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January 12, 1949

EVEN 1909 INAUGURAL BLIZZARD COULDN'T AGAIN CUT OFF CAPITAL

by Robert D. Heinl

Washington learned its lesson in communications the hard way 40 years ago at the inauguration of President William Howard Taft when the worst blizzard in its history cut the capital of the United States off from direct telegraphic news communication with the rest of the world for about three days.

Although radio was being developed by ships at sea, Washington was then still dependent upon wire service. In what was then called the "Taft flareback", telegraph and telephone poles were down in all directions within a radius of many miles the other side of Baltimore. It was said that definite news that President Taft had been sworn in at noon as planned did not reach New York City until midnight.

This writer, then on the New York Sun, left New York City at 11 P.M. the night before the Inaugural by train and didn't arrive in Washington until 6 o'clock the next evening after having spent an entire day crossing the States of Delaware and Maryland. The Union Station in Washington was filled with outbound West Point and other troops dripping from having sloshed through the streets in the Inaugural Parade where the snow was banked up in places 5 or 6 feet high - or so it seemed.

This writer reported to the late beloved Dick Oulahan, who was then in charge of the Washington Bureau of the New York Sun, and was immediately put to work writing his experiences in getting into Washington. The story was then sent by messenger by train to Philadelphia where it was put on the telegraph wires for New York in the offices of the old Philadelphia North American.

Compare that, then, with the coverage the Truman inauguration will have next week which even an atomic bomb could hardly disrupt, much less a blizzard. On the great Truman occasion, people in the principal cities of the East and the Middle West, just joined up by A. T. & T. coaxial television cable, will be able not only to almost instantaneously read about and to hear, but to actually see what is going on. This will include New York, Philadelphia, Schenectady, Washington, Baltimore, Richmond, Boston, Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Toledo, Detroit, Cleveland, New Haven and Milwaukee.

David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Radio Corporation of America, recently predicted that at least 10,000,000 million people will eye-witness the Truman inauguration on January 20 by television - more than all who saw the thirty-one Presidents from Washington to Franklin D. Roosevelt take the oath of office.

As present scheduled the four television networks will jointly participate in the Inaugural coverage with their pick-ups

being made available to all television outlets in the country.

The National Broadcasting Company will have the job of focusing its cameras on the steps of the Capitol, where the inauguration itself will take place. The American Broadcasting Company will be posted in Lafayette Park and in the Esso Building on Pennsylvania Avenue, where it will have a view of the Presidential reviewing stand during the parade. DuMont will be stationed at the Treasury Department Building and the Columbia Broadcasting System at the old Post Office Building will complete the coverage.

With the cooperation of the United States Air Forces, the networks also will have a coverage pickup for the ceremonies and the parade from a helicopter, also a blimp, affording an aerial description of the spectacle.

At strategic locations, the radio newsmen will use the new type handi-talkie two-way transmitters which proved so useful and efficient earlier this year at the presidential conventions, where the instruments got their initial major tryout.

Kenneth D. Fry, Inaugural radio director, estimates that at least 550 radio and television men - commentators, announcers, cameramen, rewrite men, engineers, reporters, directors, electricians - will be bringing a word and visual picture into millions of homes throughout the nation.

The Inaugural television pool is in charge of Adolph Schneider, NBC-TV news and special events director. He will be assisted by Michael Roshkind, ABC Manager of special events; James Caddigan, DuMont Director of programming, and Robert Bendick, CBS assistant news and special events director.

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SARNOFF TOSSES PRESIDENT TV BOUQUET; DEPARTS FOR EUROPE

The call of David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Radio Corporation of America, at the White House last week caused considerable speculation but General Sarnoff, well up on the propriety of not repeating presidential conversations, didn't reveal what was probably the real object of his visit but did say that it was a courtesy call. He added, however, that he took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Truman upon being so telegenic (if that's the word.) General Sarnoff said he had watched Mr. Truman on television when the President addressed Congress and give him a high mark because he didn't try to put on any Hollywood airs.

General Sarnoff sails for Europe this week on the "Queen Mary" and while in Europe will testify before a House of Commons committee on nationalization of British communications. He had been invited to testify on technical aspects by both the government and communication interests. The nationalization plan has already been adopted, he said. He added that he would visit other countries if time permitted.

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DON LEE AGAIN PRODS FCC REGARDING STATION RENEWAL LICENSES

Lewis Allen Weiss, President of the Don Lee Broadcasting System last week entered a vigorous protest against the further delay of the Federal Communications Commission in renewing its various station licenses and approving its pending construction permits. The petition presented by Mr. Weiss suggested that the Commission might well review network practices generally rather than merely charges of coercive tactics and other abuses which have been directed at the Don Lee System.

A hearing was ordered in February for renewal of the licenses of KGB, San Diego; KDB, Santa Barbara; KFRC, San Francisco; KHJ, Los Angeles and KHJ-FM, Los Angeles. Also in the balance are construction permits for TV stations in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Hearings have been held in the Pacific Coast area on charges that the network has violated the chain broadcast rules, and Commissioner Rosel H. Hyde is currently preparing a proposed decision in the matter.

Don Lee said in its petition presented by Mr. Weiss last week that the long delay in the case results primarily from the fact that the record, "although it may raise broad questions of regulation of network operation, relationships between affiliates and networks and appropriateness of revision or modification of the Commission's network regulations, does not present any simple issues of violation of these regulations. These questions are of such scope and character as to require extensive information concerning not merely the operation of petitioner's network but other regional networks and national networks and, particularly, the competitive aspects of network operation.

What has been developed regarding the Don Lee operations, the petition said, can clearly "only be answered in the light of comparable data with respect to competitive network operations and further exploration by the Commission of the problems of network-affiliate relationships."

Don Lee, the petition filed by Mr. Weiss said, "has been subjected to severe hardship and competitive disadvantages because of the long pendency of this proceeding."

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CONGRESSMAN BRYSON HITS LIQUOR AD "EXCESSES"

Representative Joseph R. Bryson (D.), of South Carolina, paid a surprise visit to the first annual convention of the American Temperance Society in Washington this week and promised the gathering he would introduce legislation to curb press and radio liquor advertising "excesses".

Mr. Bryan told the audience he was in sympathy with their objectives in an unscheduled 10-minute address which highlighted the final session of the four-day convention.

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STORER PUTS ON FREE TV BROADCAST FOR ORANGE BOWL SHUT-OUTS

When he saw the tremendous ticket shortage looming for the Orange Bowl Football Game at Miami, Commander George B. Storer, President of The Fort Industry Company, owners of WGBS at Miami, he put on his thinking cap and acted quickly.

What followed can probably be told best in the station's own words:

"It was obvious a year ago that the 60,000 seat Orange Bowl couldn't hold all who wanted to see the January 1, 1949, football classic. And when, a few weeks before the Georgia-Texas game, a crisis involving distribution of tickets arose to plague the Orange Bowl committee, Station WGBS saw a ready-made public service opportunity.

"The station engaged RCA's large-screen television equipment and technicians, obtained necessary approval, reserved Miami's Bayfront Park auditorium for the first TV showing in history of the famed New Year's Day classic.

"Within a few hours of the first air announcement, all 2,300 free tickets were gone. A section was reserved for patients of Miami's National Children's Cardiac Home.

"The showing went off without a hitch. Viewers ate peanuts, popcorn, sandwiches, consumed soft drinks, cheered madly when underdog Texas made a first down, applauded injured players, yelled themselves hoarse at long passes and touchdown plays, at times drowned out the excellent narration of WAGA-TV's Bill Terry.

"From opening whistle the crowd was enthralled, stayed that way to closing gun. Consensus: a terrific show.

"Station WGBS, which only ten days before put its new 50,000 watt transmitter on the air, had started the New Year with a new high in public service."

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RCA ELECTS McCONNELL V-P IN CHARGE OF FINANCE

Joseph H. McConnell was elected Vice President in Charge of Finance of the Radio Corporation of America last week.

In 1941, Mr. McConnell, a native of North Carolina, joined the Legal Department of the RCA Manufacturing Company, now the RCA Victor Division. A year later, he was named General Counsel of that organization, and in 1945, he was elected Vice President and General Attorney of the RCA Victor Division. He has been Vice President in Charge of Law and Finance of the RCA Victor Division since April, 1947.

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NEW BRITISH LINER "CARONIA" SEEN AS TOPS IN COMMUNICATIONS

Britain's largest postwar liner, the "Caronia", on her maiden trip to New York, opened a new chapter in ship-to-shore communications, with a radiotelephone system which enables passengers aboard the ship to make calls to Europe and America from anywhere in the world, with greater clarity and less interference, according to the International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation.

The first ship in the world to be equipped with transmitters and receivers for single sideband telephony - a system hitherto used only on intercontinental radiotelephone circuits to provide improved speech transmission qualities - the "Caronia's" communications facilities are more modern than those of any passenger ship afloat. The equipment was manufactured by Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., of London, and installed and operated by International Marine Radio Company, Liverpool.

Because the vessel will make lengthy cruising voyages, the single sideband system was installed to allow passengers to make long distance calls from any point during the cruise, to passengers on other radiotelephone-equipped ships as well as to the shore. Passengers will be able to make calls direct from their staterooms or from public booths. One booth is equipped with a loudspeaking telephone, a feature likely to be popular with families or groups or friends making a joint call.

Another advantage of the new system is that there will be less waiting to make calls, as single sideband telephony permits speeding up service by handling double the number of telephone calls possible with the ordinary system.

All telephone calls from the ship to points in the United States will be handled through the facilities of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

In addition to this communications innovation, the "Caronia" has the most modern facilities for radiotelegraph communication with shore points and with other ships. Other equipment includes radio direction finders, emergency transmitters and receivers for the ship and for lifeboats. A complete sound distribution and amplification system provides passengers with music, entertainment, news and radio broadcast programs originating on or incoming to the ship.

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MULTIPLE STATION OWNERSHIP HEARING JAN. 17

Oral argument relating to the amendment of Sections 3.35, 3.240, and 3.640 of the Rules and Regulations relating to Multiple Ownership of AM, FM and Television Broadcast Stations will be held before the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, Monday, January 17th, at 10:00 A.M.

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RCA'S "ULTRAFAX" TO MAKE IT HOT FOR CRIMINALS - MAYBE OTHERS

When "Ultrafax", RCA's super high speed communications system was first demonstrated not long ago, at the Congressional Library in Washington, the headline writers hopped to the "million words a minute" description of it and the fact that it could dispatch 1047 pages of "Gone With the Wind" in 141 seconds, but the thing was so amazing that numerous other of its big accomplishments seem to have been lost in the shuffle if, indeed, they had even been discovered when the device was revealed to the public.

One thing about which not a great deal has been said is making it possible to flash an FBI "Wanted" Notice to police stations all over the nation in a fraction of a second, illustrated by a fingerprint and photograph of the suspect.

"Ultrafax" instantaneously transmits battle maps to the fleet or army, newspapers and magazines contents, publications in any language, weater maps and music. These accomplishments and many more are listed in a profusely illustrated brochure "Ultrafax" just issued by the Radio Corporation of America with an explanatory statement, "Where do we go from here?" by Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, who says that we may be on the eve of radio mail delivery "which will make our present system - splendid as it is - seem as slow as the Pony Express."

The "Ultrafax" brochure shows how this newest electronic miracle works.

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FARNSWORTH ELECTS TWO MORE NEW DIRECTORS; TV SET PRICES CUT

Paul A. Fund and Austin M. Fisher, both of New York, were elected Directors of the Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation last week.

Mr. Fund is a Director and Vice-President in charge of corporate and industrial financing of the James J. Garibaldi Organization, New York, and is a Director of the First Guardian Securities Corporation. Mr. Fisher is President of Austin M. Fisher Associates, nationally known labor relations and public service consultants of New York City.

Farnsworth has reduced list prices of its Capehart television receivers and television-radio-phonograph combinations from \$50 to \$200. E. A. Nicholas, President, announced that no further price reductions are contemplated this year.

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EAST, MIDWEST TV MERGER CURTAIN-RAISER FOR TRUMAN INAUGURAL

As Bert Williams, the famous old blackface comedian used to sing, "You ain't seen nothin' yet." Success that it was, and one of the most outstanding events in the history of broadcasting, the joining of the East, Midwest television networks last night (Tuesday, January 11), was only a dress rehearsal for the show the broadcasters intend to put on for the inaugural of President Truman in Washington next Thursday, January 20th. This will go down in history as the first time a quarter of a million of the Nation's population has ever had the opportunity of actually seeing a President of the United States inaugurated. It seemed as if the joining of the two television nets just now had been especially timed for the great inaugural event.

Also the joining of the pioneer networks last night was a memorable milestone for television itself. This was well summed up in the words of Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, when he said, speaking from Washington:

"We are privileged tonight to experience the thrill that other generations of Americans before us have experienced - the thrill of seeing a new wave of progress sweep from East to West.

"In the earlier days those waves of progress took the form of the overland trails and national roads with their covered wagons, the canals, the railroads, the telegraph, the telephone, the airplane.

"In the Twenties it was the radio networks.

"Tonight it is an electronic television highway from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River.

"The present occasion is the culmination of more than 20 years of research by the Bell Telephone Laboratories. City to city television transmission by wire and radio was first demonstrated in 1927. Tonight we have a television network service extending over 2100 miles - 1740 route miles of coaxial cable and 370 route miles of radio relay - and covering an area where one-fourth of the nation's population lives."

Leroy A. Wilson, President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, in turning over the new \$12,500,000 coaxial cable between Philadelphia and Cleveland to Niles Trammell, President of the National Broadcasting Company, Frank Stanton, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, A. B. DuMont, President of Dumont, and Mark Woods, President of the American Broadcasting Company, said:

"It is a pleasure to take part in this milestone program in the development of television. I congratulate the people of the Bell System and those in the television industry whose enterprising know-how has advanced this new art to this significant stage. It is a fine example of effective team-work.

"The Bell Telephone System is working all the time to provide a courteous and ever-improving telephone service to the people of America. The development of better long distance service has resulted in facilities which can carry television programs, and therefore enable us to help serve the public in this field.

"With the linking together tonight of television facilities in the East and Midwest, we take pride and pleasure in making this expanding network available to the television broadcasting companies, in service to the American people."

The Bell network, created by closing the gap between Philadelphia and Cleveland via Pittsburgh, connects fourteen cities. The others are New York, Washington, Baltimore, Richmond, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Toledo, Detroit and Buffalo. Schenectady also picked up the program.

Today (Wednesday, Jan. 12) the new link goes on a commercial basis and the networks will take turns using the single westbound channel and single eastbound channel between New York and Chicago. Two more westbound channels will be added by Summer.

The NBC celebrated the East-Midwest joining with full page newspaper ads in the cities in which its television stations were located captioned: "You're in the TV Era". The introduction to the ad read:

"Last January, NBC revealed to the public the greatest means of mass communication in the world - Network Television. The National Broadcasting Company hailed 1948 as Television's Year.

"Even on the day that message was published, NBC's promises were being fulfilled. At that time, NBC's Television Network was made up of 4 stations. Today, NBC's total is 29 stations - 14 joined in the Eastern and Midwestern Networks to bring programs simultaneously to viewers from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, with 15 more airing NBC Network programs by means of kinescope recordings."

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OUTPUT SLASH IN RADIO SET PRODUCTION PREDICTED BY CROSLEY

John W. Craig, Vice President of the Crosley Division of the AVCO Manufacturing Co., last week in New York forecast a drop of five million sets in radio production this year.

But Mr. Craig, in an interview with the Associated Press, said his estimate of 11 million new sets for 1949 would represent a production above prewar levels.

Most of the decline in radio production, he said, is accounted for by the fact that manufacturers have caught up with the war-accumulated demand for sets. He said he did not believe television ever would replace radio entirely and that television set owners would continue to be radio customers.

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GERNSBACK'S "JOLLIER'S WEAKLY" CONTRIBUTES A HOLIDAY LAUGH

Hugo Gernsback, veteran radio publisher of New York, noted for his holiday greetings burlesquing well known publications, this year took "Collier's" (which he calls "Jollier's - The Notional Weakly", for his target. It is a miniature, 38-page replica and contains many laughs. The take-offs on the cartoons and the ads, as well as the articles themselves, are especially amusing this year and frequently very pat.

What appears to be the only factual article in this make-believe publication is one by Mr. Gernsback "Television Reaches Out". Among the others are "Hexual Behavior in the Human Female" by "Dr. Alfred C. Quinsey", "The Electronicked Elephant" by "Grego Banshuck", and "Deadlier than the Atom Bomb" by "Professor Greno Gashbuck, R.E., A.E."

The burlesque concludes with the following:

"It is the whim of Jollier's to collect impatiently the jest in contempory thought and on its own behalf to speak far less without partnership on all questions affecting the nation's carfare. It aims furthermore to keep away from its readers all highfalutin', insane, and sneerful ideas of American Wittizenship.

- Robert J. Jollier"

The price of 15 cents is listed on the cover of "Jollier's" and Mr. Gernsback's address is 25 West Broadway, New York, New York.

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FEAR ORDER TO TAKE RADIOS OUT OF TAXIS MAY SPREAD

Apprehension is expressed in the radio industry that the recent moves in New York and Washington may be followed in other cities of the country.

The chief prosecutor of Traffic Court in Washington, D. C. declared this week that it may prove illegal for a person to listen to his automobile radio when driving in Washington.

The legal opinion was expressed by Assistant Corporation Counsel Clark F. King after a blast at motorists who fail to pull to the curb when they hear sirens of emergency vehicles.

In a case this week, Harold A. Surles, 32, a map engineer of 1315 20th St., N.W., was charged with failing to yield right of way to fire engines on December 28. Surles said he didn't hear the sirens, and commented that his radio was turned on.

"One of these days somebody is going to get killed in an accident for some such reason as that," Mr. King said in permitting Surles to forfeit \$25.

Asked by a reporter to amplify his comment on automobile radios as a hazard, Mr. King applied this reasoning:

"I'll admit that there is no regulation prohibiting the playing of car radios. But here's how I figure it. It is illegal to fail to give full time and attention to the operation of your automobile, and you may be fined \$300. Next you surely are not giving full time and attention to your driving if you are listening to a radio. Therefore, it may be illegal for drivers to listen to automobile radios.

The City Hack Bureau has issued an order to taxicab companies and private taxi owners that all cabs in New York must be stripped of their radios immediately, the New York Times reports. The order actually affects only owner-drivers, since virtually all fleet operators have eliminated radios in their post-war automobiles.

Harold deWolfe, Managing Director of the League of Mutual Taxi Owners, which represents the bulk of individual drivers in the city, said that any driver found with a radio still in his cab by the end of the week would be subject to having his medallion stripped and would be suspended from operating a taxi.

About 45 per cent of the taxis operating in the five boroughs, according to Mr. deWolfe, are privately owned. More than 1,000 cabs still have radios and if it were not for the Hack Bureau's order, he said, 5,000 cabbies would install radios in their machines.

Mr. deWolfe explained that the reason for the order was an effort to reduce the number of accidents. He denied that this was a valid reason, adding that to his knowledge not a single accident in recent years could be blamed upon the playing of a radio.

"If it were true that radio playing distracts a driver or causes accidents", he asserted, "then every radio in every automobile throughout the nation should be removed. If it were true, then certainly the National Safety Council would have pressed for legislation demanding the removal of radios from passenger automobiles.

"Under the law a driver is permitted to have a radio in his cab if the radio is in the back of the car and is controlled by the passenger. This, in itself, is a danger, since when a passenger leaves a taxi, he usually leaves the radio playing. Then, the cab driver has to go into the back and turn it off, which is a violation of the law, since a cabbie is not permitted to be in the back of his taxi."

Another source alleged that the order was the result of a demand by an "important person" who wanted a driver to turn off a ball game. The cabbie refused and, it was said, the customer brought pressure to have all the radios outlawed.

The number of taxis with radios still in the rear, Mr. de Wolfe said, was negligible, and he added that the only reason all individual owners had not installed radios was that they feared such a ruling was coming.

On the matter of radios in the Capital's taxis, the Washington Post comments:

"Many persons will have a great deal of sympathy with the comments of Assistant Corporation Counsel Clark F. King about the distracting influence of radios in automobiles. It must indeed be disconcerting to policemen and firemen to grind away at their sirens only to encounter an obstruction in the form of an oblivious motorist entranced by the strains of 'Slow Boat to China'. Mr. King's remedy, to be sure, is a little extreme, though his logic is impeccable. It is illegal, he figures, not to give full attention to the operation of an automobile, and this cannot be done when listening to a radio. But if drivers are to be deprived of their music, what about mothers-in-law and backseat-driving wives, from whom a radio is a welcome and sometimes altogether necessary relief? If Mr. King can devise a successful formula for combating this distraction without ruining family harmony, the problem of too much radio harmony will pale into insignificance.

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NEW RADAR PICKS UP MOVING AIRCRAFT ONLY

Only moving aircraft will show on the screens of a new radar device to help planes make all-weather approaches and landings, General Electric revealed at Syracuse at its new Electronics Park where 27 units of the equipment are to be constructed for the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration for installations at commercial airports, Science Service reports.

This device is said to be the first of the type to employ "Moving Target Indication" as a standard production feature. This is a unique method of eliminating fixed objects, such as tall towers and neighboring hills, from the radar scope image. Special means, by use of a superimposed chart on the image, enables the tower control operator to determine the proximity of any airplane to a dangerous obstruction.

The equipment is an improvement over the type of ground-controlled-approach (GCA) radar-radio apparatus developed during the war and successfully used to bring planes of the armed service safely into fog-bound airfields. CAA is now using at least three of these GCA devices to supplement its instrument landing system (ILS). The types used by the CAA are much simpler than those employed during the war.

The type that General Electric is under contract to construct at Syracuse may be installed anywhere up to two miles from the airport control tower and by means of a unique remote system, brings its scope pictures into the tower for the benefit of the traffic controller. The picture he sees will show the exact position and flight path of every plane within a 30-mile radius.

During periods of bad weather and poor visibility this complete picture of all planes flying within the area will make it possible for the controller more safely to conduct each plane to the blind landing radio beam by means of radio conversation. Installations of the new radar sets will begin early in 1950, with 22 of them assigned to CAA airport control towers in this country, one in Hawaii, and four in Alaska. The 27 will be constructed under a \$2,840,427 contract.

RADIO APPARENTLY PUTS NO DENTS IN NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

Despite claims made that radio and now television were proving deadly competitors, U. S. newspaper circulations, daily and Sunday, not only maintained their all-time high levels, but actually showed small gains in 1948 as compared with 1947.

Oddly enough, radio and television to the contrary notwithstanding, the evening papers of the country showed the biggest increase, registering a 1.25% gain over 1947. Morning papers, leaders in the 1947-46 daily comparison, showed an increase of .53%, with Sundays gaining .99%, while combined morning-evening dailies had a gain of .89%.

These percentages are based on the annual cross-section survey made by Editor & Publisher of publishers' statements to the Audit Bureau of Circulations for the six-month period, ending September 30, 1948, as compared with the same period in 1947.

Below is a comparison of 1948 and 1947 cross-section figures, based on the six-month periods, ending September 30, as compiled from ABC records: (Audit Bureau of Circulations)

	<u>Circulation</u> <u>Sept. 30, 1947</u>	<u>Circulation</u> <u>Sept. 30, 1948</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>over 1947</u>
109 Morning	16,395,611	16,482,784	.53%
194 Evening	16,522,092	16,729,215	1.25%
250 Morning-Evening Totals.	32,917,703	33,211,000	.80%
150 Sunday	37,665,998	38,037,590	.99%

People are spending nickels instead of pennies for their daily papers and many are paying 12 to 15 cents a copy for Sunday editions. Home delivery rates are advancing to 30 cents weekly for six-day papers. Los Angeles and San Francisco papers have set the pace with seven-cent dailies.

It is estimated that the cross-section survey, covering 109 morning papers, 149 evening dailies, represents about two-thirds of the total weekday circulation in the U. S., while the 150 Sunday papers account for about three-fourth of total Sunday circulation.

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COURT ORDERS MAJESTIC TO CUT PRICES

A Chicago Federal court last week ordered the Majestic Radio and Television Corporation, Elgin, Ill., to slash the price of its radio sets. Majestic is now undergoing a reorganization under Federal bankruptcy laws. Co-trustees of the company, John Dwyer and Donald J. Walsh, said they asked for the order because prices had been forced down by competition from television and other causes. They said price cuts range as much as 32 per cent below the cost of manufacture.

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::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
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Pegler Sees TV Demolishing Hollywood; Lambasts Radio
("Washington Times-Herald")

Television soon will demolish the institution of Hollywood and reduce to puny harmlessness the invisible radio with its naive theatricals and its pundits, prophets, and patrioteers.

This is bound to be. As the change occurs, swiftly and quietly, the control of the amusement industry, one of our greatest in point of revenues, may slip away from the monopoly which has possessed it from the days of the flickering films.

It may get into the hands of worse men, but I doubt that. Television will be flowing into the homes and we have a double standard which bars from the home offensiveness which we tolerate in theaters.

It is difficult for young Americans to believe that such changes can be wrought in a short time. However, many of us actually saw the sequence of the magic lantern, the silent movies, beginning in penny arcades and little fire-trap store fronts, and then the talkies, with beautiful color.* * * *

Hollywood began about 1910, but the greatest development has come since the First World war and has been concentrated in the last 15 or 20 years.

It always was a licentious institution, but when Roosevelt came to power, the magnates, greedy, vain and uncouth, were simply carried away by his calculated flattery. They actually dined and slept in the White House.

He was making use of them. It drove them crazy with self-importance. But tell me, have you ever seen a movie which could be interpreted as a criticism of any phase of Roosevelt's administration? To them that would be sacrilege. Or a movie which fusiously attacked Hollywood itself and its moguls, who nevertheless depicted the United States Congress as a gang of rogues, cowards and ignorant dupes and the American press as a Fascist institution? * * * * *

The Johnston office barred all Capone films with a trick extra proviso that the punishment must fit the crime.

As long as that one stays on the books it will be impossible to film the John Hartford swindle, which is a vital incident in the biography of President Roosevelt. But they didn't insist on that when Elliott got up his quickie on the old man's career. Elliott just ignored it.

For a while, Hollywood will still have color which television hasn't got. But color will come on television just as color and sound came to the screen and then why would people go to the movies at high prices and some inconvenience?

I don't know yet who will pay for these free television shows, but somebody will. There will be better and better television shows and they will suck dollars away from the movie theaters and Hollywood and radio.

Television is only a couple of years old but already it is killing interest in radio, and no wonder. Given the vastness of imagination for its stage, free of cost, radio has been miserably paltry and self-pleased.* * * * *

Radio stars collect salaries thus far unequalled even by rajahs and presume to political wisdom of corresponding importance.

I think television will liquidate the pundits of the radio because thus far these strange creatures have thrived as disembodied, oracular spirits.* * * *

The people in the amusement business are holding back to let the other fellow make the fatal mistakes of the trial and error period. A few pioneers have been ghastly flops already.* * *

The great glammers of the silent movies withered and became nobodies haunting the lots for petty jobs when sound came in. The great canal system went to weeds and the locks rotted and fell when the railroads came.

And when Hollywood dawned on the U.S.A. a thousand theaters devoted to the drama discoursed by road shows or local stock became factories and warehouses.

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Video Murdered Harry

("By Andrew Tully, "Washington News")

If you own a television set or had a reserved seat in the corner saloon, don't believe that picture you saw of Harry S. Truman delivering his State of the Union message to Congress yesterday.

The President is really a lot better looking than that. His neckties are a lot prettier. And he isn't growing a mustache.

In other words, television still plays no favorites - even when it's working on the boss.

The President looked O.K. as he marched smiling down the aisle. He was all spruced up, and there was the old spring in his step as though he was on his way to the depot to meet the missus.

But when television got him on the Speaker's stand, it murdered him.

It gave him jowls, although he's one of the trimmest Presidents we've ever had. It gave him bushy eyebrows. It gave him that sinister shadow on the face. And it had him wearing an old strip of cloth instead of one of those beautiful rainbow-hued ties.

It's a wonder the Federal Communications Commission didn't step in, then and there.

Probably, tho, it's a good thing it didn't because the rest of the show was pretty good. Mr. Truman read his speech, which always takes some of the sharpness away, but when he had a good point to chew on, he delighted the camera with that peculiar habit of shaking his head slowly back and forth. At other times, he'd pause and lift his head, looking his old congressional friends right in the eye.

He seemed proud of his statistics on how much more stuff the country was producing nowadays, and he got a laugh when he ad libbed a remark on the St. Lawrence seaway project - "This is about the fifth time I've recommended it."

The rest of the actors played up pretty well, too. Old Sen. Kenneth McKellar (D., Tenn.), who shared the rostrum with Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas, had the nicest hair-do of all - a kind of rakish job that hung over his left eye.

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::: TRADE NOTES :::

Charles R. Denny, Executive Vice-President of the National Broadcasting Company, last week was elected a Director of the company, it was announced by Niles Trammell, President.

Mr. Denny, former Chairman of the Federal Communication Commission, first joined NBC on Nov. 15, 1947 as Vice-President and General Counsel, and was elected Executive Vice-President on July 2, 1948.

Raytheon Manufacturing Co. reports for six months ended November 30 net profit of \$680,048, equal to 39 cents a common share compared with a loss of \$67,154 in the like months last year.

The Federal Communications Commission this week made final a previous tentative grant to Richard Aubrey Raese to build a new standard radio station at Cumberland, Md. The outlet will operate on 1230 kilocycles, 250 watts, unlimited time.

Radar equipment is subject to stringent operating conditions. Cathode-ray tubes must function aboard ships or planes and must provide an easily read signal 24 hours a day. For such use, a General Electric tube was developed with a screen surface approximately 5 inches in diameter, on which the signal is visible not only in darkness but in daylight as well.

Read Admiral Walter Albert Buck, USN, Ret., has been elected Operating Vice President of the RCA Victor Division, Radio Corporation of America.

Admiral Buck has served since March 15, 1948, as President of Radiomarine Corporation of America. In retiring from the Navy, Mr. Buck ended a distinguished career of thirty years there, the last two of which he served as Paymaster General and Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

William Balderston, President of the Philco Corporation, at a distributors' convention at Palm Beach last week, said:

"There will be a good volume of radio business in this country for years to come. Many millions of people will not have television service for a long time, so they will continue to depend on radios and radio-phonographs for a great deal of their entertainment."

Mr. Balderston told the distributors Philco expected to do a volume of well over \$100,000,000 in television alone in 1949.

Reflecting the record-breaking television receiver production of the latter part of 1948, sales of cathode ray tubes to set manufacturers rose sharply in the third quarter of 1948 over the second quarter, the Radio Manufacturers' Association reported last week.

Third quarter sales of cathode ray tubes to equipment manufacturers totalled 306,502 valued at \$7,529,531 compared with 267,763

valued at \$6,021,878 in the second quarter of 1948. All third quarter sales, including replacements, U. S. government agencies, and exports totalled 327,044 units valued at \$8,088,600.

Representative Vinson (D), of Georgia, predicted prompt Congressional action Monday on an Air Force plan to set up a country-wide radar-warning system.

Mr. Vinson, who will head the House Armed Services Committee, said he will call for early consideration of his bill to authorize building of the radar network. He made it plain that he considers the measure of prime importance and that he intends to press for favorable action.

Absence of a radar-warning system was cited by Air Secretary W. Stuart Symington in his first annual report Sunday as a major gap in U. S. defense.

The bill which Mr. Vinson introduced last week would establish enough radar stations to spot a plane as soon as it crossed any part of the nation's borders. The aircraft's presence would then be relayed to central points for a check against known flights. In this way it would be possible to pick out any unidentified plane quickly.

Experts estimate that an adequate system, to be built over a five-year period, would cost about \$160,000,000.

A 10-watt General Electric micro-wave transmitter, receiver, and directive antenna for studio-transmitter link service beams a high-fidelity sound-program from main studio to a remotely located FM broadcast transmitter. Use of 40-inch dish-type metallic reflectors for both transmitter and receiver antennas is equivalent to a large increase in transmitting power, and minimizes interference with other services by confining the radiation to a narrow beam.

A new two-way mobile radio equipment which promises to double the available communication lanes and open new facilities to police, fire departments, and taxicab and trucking fleets, is now in production, it was announced by the RCA Engineering Products Department. The equipment is designed to operate in the 152-174 megacycle band.

Taking advantage of special highly selective circuits, the new RCA equipment makes it possible to operate in channels between stations now on the air without "spillover" into the adjacent channels. This has not been possible heretofore because of the limitations of existing equipment.

Tommy Handley, famous British radio comedian, an American born in Lowell, Mass., who often was called the "Jack Benny" of British radio, died in London last Sunday of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 55.

His British Broadcasting Corp. radio show, known familiarly to many as "ITMA", had maintained a hold upon the British public since it started in 1939. An audience estimated at 10,000,000 persons listened to his "live" shows each Thursday night and another 11,000,000 were estimated to tune in on the recording broadcasts made on Saturdays and Sunday.

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