will be to provide for the new \$4,475,000 radio, television, communications, testing laboratory at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington. A final act of retiring Senator Wallace White of Maine in the last Congress was to introduce this bill calling for a magnificent new building to replace the present scattered and overcrowded quarters with a single structure big enough to take care of the fast growing technical staff which will be enlarged by 100 persons in 1949. It is expected that Senator Edwin Johnson (D), of Colorado, who succeeds Senator White as Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, will re-introduce an identical bill to that of the Maine Senator calling for the modernization of the Standards Bureau Radio quarters.

Citing two principal reasons why this new building is urgently needed, William C. Foster, Acting Secretary of Commerce, stated:

"(1) It would enable the Bureau to centralize the activities of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, which are now scattered in four buildings on the Bureau grounds, and, in addition, there are certain activities in three locations in Virginia and Maryland which should be performed in the central laboratory.

"(2) It would relieve congestion in existing buildings on the Bureau grounds and enable the Bureau to transfer other activities to the space released by the radio laboratory and thus permit the removal of 10 temporary buildings, some of which were constructed to meet wartime needs, buildings which are entirely inadequate for the operations now being conducted in them. For example, there are a dwelling, a stable, quonset huts, and several sheds which are now being used for laboratory and office purposes.

"Since 1941 the appropriation for research and testing work and for operation of the Bureau has increased threefold.* * *

"The Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, alone, is planning to employ 100 additional employees in the fiscal year 1949.

"The purpose of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory is to provide for (1) the essential experimental and theoretical work on radio standards and measurements and radio propagation, and (2) the radio research and information service to the public and to the Government. Prominent among the information services rendered by the laboratory are the periodic forecasts of conditions which affect radio transmission and reception. Through its research the laboratory is able to determine the effect of different atmospheric conditions on radio reception and transmission and on frequency requirements, throughout the United States. This information is of particular value to American aviation since adequate radio reception and transmission is an important factor in the safe operation of the air lines. It is also of vital importance to the Armed Forces and in the development of defense weapons. Since these functions are all

interrelated and require common facilities and equipment for maximum efficiency, the centralization of all the Radio Propagation Laboratory functions in one building would result in greater efficiency and a saving in operation costs."

"The proposed new building would have a total of 1,700,000 cubic feet distributed as follows: 629,000 for measurement standards research, development, and testing work, with special facilities such as screened rooms, development shops, space on the roof for measurements free from wall reflections, and full development laboratory facilities; 280,000 for all the radio propagation data coordination, centralization, analysis, predictions, publication, and information services; 280,000 for basic research and analysis of propagation phenomena at all frequencies, including work on utilization of frequencies and special frequency allocation studies; 435,000 for experimental propagation research and development, carrying on the work that has been done by other agencies during the war and which made the United States a leader in the field, and 76,000 for administrative activities.

"This laboratory building will require a number of special features which will materially increase the cost of the structure over the average office building of this size. It will be necessary to shield electrostatically approximately one-third of the area of the building above the ground in order to protect the low power measurements from the large fields created by some of the other activities in the building and elsewhere on the Bureau grounds. These rooms would require local temperature and humidity controls in addition to the general air conditioning of the entire building.

"Many of the rooms will require the standard frequencies which will be available in the building. This means an elaborate set of coaxial and wave guide fittings leading throughout the building. Since much of this work is experimental and the fixture requirements will vary from one project to the next, large under-floor conduits must be provided to give required flexibility.

"Another special feature of the building is the necessity for a copper roof. Since an antenna transmits not only the direct waves but also a mirror image of this direct wave reflected from the ground beneath, this ground must be of highly conductive material. It will be necessary to cover the copper roof with a protective tile wearing surface because there will be considerable laboratory activity on the roof. This places additional weight on the roof, requiring that the total structure be strengthened all the way to the basement. Because much heavy equipment will be carried to the roof, it will be necessary for the freight elevator to extend an extra floor.

"In the subbasement vaults will be installed with special air-conditioning and temperature-control equipment to house the crystal clocks which are the basis of the national primary standards of frequency.

"On the basis of the present level of construction cost, it is estimated that the radio laboratory building will cost \$4,475,000, of which \$4,115,000 is the cost of construction and installation of utilities and \$360,000 is the cost of equipment. In view of anticipated fluctuations in construction costs, it is difficult to know exactly what the actual cost at the time of construction will be. A limit of cost determined by the prevailing price might prove excessive or inadequate when the construction contract is finally negotiated."

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FCC THUMBS NOSE AT HARNESS REPORT AS DEFEATED AUTHOR EXITS

What was intended to be one of the opening guns of the Dewey administration - a bombshell dropped on the Federal Communications Commission by the House sub-committee headed by Representative Harness (R), of Indiana, proved to be a dud. The report of the Harness Committee investigating the FCC charged the Commission with misusing its powers, attempting to censor radio programs and numerous other irregularities but these allegations were wasted on the desert air due to the fact that Mr. Harness had been defeated in the last election and the Republican majority was making its last gasp.

The House group, headed by Representative Harness said new laws should be enacted to cover problems that did not exist when the present FCC law was written. It said such problems included television.

Sharply criticizing the FCC, the Committee said Congress should continue to investigate the agency. It urged legislation that "will leave no question of the intent of Congress that radio must remain as free as the press."

The Committee said the FCC "directly and indirectly" is seeking to censor program content through the medium of its "Blue Book" issued in March 1946. It said FCC is using this publication "as the basis and excuse for regulation of radio program content."

There is evidence, the report said, to support the premise that publication of the book and its preparation by a former employee of the Government-owned British Broadcasting Co. "was a deliberate step toward Government control of radio."

"It indicates a reversion to that type of Government control and regulation which we have struggled in the past to escape", it added. "We are forced to the conclusion that such acts were a misuse of powers far beyond those given to the Commission by Congress."

The Committee said the "Blue book" reflects an assumption by the FCC of a "right to dictate to a broadcaster what he may or may not put on the air."

It said the FCC had no authority to publish the "blue book" in the first place.

Generally, the Committee made these observations:

The FCC "offers an example of the danger of merging the legislative, executive and judicial branches of our Government" and of "the usurpation of the judicial powers."

The FCC "could do a much better internal administrative job if it dug in, straightened out its lines of authority and saw to it that none of its essential parts dominated the other parts."

The FCC accounting department "seems to be the weakest department in the Commission", while the law department exercises power and influence "far above and beyond its ability and merits."

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BOOK PUBLISHERS JITTERY OVER TELEVISION PROSPECTS

What he thought television might do to the book publishing business and the changes it could bring to book readers' habits was outlined in New York last week by J. Raymond Tiffany, General Counsel of the Book Manufacturers Institute who declared that television had become a "devastating competitor" to the world of books.

"I have talked with a number of set owners", Mr. Tiffany said, "and without exception, they have said that the whole family was reading less than before they installed television. One devoted reader told me that he had canceled his book club subscription because he now lacked the time to read as he formerly did."

Television, he went on, could be used to create reader interest in books, increase book demands and sales, improve the people's culture. "But will it be?" he asked.

"The answer seems to be better books at reasonable prices, greater and wider distribution, a greatly increased number of outlets with increased discounts to retailers, more effective advertising, using TV as a medium", he declared.

"You cannot fondle a TV set as you can a good book. You cannot write marginal notes on a TV screen, as you can in a book. TV will not enable one to memorize a delightful passage as the whole story unfolds from beautifully constructed sentences. TV can digest a story but in the doing thereof the depth of feeling, the charm of living through the entire plot, is lost."

Mr. Tiffany maintained that "we need constructive thinking on the problem by the best brains in the book publishing and manufacturing and the television industries."

He noted that "unfortunately the majority of our people are mentally lazy", preferring that form of entertainment or relaxation requiring the least effort.

"Television", he said, "while a definite competitor for the readers' time, can be turned to good advantage to promote the cause of books and culture. But it will not happen unless those interested bring it about. The time to do this is now."

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ASCAP RADIO CONTRACTS RENEWED; TV NEGOTIATIONS IMMINENT

Existing contracts between broadcasters and ASCAP have been automatically renewed for nine additional years beginning January 1, 1950, it was announced last week by Theodore C. Streibert, NAB Music Advisory Chairman, and President of WOR.

"By the terms of the existing contracts for the industry, which have been in effect since 1941, the contracts renewed automatically when ASCAP failed to give notice before December 31, 1948, that the Association desired to negotiate for a payment increase", Mr. Streibert explained.

"No such notice was served", he added.

The terms of the contracts in the renewal period are exactly the same as the existing contracts with the single exception that during the renewal period broadcasters may no longer change back and forth from one basis of payment to another at their election. Payments are made on the basis of either a 2-1/4% royalty on income or a royalty of 8% on only those programs which contain ASCAP music.

While the ASCAP contracts with standard radio broadcasters are settled for a decade, the matter of rights for the use of the Association's music on television is up for settlement and negotiations are expected to get started immediately, Mr. Streibert asserted.

Recently ASCAP served notice to the television industry that the present agreement which allows the Association's music to be heard on video without charge ends December 31, 1948. If a new agreement for television is arrived at by February 28, 1949, the terms are expected to be retroactive to January 1, 1949.

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RAULAND CORP. TO BEGIN TV TUBE MASS PRODUCTION

The Rauland Corporation, tube manufacturing subsidiary of Zenith Radio Corporation, will next month begin mass production of a new, giant sized picture tube for use in the Zenith television models that feature the Giant Circle "C" Screen.

Commander E. F. McDonald, Jr., Zenith President, said that the picture area of these sets is more than three times the size of a conventional picture on a 10-inch tube, and substantially larger than the "A" and "B" screens used on other Zenith models.

He said that one Zenith model with the giant "C" screen was put on the market last November, but production has been limited by the availability of satisfactory picture tubes.

"Now", he said, "we can expand production of these large screen sets."

The new tube was developed by Rauland to give added brilliance to large size pictures, he said. It has a circular glass screen fused to a light weight metal (steel) housing.

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"ON TELEVISION YOU'RE THERE"; DUNLAP EXPLAINS MAGIC OF IT

Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr., introducing the second printing of his "Understanding Television - What It Is and How It Works" explains:

"This book is written to answer the question, 'How does television accomplish this magic; how does it work?'

"'It's incredible!' exclaimed a New Yorker as he watched a television screen. 'At the very instant the President addresses Congress, we see him as clearly as if we were there; we see every gesture, see him turn the pages of the manuscript, and, as he reads, it is apparent that he has not memorized any paragraph of his speech.

"'When he finishes, we see him take a drink of water. As he leaves the rostrum he folds up his papers and walks down the aisle, stopping here and there to speak to friends - then disappears through the crowd of Senators and Representatives. And to think that this scene in the Nation's Capitol is coming to us over two hundred miles of cable and is being broadcast to us from the top of the Empire State Building! How in the world does television do it?'

"It is hope that this book will help the layman to understand why and how he sees the President so clearly; how he sees a home run as it is batted into the stands at Yankee Stadium; how he sees the football punted by a Princeton toe, a puck flying over the ice in Madison Square Garden, a tennis ball smashed across the net at Forest Hills, or the punch of a knockout blow delivered by a champion.

"When it happens on television, you're there!"

Mr. Dunlap, pioneer radio editor of the New York Times and now Vice-President of the Radio Corporation of America, modestly describes the newest edition as having "a number of improvements in the text, illustrations, etc." when as a matter of fact it seems to be practically a new book and certainly the last word on television.

Outstanding chapters are devoted to "How You See By Television", "What Performers Should Know About Television" and "Television Bibliography". Greenberg, New York is the publisher.

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SEN. JOHNSON, COLORADO, RECEIVES TRUMAN'S CONGRATULATIONS

Senator Edwin Johnson (D), of Colorado, who will succeed Senator Wallace White (R), of Maine as Chairman of the Senate Interstate (Radio and Communications) Committee, was heartily congratulated last week by Mr. Truman when he visited the White House.

As was the case with the President himself, Senator Johnson was slated for defeat by pollsters and columnists but came through with a smashing victory.

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EAST-WEST TELEVISION NETS ALL SET FOR GALA UNION JAN. 11

Apparently every detail has been completed for the auspicious connection of the world's first television networks next Tuesday, January 11th. The East and Midwest television nets, which seem to have grown like Topsy, will be tied in via American Telephone and Telegraph Company coaxial cable that day with a special program (9:30-11:15 P.M. EST) in which the members of Columbia Broadcasting System, National Broadcasting Company, American Broadcasting Company and Dumont, and Station WPIX of the New York Daily News will participate.

Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, will speak briefly. Others to be heard are Leroy A. Wilson, President, American Telephone & Telegraph Company; Dr. Frank Stanton, President, Columbia Broadcasting System; Niles Trammell, President National Broadcasting Company; Dr. Allen B. DuMont, President WABD and DuMont Laboratories; Mark Woods, President American Broadcasting System; and F. M. Flynn, President WPIX, Inc.

Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York City and Mayor Martin Kennelly of Chicago, terminal points of the expanded cable network, also will be on hand for the dedication.

The program will open with a special film to sign on all stations of the various networks. It will be followed by an explanation of how the coaxial cable works. A specially-prepared film, titled "The Story of Network Television", will outline how networks are formed for video. This film was made by the A. T. & T. Co. It will be followed by Mr. Wilson's talk, and he will turn over the cable facilities to the five presidents - Messrs. Trammell, Woods, Stanton, Flynn and DuMont.

The January 11th program will be seen on stations in New York, Philadelphia, Schenectady, Washington, Baltimore, Richmond and Boston in the eastern group; and in Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Toledo, Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo in the Midwest.

The coaxial cable between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh connects CBS' Eastern Seaboard television network of WCBS-TV, New York; WCAU-TV, Philadelphia; WMAR, Baltimore; WOIC, Washington, WNAC-TV, Boston; WRGB, Schenectady, and WNHC, New Haven, with Midwest affiliates WEWS, Cleveland; WJBK-TV, Detroit; WSPD-TV, Toledo; WGN-TV, Chicago, and WTMJ-TV, Milwaukee.

The new coaxial link also makes it possible to hook up projected CBS Television affiliates in Buffalo, Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

The NBC Midwest network includes stations WNBQ, Chicago; WNBK, Cleveland; WTMJ-TV, Milwaukee; WWJ-TV, Detroit; WSPD-TV, Toledo; WBEN-TV, Buffalo, and KSD-TV, St. Louis. New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Schenectady and Richmond are serviced by the eastern network.

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BROADCAST STATION OPERATING EXPENSES ZOOM; INCOME DROPS

Operating expenses of American broadcasters rose to 79 cents out of every dollar of total revenue in 1947, and broadcast income before Federal taxes dropped from 26.5 cents to 21 cents, a calculation of expense ratios by the National Association of Broadcasters showed yesterday (Tuesday, Jan. 4).

The study, based on Federal Communications Commission figures to be published later, Dr. Kenneth H. Baker, NAB Research Director, stated, showed a continuing trend upward in costs of materials and services in every category. The increase in total expenses was 5.5% over the 1946 ratio of 73.5% of the total revenue.

Salaries and wages for the broadcasting industry, including talent fees, rose to a total of 46.1 cents of every dollar of broadcast revenue in 1947 (or 58% of the industry's total operating expenses), from the 1946 total of 43.2 cents.

All figures in the ratio calculations are expressed as percentages of station net revenue for all commercial stations. Eight other sheets in the report show ratios for specific types of stations; full-time and part-time, network affiliates and non-affiliates, 50,000 watt, 5,000 to 20,000 watt, regional and local stations.

The study did not include the operations of 11 key stations of nation-wide networks, Dr. Baker said, since the reports filed by them with the Commission do not show adequate segregations of expenses between station and network operation.

Typical breakdowns of the total study showed the following increases in operating expenses for the entire industry:

Technical expenses, including salaries and wages, repairs, and other technical costs, up to 13.5% of total broadcast revenue from 12.1% in 1946.

Program expenses, including salaries and wages, talent, royalties and license fees, transcriptions and recordings, wire services and other costs, up to 28.2% from 26.6% in 1946.

Selling expenses, including salaries and wages, commissions and other costs, up to 11.3% from 11% in 1946. (Since the ratios are based upon total net revenue from the sale of time and incidental services, the commissions to agencies and station representatives have already been deducted from the base figure.)

Total direct expenses connected with the broadcast and sale of radio programs, including all items above, up to 53% from 49.7% in 1946.

General and administrative expenses up to 26% from 23.8% in 1946. This category included salaries and wages, legal service, insurance, experimental and developmental expenses, depreciation and amortization, rent, taxes (except Federal), losses on notes, accounts, etc., and other general costs.

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NEW MICROWAVE MEASUREMENTS BEING DEVELOPED BY U. S.

As part of a broad program for the establishment of national standards and calibration services for all electrical quantities at radio frequencies, microwave measurement standards are being intensively developed at the National Bureau of Standards in the range from 300 to 100,000 megacycles and above. This work, under the direction of Dr. Harold Lyons of the Bureau's Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, has resulted not only in extremely precise and accurate standards of frequency, power, attenuation, and other quantities, but has also made possible precision measurements in a whole new field of microwave spectroscopy formerly inaccessible to investigation because of the limitations of infrared and optical equipment. Of basic importance in the microwave program has been the development and continued improvement of a primary standard of frequency accurate to 1 part in 100 million. This standard, based on a quartz-crystal clock and a frequency multiplying system governed by the time observations of the U. S. Naval Observatory, is now being used by the Bureau to provide a regular service to Government and industry consisting of frequency measurements and calibrations of frequency meters and voltage sources. * * * * *

The comprehensive program on microwave measurements began at the Bureau in 1944, when the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff requested the development of a microwave standard of frequency. With the assistance of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Radiation Laboratory, a preliminary standard was developed in 1945 and placed in service for instrument calibration. As the result of continued research in this field at the Bureau, it is now the most complete and accurate primary frequency standard in the world, having an accuracy of 1 part in 100 million and continuous coverage through the range from 300 to over 40,000 megacycles. Extension of the range to the millimeter bands above 30,000 megacycles, which is now being undertaken, is important for work on microwave spectroscopy, microwave optics, and applications requiring sharp microwave beams of high resolution, such as short-range target-seeking equipment for rockets and guided missiles.

The frequency source for this equipment is a quartz-crystal unit with a series-resonance frequency of approximately 100 kilocycles per second. The national primary frequency standard consists of nine such oscillators, which are automatically compared with each other and with corrected U. S. Naval Observatory time. The best oscillators are constant to one part in a billion for short-time intervals and drift less than one part in a hundred million per month.

In order to apply microwave spectroscopy to standards and measurements work, new wide-range search and precision measurement spectrometers have been designed and are under construction. Work has also begun on the measurement and compilation of spectrum lines as secondary frequency standards. These investigations are being extended below the frequency range of presently available lines and later will be extended far up into the millimeter bands.

The Bureau's research in microwave spectroscopy has resulted not only in an atomic clock and frequency standard, but also in the development of stabilized oscillator-frequency multiplier chains locked to a spectrum line by means of a servo-type electronic circuit. The Bureau's work has also shown that directly controlled oscillators, analogous to low-frequency quartz-crystal oscillators, can be built in which an absorption line replaces the quartz crystal. Such circuits will have extensive application to frequency measurement and control of transmitters for FM and television relays, communications, and radar.

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NOVEMBER RADIO TUBE SALES SHOW SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE

November radio receiving tube sales increased by more than a million and a half over October and nearly four million above November 1947, the Radio Manufacturers' Association reported last week. Tube sales in November totalled 21,118,874 compared with 19,521,368 in October and 17,137,891 in November a year ago.

Of the total sales during the month, RMA member-companies sold 14,568,066 receiving tubes for new sets and 6,554,303 for replacements. The remaining tubes were exported and sold to government agencies.

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Tubes sold during the/11 months of last year totalled 185,450,214 compared with 183,022,419 in the corresponding 1947 period.

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PHILCO WILL SPEND \$5,000,000 TO TRIPLE TELEVISION OUTPUT

A plant expansion program calling for expenditure of about \$5,000,000 is planned by the Philco Corporation, President William Balderston said this week. "The major part of this expansion program will be aimed at increasing our output of television receivers from under 200,000 sets in 1948 to about 600,000 in 1949", Mr. Balderston said.

He said the company's cabinet plant at Watsonstown, Pa. will be enlarged.

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THE LATEST ON COLOR T.V. "TRUE OR FALSE?"

"I don't know where I read it, but this gave me a good laugh", a valued subscriber writes.

"Some writer said that the story that color television was 5-6 years off was all cockeyed as all of the television transmitters are already in the red."

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CBS TELEVISION NETWORK ADDS FOUR MORE STATIONS

The Columbia Broadcasting System's Television Network, which on January 1, 1948, consisted of only one station, WCBS-TV, New York, ended the year with a total of 28 television outlets in key markets throughout the country by adding four new affiliates last Friday, December 31st.

The four stations are: WHIO-TV, Dayton, Ohio, a full primary CBS television affiliate (as of February 15); WHEN, Syracuse, New York (as of January 1); WICU, Erie, Pa., (as of January 1); and KOB-TV, Albuquerque, New Mexico (as of December 31).

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RADIO-PRINTER CUTS TOLLS, INS HEAD FINDS

Radio-printer service, now used by International News Service in its overseas operation, will probably be "introduced in the domestic field", says William B. Goode, Business Manager of INS.

The success of radio-teleprinter service to Europe, Mr. Goode says, "points toward the establishment of similar radio-printer circuits throughout the U.S.A. It appears likely that eventually news services will be linked to America's newspapers by this method instead of the leased telephone lines now being used."

INS's present overseas transmission system consists of a direct radio-teletype circuit from New York to various parts of Europe.

The system feeds teletype signals into Press Wireless transmitters in Hicksville, L. I., for radio communications to and from Europe.

During the year that INS has operated by radio, says Mr. Goode, there has been a sharp drop in toll costs, "despite a steadily increasing volume of traffic to European points."

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FTC POSTPONES SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 1949

The Federal Trade Commission this week made public the following statement:

"Chairman Robert E. Freer having resigned as a member of the Federal Trade Commission effective at the end of the year, consideration has been given to choosing a Chairman to succeed him. Commissioner Garland S. Ferguson is absent from the country on special government business, and with the resignation of Chairman Freer, only three Commissioners who will serve in 1949 are present at this time. The Commission has decided, therefore, not to choose a Chairman until all members are present."

In the meantime, the first Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Lowell B. Mason, will serve as Acting Chairman.

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INAUGURAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE NAMED

Melvin D. Hildreth, Chairman of the President's Inaugural Committee, announced the appointment of a "comprehensive committee on public relations", including representatives of newspapers, news-reel, radio and television, to facilitate full coverage of the inaugural.

He said James William Bryan would serve as Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations, with Samuel G. Brightman as Publicity Director and Kenneth D. Fry as Radio Director.

Among the radio people on the Committee are Kenneth H. Berkeley, of WMAL, Washington; Earl H. Gammons, of WTOP; Ray Henle, Ernest K. Lindley, William R. McAndrew, Robert M. Menaugh, Superintendent House Radio Gallery, Drew Pearson, Bryson Rash, Frank M. Russell of WRC, and Fred Shawn, of WMAL.

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BBC TO CUT DOWN ON REPETITIOUS TALKS

Says the British Broadcasting Corporation:

"In the past a cause of complaint from listeners has been the repetition of talks broadcasts, made necessary by the fact that, in order to reach every main overseas audience area within reasonable listening-time limits, it has been found necessary to transmit every important talk at least four times within the twenty-four hours. In the new year the number of these repetitions will be cut.

"In the General Overseas Service an important talk will be transmitted once to the American continents and the West Indies and once to the area Africa-India at a time that it is hoped will be acceptable to all, though it cannot be the best possible time for everyone.

"Besides reducing the time given to the repetition of talks, BBC is going to extend the practice of giving a series of similar talks always at the same time each day. The individual listener will then know when to expect the kind of talk that interests him most."

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MORE DEMOCRATIC CROW FOR THE REPUBLICANS

The old Democratic leaders returning to power have changed the ratio of party membership on the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, which has to do with radio and communications legislation, from 7 to 6 to 8 to 5. In other words, where the Committee in the last Congress was composed of 7 Republicans to 6 Democrats, in this Congress it will be 8 Democrats to 5 Republicans.

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 ::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
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Skouras Sees Future Fusion Of Film, Video

Television will bring the amusement world to its ultimate development, changing entirely its pattern of operations, Spyros Skouras, President of Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp., stated last week at a luncheon of the Radio Executives Club in New York.

In one of the most forthright statements of the relationship of television and motion pictures yet given by a leading film executive, Mr. Skouras foresaw many "stormy periods" before television becomes integrated in the entertainment field. He envisions ultimately a fusion of the new medium and motion pictures, but added that there was no basis for predictions that television "will mean the eventual destruction of motion pictures and radio." On the contrary, he went on, television will give films their "greatest impetus" since sound was introduced.

The motion-picture executive saw television as a means of feeding programs to thousands of theaters simultaneously, including films, live talent and special events. Picture "openings" and concert debuts could be seen all over the country, he said. He assured theater exhibitors that their grosses would be two or three times what they are today.

Motion pictures could be shown for a week on the same hook-up and, with the special events, an entirely new entertainment-seeking public would appear, he predicted.

Mr. Skouras, whose company has applications pending for five television stations, said that the firm is working with Radio Corp. of America in the development of theater television. Twentieth Century-Fox also has been trying to buy itself a broadcasting network, the most recent bids having been made for American Broadcasting Co.

All plans will be upset, Mr. Skouras declared, if home television reception is put on a toll basis, making it possible for set owners to see first-run pictures for a fee, with the charge being registered by some "gadget". However, if such an arrangement is not feasible, home entertainment will not equal that where admission is charged, he said.

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Jack Benny Case Brings Ban On Capital Gains Deals ("New York Times")

No one, including radio and film artists, will be permitted to use the comparatively low capital gains tax rate with respect to sales of personal service, the Internal Revenue Bureau said Monday.

George J. Schoeneman, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, said that the "tax effect of any business transaction is determined by its realities."

"Accordingly", he added, "proposals of radio artists and others to obtain compensation for personal services under the guise of sales of property cannot be regarded as coming within the capital gains provisions of the internal revenue code. Such compensation is taxable at ordinary income rates."

The capital gains rate, applicable only to sales of "capital assets", is a flat 25 per cent. Income tax rates, applicable

to personal compensation, are scaled up to 77 per cent on sums exceeding \$1,000,000. Numerous inquiries were made after the Bureau was reported last week to have said that income tax rates rather than capital gains rates applied to the funds involved in Comedian Jack Benny's shift from NBC to CBS.

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Pegler Belabors Winchell And Pearson
 ("Chicago Herald-American", King Features)

The questionable part that the two foremost radio propagandists played in the Hiss-Chambers-Stripling plot is little less important than the great betrayal itself.

These two are Walter Winchell and Drew Pearson.

These are powerful men. The press has covered up their activity but the news belongs to the public and should be told.

Winchell suppressed the substance of the Hiss-Chambers case for about 10 years. Any newspaper reporter who did that would be shamed forever. Winchell's informant did not pledge him to secrecy but, on the contrary, wanted an expose.

Pearson does not appear to have had the story although he has set himself forth as an authority on "inside" information from the State Department and one witness testified that he enjoyed State Department leaks.

On top of these facts, Pearson belabored Robert Stripling as a draft dodger when the committee on un-American activities really needed him and the army had no use for him. And we recall that Winchell joined Pearson in Sunday night sneers which finally eliminated from the Washington scene the greatest authority Congress had on the treacherous works and fronts of the Communists.

We know that Stripling had committed "lese majeste" in refusing to submit to Eleanor Roosevelt's scheme to get a commission in naval intelligence for her protege, Joe Lash, whose questionable political connections had been exposed by the House committee.

Winchell's attitude toward Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt was almost idolatrous. Pearson was unfriendly to Roosevelt at times and his political character is elusive. Yet Pearson led the drive to make Stripling harmless to the plotters in the State Department and Winchell's outcries were only occasional.

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Bergen No Dummy On Capital Gains; Ditto Charley and Mortimer
 ("Variety")

When, as now seems a certainty, Edgar Bergen moves into the CBS family next Fall under the newest of the capital gains maneuvers, he is planning a novel intro for the new air series. In effect, it will dramatize for Federal authorities and the listening public in general the legitimacy of his act as a capital gains structure.

Plan is to highlight both Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd on the first two shows of the '49-'50 series, but with Bergen staying out of it while one or more ventriloquists run the show. Thus Bergen intends to demonstrate that he's selling a property rather than a personality; that McCarthy and Snerd, rather than Bergen, are being capital-gained by CBS.

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Continued hearing by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington on national spot advertising resumes January 10th at 10 A .M. Oral argument on augmented multiple ownership rules is scheduled for January 17th.

Hearing (at Los Angeles) in KMPC case is scheduled for February 21st.

Gardner Cowles, President of the Des Moines (Ia.) Register and Tribune, and the Cowles Broadcasting Company, has been named a member of a 10-man Advisory Committee of leading Americans, which will guide the Foreign Service Institute in training overseas personnel for the State Department.

The American Broadcasting Co. reported Monday its 1948 gross billings from the sale of radio time reached a new peak of \$44,301,754 in 1948. The network's previous high was \$43,548,057 in 1947. ABC added that it had 272 affiliated stations at the close of 1948.

Dwight D. Doty has been promoted to Chief of the AM Branch, Broadcast Division, Bureau of Law of the Federal Communications Commission, to succeed Edward F. Kenahan, resigned.

Mr. Doty received his LL.B. from Georgetown University Law School in 1934. For several years he was law clerk to Judge Oscar E. Bland of the U. S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals. From 1942 to 1947, with the exception of two years of duty with the Navy, he was attorney in the Lands Division of the Department of Justice. Since 1947 he has been an attorney in the Broadcast Division of the FCC's Bureau of Law.

The speaker at the meeting of the New York Society of Security Engineers tonight (Wednesday, January 5) will be Raymond M. Wilmotte, Washington Consulting Engineer. His subject will be "Television Past, Present and Future."

James Dawson has been named Assistant Director of NAB's Public Relations and Publications Department. He succeeds Charles A. Batson, who becomes editor of the Association's continuing television study.

Director of the Department is Robert K. Richards.

The United States Coast Guard has ordered 60 Marine radar sets, about \$500,000 worth, and the largest contract of this type the service has ever placed, the Westinghouse Electric Corp. has announced.

E. T. Morris, divisional manager, said the radar sets will be placed on Coast Guard vessels operating on coastal waters, inland-waterways and the Great Lakes.

The orchestras of Guy Lombardo and Benny Goodman will play at the Inaugural Ball to be held in Washington on January 20th, Melvin D. Hildreth, Chairman of the Inaugural Committee reports. He said he had been informed by James C. Petrillo, President of the American Federation of Musicians, that the AFM would provide the bands as part of its participation in the inauguration. Plans for the ball call for three bands to provide continuous music. The third has not been named.

Petrillo is Chairman of the Inaugural Ball Music Committee.

The number of radio receiver licenses in effect in Sweden as of the end of the third quarter 1948 was 2,009,314, compared with 1,994,857 at the end of the second quarter, and 1,980,785 at the end of the first quarter. Sweden now has 294 radio receiver licenses per 1,000 inhabitants.

Mrs. Cleo Weston, 64-year-old widow of Grafton, W. Va., won \$31,000 in prizes Tuesday night on the "Hit the Jackpot" giveaway program, the Columbia Broadcasting System said.

CBS said Mrs. Weston correctly named the program's "secret saying" when called on the telephone from a New York studio. The saying was, "After you, my dear Alphonse."

The network said Mrs. Weston owns a restaurant in Grafton.

Among her prizes are an auto, a kitchen unit, two vacation trips, a house and a plot of land near Palm Beach, Fla.

Not so long ago Miss Elsa Maxwell was broadcasting her radio program, as usual from her bed. Her guests were Orson Welles and Claudette Colbert and, of course, they weren't in bed. They sat at a nearby table and finally the engineer warned them, "Get ready to go." Then: "We're on the air."

Then the announcer announced his little commercial spiel.

Miss Maxwell proceeded to greet the radio audience and introduced her guests: "We are very glad to have you with us, Orson, dear", she said, and turned the mike over to Orson.

"Is that so?" thundered Welles into the mike. "Well, phooey on this radio program of Elsa Maxwell's! Who wants to get up this early to be on this lousey program? For what?"

Miss Maxwell went white. Miss Colbert went green. Mr. Welles went on. He raved on for a minute and a half before finally telling Elsa, "We're kidding. We're not on the air yet."

- From Earl Wilson's book, "Pike's Peak Or Bust"

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