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May 11, 1949

RMA SILVER JUBILEE MEET; PUBLIC TV OBSOLESCENCE DISCUSSION OUT

Although not mentioned in the advance press handouts, it is expected that an important feature at the Radio Manufacturers' Association's "Silver Anniversary" convention to be held in Chicago next week, May 16-19, will be an informal report of the progress that has been made by the recently appointed Committee "to give the public, trade, and government accurate television information." This group was organized and \$100,000 appropriated for its expenses, to reassure the public after the industry blow-up following charges that present sets may become obsolete when television is expanded into the higher bands. It is certain that every effort will be made to avoid stirring up the public further but nevertheless obsolescence looms as the main topic of conversation.

At the forthcoming gathering conspicuous by his absence will be FCC Chairman Wayne Coy who has been one of the storm centers in the television row.

The special RMA Television Information Committee is headed by Paul V. Galvin, RMA past president. Other members are: Benjamin Abrams, Emerson Radio & Phonograph President; Dr. W. R. G. Baker, RMA Engineering Department Director and General Electric Vice President; H. C. Bonfig, Zenith Vice President; James H. Carmine, Philco Vice President; James W. Craig, Avco's Crosley Division Vice President; Dr. Allen B. DuMont, Allen B. DuMont Laboratories head; Joseph B. Elliott, RCA Victor Division Vice President, and William H. Halligan, Hallicrafters Co. President.

Approximately 50 group meetings have been scheduled to be held during the RMA Convention.

Complete programs issued this week provide for a solid series of morning and afternoon business sessions, four luncheons, and two dinners.

Together with manufacturers and jobbers attending the Parts Trade Show, which will be held concurrently with the RMA convention, the radio industry will virtually take over the Stevens Hotel for the week.

Highlighting the "Silver Anniversary" convention will be an All-Industry Banquet Thursday evening in which other trade organizations will participate in a tribute to RMA. Top entertainment talent has been booked for this event which is expected to fill the Grand Ballroom of the Stevens Hotel and to overflow into the foyers, according to Chairman Leslie F. Muter of the RMA Convention Committee.

Following three days of committee and section meetings, the five divisions of RMA will hold membership meetings Thursday morning, May 19, to elect new officers. The annual membership luncheon will be held the same day.

Senator Capehart (R), of Indiana, a pioneer radio manufacturer and a member of the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, will speak at the membership luncheon, and President Max F. Balcom, who is completing his second term, will make his annual report.

The RMA Board of Directors will hold two meetings, the first on Wednesday afternoon and the second on Thursday following the membership luncheon and the election of officers.

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NBC TV THEATRE PROGRAM POSITION CLARIFIED BY DENNY, V-P

A letter which discussed in detail the possibility of the National Broadcasting Company providing television program service to theatres, was addressed by Charles R. Denny, Executive Vice-President of NBC, to Gael Sullivan, Executive Director of the Theatre Owners' Association of America, Inc.

Mr. Denny said there were three principal types of programs which NBC may provide to theatres: (1) shows built by NBC on special order for the primary use of theatres; (2) special event programs, like a presidential inauguration or an important address, that are not sponsored, and (3) regular commercial or sustaining shows.

In the first category, Mr. Denny wrote, NBC would present programs for exclusive theatrical use, and these would not be generally telecast. The second and third categories would be programs primarily designed for telecasting and their use by theatres for either simultaneous or subsequent showings could be arranged under special license from NBC.

Any commercial television program would have to be shown in theatres in its entirety, Mr. Denny said, with commercial announcements included. Naturally, the consent of advertisers would be a prerequisite to theatrical presentation of sponsored programs.

As to special events programs, Mr. Denny said that in "appropriate cases" NBC would license theatres to use them, providing NBC owned or could clear all rights for theatre showing. In cases where NBC was one of several broadcasters carrying a program, theatres would, of course, have to make arrangements with all members of the group.

The question of television rights for theatrical presentations, Mr. Denny pointed out, "is still largely unexplored." He foresaw that negotiations on this subject would be required in each instance.

"In addition", said Mr. Denny, "there may be union problems which would have to be resolved in connection with theatre showings of television programs. On its part, NBC would be willing to supply these programs as indicated in this letter, and if theatres so desired, NBC would in appropriate cases attempt to negotiate the clearing

of necessary rights, the interested theatres to pay any added costs for the acquisition of these rights."

On the subject of fees, Mr. Denny said NBC would set them on the basis of covering the network's expenses in providing programs to theatres plus "a fair profit". Initially, at least, he said, fees would be subject to negotiation in each case.

Mr. Denny emphasized that NBC would not permit use of its television programs in theatre auditoriums without licenses, whether the program is picked up by the theatre from the telecast or delivered by other means. He pointed out, however, that the network had not objected to the showing of its programs on "home television instruments installed in theatre lounges and lobbies."

"NBC has treated the use of its television programs in theatre lounges or lobbies, where no additional admission or other charges are levied, as more akin to normal home television reception than to theatre television", he said. The network has not taken steps to prevent this use.

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THE TIME MUSSOLINI SLIPPED A MESSAGE THROUGH TO COOLIDGE

Norman Siegel, formerly one of the liveliest radio editors in the country but who is now climbing to the top of the ladder in the motion picture world in Hollywood, came to New York this week to attend home office meetings and Paramount's Eastern Sales Division Convention.

Mr. Siegel for many years was radio editor of the Cleveland Press and now is Paramount Studio publicity head on the West Coast. An amusing story is told about him. Returning from a trip abroad via Washington before World War I, Norman told Leo Sack, the United States correspondent, later Minister to Costa Rica, that he'd like to see the President.

This was in the old handshaking line days at the White House and a meeting was easily arranged by Sack. However, the latter almost fell out of his shoes when Siegel, whom he supposed expected to greet the President only formally, said:

"Mr. President when I met Premier Mussolini in Italy, he asked me if I would give you a message."

To Sack's further amazement, President Coolidge came right back with a reply. As Siegel and Sack left the Executive Office, the latter having partially recovered his composure, ejaculated:

"Why didn't you tell me you had a message to Coolidge from Mussolini!"

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WEBSTER'S CONFIRMATION FOR SECOND FCC TERM SEEMS IN THE BAG

One of the comparatively few men who really knew anything about radio or communications - that is to say didn't arrive by the political route - when appointed to the Federal Communications Commission, Edward F. Webster, will be considered today (Wednesday, May 11) by the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee for reappointment as Commissioner to a 7 year term. Commander Webster's name was sent up by President Truman last week and with the personal backing of Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Chairman of the Senate Committee it seems to be the opinion on the Hill that he is as good as in.

During his two years on the Commission when he succeeded Paul Porter, Commander Webster has been particularly concerned with safety and special services aspects of the FCC's activities, and has participated in many international radio conferences. His extensive technical knowledge in radio and telecommunications has been invaluable in these meetings.

A veteran of two wars and a former Assistant Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission, Commissioner Webster has long been identified with matters affecting domestic and international communications, specializing in application of radio to safety in the marine and aviation services.

Born in Washington, D. C., on February 28, 1889, Commissioner Webster attended the local public schools and was graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1912. He spent more than 30 years in that service. Retired in 1923, he was recalled to active duty until 1934, and again during World War II. During these tours he served as Chief Communications Officer of the Coast Guard.

Joining the Federal Communications Commission in 1938 as a member of its engineering staff, he became Assistant Chief Engineer about a year later. In that capacity he had intimate supervision of radio and wire services, embracing marine, aviation, experimental, emergency, amateur, and common carriers to the inclusion of cables, also matters relating to radio operators.

For many years he has been active in coordinating communications activities within the Government and is one of the original members of the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee. He has assisted the State Department in preparing for 20 international conferences dealing with all phases of communications, most of which he attended as a representative of the United States by designation of the President or by the Secretary of State.

Because of his knowledge of maritime problems, Commissioner Webster was a member of a technical committee created by the Senate in 1935 to investigate the Morro Castle and Mohawk steamship disasters. As a result of that inquiry, he drafted legislation which placed into operation the radio provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

In 1942 he was granted military leave by the Commission to return to active duty with the Coast Guard, again being placed in charge of the extensive communication system of that service. He advanced in rank from captain to commodore and was awarded the Legion of Merit for outstanding accomplishments. Reverting to inactive status in August of 1946, he accepted the post as director of telecommunications of the National Association of American Shipping.

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FCC CLEARS WAY FOR VICTORY CORP. TO BUY BULOVA, WOV, N. Y.

The Federal Communications Commission yesterday (May 10) issued a Report and Order granting the application of Arde Bulove and Harry D. Henshel to transfer control of Wodaam Corporation (WOV), New York, to Victory Broadcasting Corporation. At the same time, the Commission removed from the hearing docket and granted the application of Greater New York Broadcasting Corporation for renewal of license of WNEW, New York, for the period ending May 1, 1951; also the application of Wodaam Corporation for renewal of license of WOV for the period ending Nov. 1, 1951. It denied petitions by the International Catholic Truth Society and Mariannina C. deRaczynski to intervene in hearings on these applications.

Commissions Coy and Jones, in a 12-page dissenting opinion, favored a hearing, saying:

"We dissent from the Commission's Report and Order in this case because we are unable to conclude from the report and from the investigation which has been made by the Commission's staff that the Commission is in a position to find that Mr. Bulova and the corporations in which he is the controlling stockholder are qualified by character to be entrusted with the responsibilities of a broadcast license. On the contrary, we believe that upon the basis of the information uncovered by the investigation, the Commission has no choice but to hold a further hearing in these proceedings so that the complete story can be put on the record and thus determine finally the questions involved."

Commissioner Sterling did not participate, having been absent at an international conference during the proceedings preparatory to the decision.

The consideration involved in the WOV transfer is \$200,000, plus 10% of the stock in WNEW owned by Richard E. O'Dea, also part owner of WOV, and the discontinuance of certain suits brought by O'Dea against the transferors.

Stations WNEW and WOV are both controlled by Bulova. Common ownership and operation of two stations in the same service area is contrary to the Commission's AM multiple ownership rule, which was adopted Nov. 23, 1943. To satisfy this condition, Bulova at different times had filed four applications to transfer WOV. One was denied by the Commission and two others were dismissed on request.

Since 1944, WOV and WNEW have been operating under temporary extensions of licenses. Tuesday's decision followed the completion of an extensive field investigation conducted by the Commission last Fall into Bulova's radio activities.

Victory Broadcasting Corporation is composed of Ralph Weil and Arnold B. Hartley, now General Manager and Program Director respectively of WOV; N. Joseph Leigh, in the lithography and color photography business in New York; Charles B. McGroddy, a New York attorney, and O'Dea. Leigh and O'Dea will hold 51 2/3 and 33 1/3% respectively of the common voting stock.

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ARMSTRONG ONE OF FIRST TO GET RADIO MODEL NAMED AFTER HIM

Probably the first radio set model named after its inventor is called by Zenith "The Major", an FM table model dedicated to Major Edwin H. Armstrong, Professor of Electricity at Columbia University, and inventor of frequency modulation.

"The set, listing at a new low price of \$39.95, has a sensitivity of about 10 microvolts, which makes it much more sensitive than any home FM radio receiver heretofore manufactured", H. C. Bonfig, Zenith Vice President said.

"The Major" was previewed at the industry's FMA Clinic in New York recently by Major Armstrong, who declared: "This is a milestone that will revolutionize FM broadcasting."

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GENERAL STRIKE BLAMED FOR AMERICAN CABLE & RADIO LOSS

Gross operating revenues of the American Cable & Radio Corporation declined from \$21,314,942 in 1947 to \$20,193,233 in 1948 (a decrease of \$1,121,709) and operating expenses declined from \$23,543,345 in 1947 to \$22,259,983 (a decrease of \$1,382,362). The year 1948 showed a consolidated loss of \$1,608,758 compared with a loss of \$2,075,999 in 1947 (which was reduced by tax credit to \$1,525,999).

"In our last annual report", Kenneth E. Stockton, American Cable & Radio System stated, "we pointed out the serious effect which deficit operations during the past three years have had on the cash position of the System. Since December 31, 1947 cash and government securities located in the United States have decreased from \$4,161,455 to \$3,285,908 on December 31, 1948, of which \$166,000 and \$384,000, respectively, represented blocked bank deposits of our Argentine subsidiary. The balances held abroad subject to local exchange restrictions declined from the estimated equivalent of \$2,711,509 on December 31, 1947 to \$2,519,307 on December 31, 1948.

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ADMIRAL ELLERY W. STONE, I. T. & T., NEW FARNSWORTH SKIPPER

Admiral Ellery W. Stone will soon assume his added duties as President of Capehart-Farnsworth Corporation, newly-formed and wholly-owned subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, to which he was elected last week.

Admiral Stone, IT&T Vice President, is also President of Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation and International Standard Electric Corporation and has served since 1931 in various executive capacities with the IT&T System. A native of Oakland, California, he attended the University of California where he specialized in radio engineering. From 1924 to 1931 he was President of the Federal Telegraph Company prior to acquisition by I. T. & T. and from 1931 to 1937 was operating Vice President and Director of the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company. He then served as Executive Vice President of Postal Telegraph, Inc., and was elected President of the Postal organization in December 1942. In 1943 he was recalled to active duty with the United States Navy. He served as Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission for Italy until early 1947, with headquarters in Rome.

The following officers were also elected with Admiral Stone: David R. Hull, Executive Vice President; Philo T. Farnsworth, Vice President; Henry C. Roemer, Vice President; William Clausen, Vice President; P. H. Hartmann, Treasurer; W. F. Hoepfner, Comptroller; Chester H. Wiggin, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer; Dudley M. Day, Assistant Secretary; C. Douglas Webb, Assistant Secretary; John J. Brosnan, Assistant Treasurer; Edmond H. Dufau, Assistant Treasurer; and Roy H. Workman, Assistant Comptroller.

Edwin A. Nicholas, former President of Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation, will act as Assistant to the President.

The Board of Directors of the newly-formed corporation is as follows: Sosthenes Behn, George Everson, Philo T. Farnsworth, William H. Harrison, Charles D. Hilles, Jr., David R. Hull, Edwin A. Nicholas, Henry C. Roemer and Ellery W. Stone.

Captain Hull is Assistant Technical Director of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation. Prior to joining the IT&T System in 1948, he was engaged in radio and electronic research work for the U. S. Navy since his graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1925. As Assistant Director of the Naval Research Laboratory at Washington, D. C., and later as head of the Design Branch and Deputy Director of Electronics of the Bureau of Ships, he played a vital role in perfecting the latest radar and electronic techniques for use by the U. S. Navy during the war. From 1933 to 1940 Captain Hull directed research activities in the fields of sonar and radar. He also initiated programs for the Fleet tactical radio telephone communications in the Very High and Ultra High Frequency ranges. In his most recent assignment, that of Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Ships for Electronics, he was responsible for the entire Navy electronic program, including research, procurement and installation.

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LEWIS ALLEN WEISS ELEVATED TO DON LEE CHAIRMANSHIP

Lewis Allen Weiss, President of the Don Lee Broadcasting System of Los Angeles, was last week advanced to Chairman of the Don Lee Board. Until recently, Mr. Weiss had served as Board Chairman of the Mutual Broadcasting System, the only one from the West Coast ever to serve in that capacity.

At the same time of Mr. Weiss' elevation to the chairmanship of Don Lee, Willett H. Brown, current Executive Vice President, was elected to succeed Mr. Weiss as President. Other new Don Lee officers elected, and their posts are: Donn B. Tatum, Vice President and General Counsel; Ward D. Ingram, Sales Vice-President; Pat W. Campbell, Station Relations Vice-President; William D. Pabst, Vice-President and Manager of KFRC in San Francisco; and C. J. Marshall, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Weiss is an old timer in the broadcasting business and is credited years ago with thinking up the idea of Will Rogers using an alarm clock to keep the great comedian on time in his broadcasts. A sketch of the new Don Lee, Chairman, which appears in the 1948-49 "Who's Who in America" follows:

Weiss, Lewis Allen, business exec.; b. Chicago, Ill., May 8, 1893; s. Joseph Ignatius and Regina (Buchs) W.; student Kent Coll. of Law, 1912-15, U. of Southern Calif., 1926-29 (extension course in advanced economics); m. Sue C. Stephenson, April 22, 1922; 1 dau., Patricia Sue (wife of Lt. Albert S. Hart, U.S.N.). Chmn. bd. dirs. Mutual Broadcasting System; dir., vice pres., gen. mgf. Don Lee Broadcasting System, Pacific Northwest Broadcasting Co.; pres., dir., Calif. Broadcasters, Inc.; Mem. Los Angeles Airport Commn. Served as capt, 4th U.S. Cavalry, 1915-19. Mem. Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce (vice pres.), Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Merchants and Mfrs. Assn. (dir.), Mil. Order of the World War Television Broadcasters Assn. (dir. 1944-45), Delta Theta Phi, Alpha Delta Sigma. Clubs: Los Angeles Rotary (dir. 1943-45), University (Los Angeles); Beverly Hills.

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WINCHELL SAYS HE'S GETTING \$650,000 FOR KAISER-FRAZER PROGRAM

"My fee (net)", says Walter Winchell, "is \$650,000 in 1949. For '50 it is \$715,000." So he wrote Editor & Publisher last week, in correction of a statement that he was getting \$520,000 a year for his Kaiser-Frazer radio program.

Editor & Publisher's report, was based on the announcement last Summer, when he parted with Jorgens, that ABC had signed a contract guaranteeing him \$520,000.

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FCC ORDERED TO MODIFY RULE ON MONOPOLY

The Federal Communications Commission has been ordered by the U. S. Court of Appeals in Washington to modify application of "the newspaper issue" to radio station applicants, and go beyond the question whether grant of a license would create joint ownership of newspaper and radio in the single community of operation.

The Court reminded that a rival applicant's ownership of press and radio facilities elsewhere in the area can affect the question of competition in news dissemination.

FCC had denied the application of Plains Radio Broadcasting Co. for a license on the ground that contrary action would give all radio and press ownership in Lubbock, Texas, to the same parties. It granted a permit to the competing applicant, Lubbock County Broadcasting Co., whose owners have financial interest in broadcast stations at Brownwood, Waco and Austin, and newspaper holdings at Brownwood, Del Rio, and Lamesa, Tex.

The Court's decision states: "It seems to us that in considering the public interests in the maintenance of competition in the dissemination of news, the Commission cannot select the one fact that one applicant is the owner of the town's only newspaper and ignore the fact that the other applicant is directly related to several newspapers and radio stations in the general section of the country (although not in this immediate community).

"A concentration of news dissemination by a chain of stations over an area would seem to us to be a factor in a comparative valuation from the standpoint of competition in news dissemination. We think that the Commission must weigh pro and con the facts as to each applicant upon the subject which it deems material in a comparative evaluation. It cannot select and assert as material the pertinent characteristics of one applicant and ignore the related features of the others."

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CLAIMS TV EMPLOYS 10% AS MANY AS ENTIRE RADIO INDUSTRY

Television, with only 57 stations on the air, currently employs approximately 10% as many full-time persons as does the total AM-FM broadcasting industry, the National Association of Broadcasters claimed this week.

In a survey of television employment and wages conducted by Richard P. Doherty, NAB Director of Employee-Employer Relations, it was also found that the regular staff of 57 television stations, including networks, aggregated 3,456 full-time persons and approximately 1,000 part-time and free-lance individuals, as of February, 1949.

"If the staffs of stations now preparing to 'go on the air' in the near future are added, the total television employment among stations and networks will approximate 4,000 persons. In addition, a considerable number of free-lance actors, singers and other talent are employed directly by agencies", Mr. Doherty said.

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WARNERS STILL DESIRE KLAC, L.A. WOULD RESELL TO RALPH ATLASS

Warner Brothers still seeks to buy the Los Angeles television station now licensed to Mrs. Dorothy Thackrey, attorney John P. Southmayd told the Federal Communications Commission last Friday. Although he could not explain the apparent withdrawal from the purchase agreement voiced last month in Hollywood by Harry M. Warner, Southmayd wrote that his client, Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., has authorized him to advise the Commission it "intends fully to comply with its agreement" to purchase KLAC-TV, along with standard broadcast stations KLAC, Los Angeles, and KYA, San Jose, Mrs. Thackrey has agreed to wait until August 1, Southmayd said, according to Hollywood Reporter.

Again early favorable action by the FCC was asked, with Warners ready to take title to the stations for \$1,045,000 and then to turn over KLAC to Ralph Atlass of Chicago on another sales contract negotiated pending approval of the Warner Brothers buy.

The FCC has held up approval pending determination whether Warner Brothers is qualified to hold broadcast and TV licenses in the light of its record of anti-trust violations.

It was recalled that the FCC kept its eye on Department of Justice negotiations with Paramount for a consent decree this past Winter, announcing its intention to go into the anti-trust angle as it affects the major companies at the right psychological moment, so far as the Justice Department negotiations are concerned. It has been suggested, although not confirmed, that this was more than mere coincidence.

It is also suggested that there may be no final commission decision on the anti-trust angle until the New York court judgment in the case of Warners, Loew's and Fox has been handed down - and perhaps not then if the case seems destined to go back to the Supreme Court.

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FRENCH GIFT TO BBC IN APPRECIATION OF WARTIME BROADCASTS

The French flag flew over Broadcasting House, London, when at a recent ceremony a Lurcat tapestry was presented to the British Broadcasting Corporation by M. Rene Massigli, the French Ambassador, on behalf of the French Government, in recognition "of the help and comfort the London radio offered in the dark days of occupation."

The gift was accepted by Lord Simon of Wythenshawe, Chairman of the BBC governors, who referred to the cooperation still existing between Britain and France. Sir William Haley, the Director-General of the BBC, also spoke in French.

Similar gifts have already been made to the BBC. A beautiful and unique vase was presented by the Speaker of the Danish House of Commons on behalf of listeners in Denmark. The people of Holland subscribed for a plaque which was unveiled in Broadcasting House by the Netherlands Ambassador.

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ASCAP-NAB TELEVISION MUSIC ARBITRATION PLANS STYMIED

Negotiations between the American Society of Composers and the National Association of Broadcasters Television Music Committees struck a snag last week when the latter refused to consider a proposal by ASCAP to submit the dispute to a three-man arbitration board. Deadline for use of ASCAP music on television is June 1.

ASCAP proposed to the NAB that rates for the use of its members' musical compositions on television be fixed by a Board, of which the member representing the public be named by the Hon. Tom C. Clark, Attorney General of the United States.

In a letter to Robert P. Myers, Chairman of the Television Music Committee of the National Association of Broadcasters, Fred E. Ahlert, President of ASCAP, urged that a three-man Board of Arbitration to fix licensing rates be set up not later than June 1, 1949. One member of this Board would be named by ASCAP, one member by the NAB, and the Attorney General of the United States would be invited to name a third neutral member, representing the public.

Previously, on April 20, ASCAP had proposed that licensing rates be fixed by arbitration for the 18-months period after January 1, 1949. This offer was declined by the NAB. In renewing the offer last week, Mr. Ahlert said that if the NAB still refused to arbitrate for the 18-months period, ASCAP would be willing to arbitrate for the 9-month period from June 1 to October 1.

Mr. Ahlert proposed that "the intervening period between May 6 and October 1, 1949, be utilized by both parties in continual, earnest effort to achieve a mutually satisfactory agreement covering the balance of the period under discussion.

Mr. Ahlert said the Television Industry has proposed that ASCAP composers and authors and their publishers allow the use of their music at rates far below those applicable to radio. The net effect of the NAB offer, Mr. Ahlert said, would be a 58% reduction for television networks, and a 40% reduction for local television stations, below the already low rates currently being enjoyed by the Radio Industry.

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34,100 TV SETS IN THREE CITIES - CINCINNATI, DAYTON, COLUMBUS

May 1 television set estimates for Crosley-station areas in Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus total 34,100, according to figures released by the stations' Research Department.

The breakdown is as follows: WLW-T Area (Cincinnati) - 23,000; WLW-D Area (Dayton) - 5,300; WLW-C Area (Columbus) - 5,800; Total for all three areas - 34,100.

In Cincinnati, 1,780 public places are listed as having television sets and in Dayton and Columbus in about the same proportion.

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NATIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU LAB. DEDICATED TO RADIO INVENTOR

Dr. Edward U. Condon, Director of the National Bureau of Standards, last week in Washington, dedicated the Bureau's Ordnance Laboratory in memory of Harry Diamond, wartime chief of the Electronics Division, who died last June.

Dr. Condon, who was joined in the ceremonies by ordnance chiefs of the military services and by Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer, unveiled a memorial plaque to Diamond, whom he called one of the Government's most brilliant scientists. Mr. Condon disclosed that funds were available, from voluntary contributions by friends and associates of the late inventor to establish an annual Harry Diamond Award in the fields of electronic physics and engineering, to be made by the Institute of Radio Engineers.

After the brief program in front of the building, several hundred persons visited the Harry Diamond Ordnance Laboratory, as it was named, to view the devices whose development brought many honors to Diamond, one of those who developed the radio proximity fuse; also the radio sonde weather balloon.

The building was on public view, with the exception of a few roped-off rooms, for the first time since it was built by the Army in 1945 for ordnance research, which was directed by Diamond.

Another plaque, unveiled in the conference room of the laboratory, lists the principal accomplishments of the late electronics expert. In ordnance, they include besides the famous radio proximity fuse of World War II, the electronic bomb director and guided missile development.

His developments in aircraft radio between 1927 and 1935 included the first blind landing system, radio beacons, aircraft antenna designs and others. He also was honored in meteorology for his radio sonde weather balloon and automatic weather station.

Secretary Sawyer, who listed many of Diamond's achievements, said he was "an exceptional administrator as well as scientist."

Mrj. Gen. E. S. Hughes, Army Chief of Ordnance, said the laboratory and its scientific staff are "excellent examples of that collaboration between civilian and military personnel which is essential to military strength."

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TRUMAN NAMES COY DELEGATE TO PARIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS MEET

President Truman yesterday (Tuesday, May 10) formally named Federal Communications Commissioner Wayne Coy as Chairman of the United States delegation to the International Administrative Telephone and Telegraph Conference of the International Telecommunication Union meeting in Paris May 18th.

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::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
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And Now We Have The Closed Television Circuit
(Jerry Walker in "Editor & Publisher")

"Ten minutes - all quiet on the floor!" commanded the stage director.

So this is how it's going to be, we mused, waiting for the cue that would set off our interview via television with Mark Woods, President of the American Broadcasting Co.; Roy E. Larsen, publisher of Life and Time, and Richard de Rochemont, producer of the March of Time.

"Don't forget, gentlemen, this is a First in Television. . . the first preview-press interview on a closed circuit."

Here we were, representing the press of the country in a "mass interview" with the men responsible for putting General Eisenhower's "Crusade in Europe" into film for television audiences. On the other ends of the tentacles of the coaxial cable were members of the press in a dozen cities where ABC has affiliated TV stations. They could see and hear but couldn't speak up, except by wiring questions to us before the show began. We'd put them to the principals.

The "galleries" in the studio were loaded now, with members of the New York press, executives from Time and Life, vice-presidents from Young & Rubicam agency. Some may not have suspected we had already rehearsed our questions and answers. Messrs. Woods, Larsen and de Rochemont certainly knew we had. They relaxed, as only one can relax under the Kliegl Bros. equipment.

Art Donegan of ABC slips us a last-minute question, wired by Milton Widder of Cleveland (O.) Press. "Why was the fact of the Maginot Line defeat at Sedan left out of both narration and picture in Crusade in Europe?"

This is fun, we thought. Mr. de Rochemont will have to think fast on that one! And he does! He explains very plausibly that his films, from official sources, illustrate only General Eisenhower's book. He displays a thorough knowledge of the battle. No fun, so on with the "planted" questions.

Suddenly the director makes frantic gestures in front of us as though he's cutting his throat. We get it. No time now even to say "Thank you, Mr. President." It's get the h . . . over with it and fast.

No phone calls from fans. This was closed circuit.

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Claim Good Bets Overlooked By-Passing Radio Program Ideas
("Variety")

Program toppers at the nets are reporting that independent package producers, are flooding the market with tele ideas and overlooking the great need for new AM stanzas. Survey of web program departments reveals, that dozens of suggestions for new TV shows are received every week, while ideas for standard radio packages have been cut to a mere trickle.

As one program director puts it, "the boys' infatuation with TV is understandable, but not realistic. Tele is already crowded for time, while AM has lots of room and facilities to try something new. In addition, AM is really hungry for new ideas - to help find a formula in the period of TV's boom."

AM stations without video outlets are saying, "we're still in business, but the river of ideas that used to flow past our door seems to have dried up."

Interesting point, the programmers note, is that the over-emphasis on TV is an error of the professional radioite. The amateurs, who sends in ideas by the dozens, are still going strong for AM. But, it's felt, the amateurs' suggestions are generally worthless.

TV is also attracting a new kind of amateur, according to chiefs of new program departments. Celebs from every field - doctors, lawyers, ballplayers, actors, cafe-owners, brokers and so on - have been stricken with TV-itis, and are sending in ideas for teleshows by the mailbagful.

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Artists' Language Arouses BBC Listeners; Churchill Mentioned ("Washington Post")

Several million startled radio listeners heard the annual Royal Academy of Art banquet nearly break up in disorder recently in London when the society's president, Sir Alfred Munnings, attacked modern art in a peppery uncensored speech.

Flanked by such dignitaries as Winston Churchill, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the 71-year-old Munnings, who specializes in painting of horses, punctuated his speech over BBC with such phrases as "by God", "by heavens" and "damned", the United Press reported.

When he mentioned disapprovingly the works of French impressionist painter Henry Matisse, angry shouts and table-pounding interrupted him.

Sir Alfred cried, "I hear other members interrupting me. I am the president and I have the right to speak. I shall not be heard next year, thank God."

BBC's switchboard was swamped with calls protesting Sir Alfred's language and the banquet's rowdiness.

Sir Alfred said, "Not so long ago Mr. Churchill and I were walking together. Mr. Churchill said to me, 'Alfred, if we saw Pablo Picasso (another impressionist) coming down the street would you join me in kicking him hard in a certain part of his body?'"

"I said, 'By God, I would, Winston.'"

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New Tube Has "Memory" ("Radio Age")

Radar signals or oscilloscope traces, which occur in less than a millionth of a second and which remain in view only a few seconds on fluorescent screens, can now be "stored" for more than a minute by a new electron tube that has "visual memory".

The tube, called the Graphechon, is based upon the discovery that certain materials may be used both as insulators and conductors of electricity. It was described by Louis Pensak, research physicist of RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N.J. The first major use of the tube will be in Teleran, the television-radar air navigation system under development by RCA.

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::: TRADE NOTES :::
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Station WOL in Washington, D. C., said it had released three of its personnel from the station's staff as an economic move. Officials of the station, said the three are disc jockeys, Mike Hunnicutt and Bob Knight, and sports director Bill Brundige. Brundige, however, will continue on the station as a free-lance sports announcer doing two daily shows, they said.

Television is being widely used by the Army to watch the disassembly of high-explosive missiles by remote control behind concrete barricades.

An announcement by the National Military Establishment disclosed last week that television cameras were in use at seven Army Ordnance ammunition disassembly plants and six more were being prepared for their use.

The camera is focused for a close-up of the work under way. It would be the only casualty in case of an explosion at that point.

These were listed at the annual meeting last week in Washington of the Acoustical Society of America, by Dr. Harry F. Olson of the Radio Corporation of America.

He said there are 35 million telephones, 10 million public address systems, 25 million phonographs, 80 million radio sets and 1 million television sets.

Stewart-Warner Corporation - March quarter: Net profit, \$404,292 or 31 cents a share, compared with \$902,094 or 70 cents a share, last year.

The first Westinghouse television console with a sixteen-inch picture tube features a novel picture tube mounting to assure a wide-angled view of the 126-square-inch viewing screen at eye-level and to maintain cabinet symmetry.

"Most large picture television console cabinets are thrown out of proportion because of the increased depth dimension necessary to accommodate the 22-inch long video tube", J. F. Walsh, Sales Manager of the Home Radio Division, said. "Our designers have avoided this unbalance by installing the tube vertically in the console on a special mount so that the large screen can be rotated manually into a vertical position."

Dumont's television station WTTG, which had been transmitting from the Harrington Hotel in Washington, D. C., has started using its new transmitter in Arlington.

WTTG is using a temporary low-power transmitter until the main transmitter equipment can be set up in Arlington. The move will take about a week.

Most video set owners should have aerials readjusted, engineers advise. But owners of sets with portable aerials need only tune to the WTTG channel, then rotate the aerial base until they get the best image.

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