

The National Association of Broadcasters

NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING * * * * * WASHINGTON, D. C.
PHILIP G. LOUCKS, Managing Director

NAB REPORTS

Copyright, 1933, The National Association of Broadcasters



Vol. 1 - No. 52
DEC. 30, 1933

ON THE WAY!

As the curtain falls on 1933 the radio broadcasting business is sharing with all other businesses the benefits flowing from general economic recovery.

The past year has subjected the American plan of broadcasting to the severest of tests. That it has survived is additional proof of the soundness of the system of privately operated broadcasting stations.

Broadcasters look forward to 1934 with optimism. Business will increase. Commercial practices will improve. As a consequence, programs will reach a new high standard.

The record of the NAB during the past year speaks for itself. A review would serve no useful purpose. But the advent of 1934 focuses attention upon many important problems which are on their way to solution. While substantial progress has been made, only the closest cooperation among all NAB members will bring quick and effective solution. The Officers and Directors of the NAB are convinced that the same spirit of cooperation which made 1933 a banner year in NAB history will be forthcoming in 1934.

To every member of the NAB the official family of the Association extends its best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

DILL WOULD ABOLISH F. R. C.

Senator Dill, of Washington, chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, which has jurisdiction over radio legislation in the upper house, has definitely stated that if no action is taken at this new session of Congress on a Communications Commission, he will introduce a simple bill, and push it for immediate action, which would put radio activities back into the Department of Commerce, with a Director of Radio, and an Appeal Board to consist of three members, which would be an appellate body only. Suggestions of this kind, it may be remembered, were made last spring shortly before the special session adjourned and it was thought for a long time that President Roosevelt would carry out this idea through an executive order.

Senator Dill has stated that he has no radio bills prepared for introduction at the opening of the session but he has this plan definitely in mind if nothing else is done with radio at the new session.

The present Radio Commission, said Senator Dill, has no "initiative" and "it will have to do something or be wiped out."

"It ought to do something to improve radio instead of sitting back like a machine," he said. "With all the growing protests against advertising methods, it does nothing. It seems to have no conception of its duty to remedy the situation. It makes no new allocations that are possible as a result of new developments in directional broadcasting and other advanced methods of broadcasting."

"It should restrict the abuses of the right to advertise," Senator Dill continued. "Censorship is one thing, but the kind of advertising is another. If the advertising is not what the public wants, it is not in the public interest."

CONGRESS CONVENES WEDNESDAY

Congress will convene on Wednesday, January 3. The new session will be the second session of the Seventy-Third Congress, and inasmuch as it is another session of the same Congress, all of the radio bills pending when Congress adjourned in the spring are still pending.

Of surpassing interest to the broadcasters of the country will be the action taken by the President on the report he recently received from the Interdepartmental Communications Committee, of which Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce, was chairman, and which suggested certain solutions to communication problems.

Everyone is only guessing now as to what will be done about this report or whether the Congress will be called upon to take up general radio reorganization or not. This depends entirely upon the President's attitude on this subject.

Following is a list of the bills now on the Senate and House calendars from the last session of Congress dealing exclusively with radio:

In the Senate

S. Res. 29—Senate Committee on Rules. Introduced by Senator Dill of Washington, and providing for broadcasting from the Senator Chamber.

In the House

H. R. 1735—Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio and Fisheries. Introduced by Representative Bland of Virginia, providing for general amendments to the present radio law.

H. R. 3760—Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Introduced by Representative Rayburn of Texas, providing for the establishment of the Federal Communications and Power Commission.

H. Con. Res. 1—House Committee on Rules. Introduced by Representative Fulmer of South Carolina, providing for a study of radio broadcasting in the United States and other countries.

H. Res. 19—House Committee on Rules. Introduced by Representative McFadden of Pennsylvania, providing for an investigation of the NBC and Columbia Broadcasting System.

H. Res. 181—House Committee on Rules. Introduced by Representative Ellzey of Mississippi, providing for an investigation of the Federal Radio Commission.

LIQUOR BILL PASSES WASHINGTON HOUSE

The House of the Washington Legislature this week adopted a bill memorializing the Congress of the United States to prohibit liquor advertising by radio.

RECOMMENDS AGAINST MORE POWER TO WMBG

Station WMBG, Richmond, Va., applied to the Radio Commission for an increase in its daytime power from 100 to 250 watts. It also requested the deletion of Station WPHR, Petersburg, Va., to make possible the granting of its application. WPHR asked license renewal. In Report No. 533 this week George H. Hill (e) recommended that the application for increased power of WMBG be denied and that the application for license renewal of Station WPHR be granted.

The Examiner found that while WMBG renders a good and meritorious service, "it is not shown that the benefit derived to this area would warrant the curtailment of the service rendered to the Petersburg area by Station WPHR. He found that the granting of the application without deleting WPHR would cause interference."

HUDDLESTON WOULD REGULATE RATES

Representative Huddleston of Alabama intends to introduce a bill during the early part of the new session of Congress, he has announced, which is intended to regulate radio broadcasting as a public utility.

While copies of the bill are not available, it is indicated that this would mean that rate charges would be put under the direction of the Radio Commission. It has been pointed out that if they were ever operated as public utilities a station would not be able to refuse any advertising that was not libelous.

STARBUCK REAPPOINTMENT

The possibility of reappointment to the Radio Commission of Commissioner Starbuck, of New York, whose term expires in February, is the subject of much speculation. It is regarded here as certain that both Senators from New York, Copeland and Wagner, will have to endorse him before he can be reappointed. It is definitely known that at the last session of Congress, Senator Wagner was opposed to his reappointment, but whether there has been any change in this feeling cannot be learned.

PUBLIC OPPOSES GOVERNMENT RADIO

There is a considerable amount of public dissatisfaction with the New Zealand Government for its action in assuming control of broadcasting stations, it was reported by Vice Consul W. W. Orebaugh, Wellington, in a dispatch to the Commerce Department.

Until January 1, 1932, the report shows, broadcasting in New Zealand was largely in the hands of private interests, functioning under the supervision of the Post and Telegraph Department. On that date the control of broadcasting became vested in the Broadcasting Board, a government body whose functions and powers resemble those of the British Broadcasting Company.

Until very recently the board maintained four class "A" stations, located in the four chief centers of the country—Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin. It was announced recently that the government proposed to purchase three of the smaller Class "B" stations.

One item of the Government Board's program was the elimination of incompetent amateur broadcasting. In doing this it has employed an increasing number of graphophone records and has acquired a library of some 37,000 records.

The "B" or smaller stations under private control have been adversely affected by recent developments, the report shows, and it is probable that under existing conditions they will not be able to continue to operate. Like the government "A" stations they make wide use of gramophone records, upon each of which a royalty must be paid. Furthermore, restrictions on radio advertising have served to increase their financial difficulties.

RADIO EMPLOYMENT STILL INCREASES

November employment index number for radio manufacturers was 169.3 compared with 162.4 for October and 77.7 for November, 1932, taking 1926 at 100 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. November payroll index number for the same plants was 131.9 compared with 125.2 for October and 58.4 for November of last year.

C. C. I. R. MEETING SCHEDULED

The first meeting preparatory to the drafting of the United States reports on the agenda for the Third Meeting of the C. C. I. R. at Lisbon, September 22, 1934, will be held in Room 302, Federal Radio Commission, Washington, D. C., Wednesday, January 17, 1934, at 9:30 a. m.

The National Association of Broadcasters will be represented during the discussion of a number of problems pertinent to broadcasting.

FEDERAL RADIO COMMISSION REPORTS

HEARING CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 3, 1934

Oral Argument Before Commission en banc

Examiner's Report No. 520

WCAO—Monumental Radio Company, Baltimore, Md.—Modification of license, 600 kc., 500 watts, unlimited time. Present assignment, 600 kc., 250 watts, unlimited time.

WICC—Bridgeport Broadcasting Station, Bridgeport, Conn.—Modification of license, 600 kc., 500 watts, specified hours. Present assignment, 600 kc., 250 watts, 500 watts LS, specified hours.

WCAC—Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs, Conn.—Modification of license, 600 kc., 500 watts, specified hours. Present assignment, 600 kc., 250 watts, specified hours.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

First Zone

WAAT—Bremer Broadcasting Corp., Jersey City, N. J.—Modification of construction permit authorizing installation of new equipment and increase in power from 300 watts to 500 watts, to move transmitter locally from 91 Sip Ave. to 26 Journal Square, Jersey City, N. J.

WJEJ—Hagerstown Broadcasting Co., Hagerstown, Md.—Construction permit to move transmitter, change equipment, change frequency from 1210 kc. to 1330 kc., increase power from 100 watts to 1 kilowatt, amended to request 500 watts.

Second Zone

WLAP—American Broadcasting Corp. of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.—Construction permit to move station from Louisville, Ky., to a site, to be determined, in Lexington, Ky., and to change frequency from 1200 kc. to 1420 kc.

Third Zone

WHET—Joe K. Jernigan, Cyril W. Reddoch, Julian C. Smith, and John T. Hubbard, d/b as Troy Broadcasting Co., Dothan, Ala.—License to cover construction permit authorizing move of station and change of frequency to 1370 kc.

NEW—Samuel Nathaniel Morris, Stamford, Tex.—Construction permit to erect a new station to operate on 1420 kc., 100 watts, specified hours. (Facilities KFYO, Lubbock, Tex., and KPPL, Dublin, Tex.)

WPFB—Otis P. Eure, Hattiesburg, Miss.—Modification of license to reduce hours of operation from unlimited to specified.

WPTF—WPTF Radio Co., Inc., Raleigh, N. Car.—Special experimental authorization to change hours of operation from limited time, sunset at San Francisco, Calif., to limited time, sunset at San Francisco, Calif., and, in addition, to operate until 8 p. m., PST.

Fourth Zone

WIBA—The Badger Broadcasting Co., Madison, Wis.—Special experimental authorization to operate with additional power of 500 watts at night to 4-1-34.

WJJD—WJJD, Inc., Mooseheart, Ill.—Modification of license to move main studio from Mooseheart, Ill., to 201 North Wells St., Chicago, Ill.

WMT—Waterloo Broadcasting Co., Waterloo, Iowa—Modification of license to increase daytime power from 500 watts to 1 KW.

WGES—Oak Leaves Broadcasting Station, Inc., Chicago, Ill.—Modification of license to increase power from 500 watts, Sunday 1 KW, daytime, to 1 KW and hours of operation to unlimited. (Facilities WMBI and WCBF, Chicago, Ill.)

Fifth Zone

KRKD—The Fireside Broadcasting Co., Los Angeles, Calif.—Modification of license to use transmitter of Station KFSG as an auxiliary transmitter of Station KRKD.

APPLICATIONS RETURNED

NEW—Richard T. Howard, T. Malden, Mass., Studio, Boston, Mass.—Construction permit to erect a new station to operate on 1130 kc., 1 KW night, 2½ KW day, unlimited time (facilities WOV, New York). (Rules 6, 116, 117, equipment and transmitter site not satisfactory.)

NEW—Scientific Club, Pres., Roberto Ortiz, Fajardo, P. R.—Construction permit to erect a new station to operate on 850 kc., 50 watts night, 75 watts day, unlimited 3 or 4 hours daily. (Incomplete, equipment and transmitter site not satisfactory, application not clear.)

NEW—Leonard V. Elmore, Pilot Point, Tex.—Construction permit to erect a new station to operate on 985 kc., 15 watts night, 25 watts day, four hours daily. (Wrong frequency, equipment and transmitter site not satisfactory.)

NEW—The Texas Frontier Broadcasting Co., Marfa, Tex.—Construction permit to erect a new station to operate on 1210 kc., 100 watts, unlimited. (Rule 6 and equipment and transmitter location not satisfactory.)

KCRC—Enid Radiophone Co., Enid, Okla.—Modification of license to change frequency from 1370 kc. to 1230 kc., increase power from 100 watts night, 250 watts day, to 250 watts, and hours of operation from S-KGFG to unlimited. (Rule 6.)

WNBW—WNBW, Inc., Carbondale, Pa.—Modification of construction permit to extend completion date of C. P. (Station deleted.)