

The National Association of Broadcasters

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THE DILL BILL

The Dill Communications bill (S. 3285) as reported by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce this week, has almost as many features directly injurious to broadcasting as were contained in S. 2910.

Basically, the bill persists, in flat defiance of the President's clear recommendation, in legislating *before* investigation by the proposed Commission instead of *after* such investigation.

It completely ignores the contention that the proposed Commission should be free to solve technical problems on the basis of technical evidence, and attempts to legislate on purely technical matters of allocation.

It specifically calls on the proposed Commission to "study" the question of having Congress set aside broadcast facilities for special interests.

It cuts down the duration of broadcasting licenses from three years, as in the present law, to one year.

It provides for the "suspension" of station licenses, thereby directly penalizing the listening public, which is entitled to hear a station if its operation is in the public interest, convenience or necessity. If its operation is not in the public interest, convenience or necessity, its license should be revoked.

It contains a section on political broadcasts the only possible effect of which would be to bar practically all discussion of public questions from the radio.

It includes a section designed to prevent the broadcast of United States programs by stations across the border, but leaves out the safeguarding amendment passed by the Senate itself only a few weeks ago.

It has an extraordinary section providing for appeals to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia from decisions of the proposed Commission, which makes no provision whatsoever for any appeal to this court from a decision revoking, suspending or modifying a license. Appeals to this court would be possible only when an application is refused or granted. All other proceedings would have to be conducted before a District Court under an entirely different act.

This division of the reviewing power is certain to result in conflicting decisions and consequent confusion.

It repeals the Radio Act of 1927, as amended, an action which at this time appears absolutely unnecessary and wholly at variance with the President's recommendation.

The enactment of this bill in its present form would be clearly disastrous to the entire broadcasting industry, and a manifest injustice to eighteen million owners of receiving sets.

Amendments to remedy the outstanding defects of this bill will be submitted. Every Senator should be advised to support these amendments, and to oppose the passage of S. 3285 unless they are adopted.

RAYBURN BILL HEARINGS

Unless something unforeseen occurs, hearings will begin on Tuesday, April 10, before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in connection with the Rayburn Communication Commission bill. These hearings have been postponed several times to give the committee a chance to complete its work on other bills.

NEW RADIO BILLS

Identical bills "authorizing the purchase of additional land and the construction of an enclosure thereof, at the radio station near Grand Island, Nebr.," have been introduced in the Senate and House. Senator Thompson of Nebraska introduced S. 3277 and Representative Burke of Nebraska introduced H. R. 8932. The

Senate bill went to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and the House bill to Merchant Marine, Radio and Fisheries. The monitoring station of the Radio Commission is located at Grand Island. The bills, which are identical, are as follows:

"That the Federal Radio Commission be, and it is hereby, authorized to purchase, for and on behalf of the United States of America, an additional tract of land containing approximately ten acres, adjacent to that now owned by the United States at Grand Island, Nebraska, and to contract for the construction of a fence or enclosure thereof for use in connection with the constant-frequency monitoring radio station located at said place, at a cost not to exceed \$1,200."

MANAGING DIRECTOR VACATIONING

Philip G. Loucks, NAB Managing Director, left early this morning on a hard-earned vacation. Mr. Loucks expects to return about April 18.

ANOTHER RADIO BILL INTRODUCED

Representative Rudd of New York has introduced a bill which is proposed to amend the Radio Act of 1927. It has been referred to the House Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio and Fisheries and is as follows:

"That to eliminate monopoly and to insure equality of opportunity and consideration for educational, religious, agricultural, labor, cooperative, and similar non-profit-making associations, seeking the opportunity of adding to the cultural and scientific knowledge of those who listen in on radio broadcasts, all existing licenses issued by the Federal Radio Commission, and any and all rights of any nature contained therein, are declared null and void ninety days following the effective date of this Act, anything contained in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

"Sec. 2. The Communications Commission, herein created, shall prior to ninety days following the effective date of this Act, reallocate all frequencies, wave lengths, power, and time assignments within its jurisdiction among the citizens of the five zones herein referred to.

"Sec. 3. The Commission shall reserve and allocate only to educational, religious, agricultural, labor, cooperative, and similar non-profit-making associations one fourth of all the radio-broadcasting facilities, within its jurisdiction, excepting those facilities issued to ships and to the use of the United States Government departments or agencies. The facilities reserved for and/or allocated to educational, religious, agricultural, labor, cooperative, and similar non-profit-making associations shall be equally desirable as those assigned to profit-making persons, firms, or corporations. In the distribution of radio facilities to the associations referred to in this section, the Commission shall reserve for and allocate to such associations such radio-broadcasting facilities as will reasonably make possible the operation of such stations on a self-sustaining basis."

CODE AUTHORITY MEETING SCHEDULED

A meeting of the Code Authority for the Radio Broadcasting Industry has been called for April 25, 1934, to be held at the National Press Club, Washington, D. C.

The meeting has been called (1) to consider and report on the recommendations of the NRA that the broadcasting industry effect a reduction in hours of labor and an increase in wages (as reported in the last issue of NAB Reports); (2) to consider Part 2 of the Report on Broadcast Technicians, as required by Article 6, Section 4, of the Code; (3) to consider further the questionnaire on

radio artists and performers; and (4) to consider complaints of alleged violations of trade practice provisions of the Code.

NEW COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

A preliminary report on communications companies has just been submitted to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. It was compiled by Mr. W. M. W. Splawn, now a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The report in its present form has little to say relative to radio broadcasting except that "in the final report on radio companies, broadcasting companies will, to the extent that the nature of their operations permits, be given consideration similar to that given to radio communication companies."

SECURITIES ACT REGISTRATION

The following companies filed registration statements with the Federal Trade Commission under the Securities Act during the current week:

Peerless Portland Cement Company Bondholders' Protective Committee, Chicago, Ill. (2-770).

Best Drug Stores, Inc., Los Angeles, Cal. (2-771).

Austin Silver Mining Company, Austin, Nev. (2-772).

Dodge Cork Company, Inc., Lancaster, Pa. (2-773).

Washington-Carey Trust, Tulsa, Okla. (2-774).

Westgate-Carey Trust, Tulsa, Okla. (2-775).

Greenback Consolidated, Portland, Ore. (2-776).

Hilldale Fur Ranches, Montreal, Canada (2-777).

Parker-Wolverine Company, Detroit, Mich. (2-778).

Johnston Plan Collateral Trust, Wilmington, Del. (2-779).

Duquesne Brewing Company of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. (2-780).

San Jose Water Works, San Jose, Calif. (2-781).

Electric Auto-Lite Company, Toledo, Ohio (2-782).

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, Calif. (2-783).

Bell Boy Gold Mining Company, Wallace, Idaho (2-784).

Gold Seal Electrical Company, Inc., East Newark, N. J. (2-785).

Franklin Mutual Fund, Inc., Boston, Mass. (2-786).

Boundary County Drainage Districts Bondholders' Protective Committee, Boise, Idaho (2-787).

Maurice C. Perkins, and others, Saginaw, Mich. (2-788).

Noteholders' Protective Committee, Richmond, Va. (2-789).

HOGAN TO DEMONSTRATE FASCIMILE

John V. L. Hogan, New York consulting engineer, will demonstrate fascimile transmission and reception before a selected group of observers at the St. Moritz Hotel, New York, April 9, 1934.

EXPERIMENTAL BROADCAST HEARING HELD

The Federal Radio Commission on Wednesday of this week conducted a hearing on 6 applications for construction permits for new broadcasting stations to operate on the experimental frequencies of 1530, 1550 and 1570 kilocycles.

The applicants (Unity School of Christianity, Kansas City, Mo., John V. L. Hogan, Long Island City, N. Y., Christian and Whiston, Norco, Calif., American-Republican, Inc., Waterbury, Conn., First National Television, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., and Pioneer Mercantile Corp., Bakersfield, Calif.) propose to erect new stations which will provide a practical evaluation of public reaction to high-fidelity broadcasting, and in each case outlined programs of research on the technical problems encountered in the rendering of true high-fidelity broadcasting service.

AAAA CONVENTION DATE SET

The seventeenth annual meeting of the American Association of Advertising Agencies will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22 and 23, at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C.

FRC ON ALL-WAVE RECEIVERS

In view of the ever-increasing sales of combination broadcast and shortwave radio receiving sets to the public, the Federal Radio Commission this week issued a statement calling attention to the provisions in the Radio Act of 1927, regarding the secrecy of certain radio messages and the heavy penalties provided for violations.

Section 27 of the Radio Act of 1927 provides that contents of private messages shall not be divulged, and Section 33 of the same Act provides heavy penalties for violations of the secrecy clause.

Reports reaching the Commission indicate that the public is increasingly intercepting police and other shortwave communications. Only in rare instances, it is believed, is this information abused. However, it was brought to the attention of the Commission that a young man in Baltimore intercepted a police call on a shortwave receiver in his home and notified law violators that officers were coming to arrest them. The young man himself was taken into custody and found guilty in a police court for violating police regulations.

Congress has given serious consideration to a bill providing that "no person shall use, operate or possess, in any vehicle within the United States, or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, any shortwave radio receiving set without a permit."

Provision is made for permits to be issued by District Attorneys, to applicants, who must furnish two affidavits executed by bona fide residents of their districts, vouching for the good moral character of the applicants.

Police officials in some cities are in favor of such legislation as they claim their work in apprehending criminals and in protecting law-abiding citizens, in some instances, has been interfered with by persons who intercepted messages intended solely for the police.

However, the Commission is hopeful that no such legislation will be necessary as it would have a tendency to hinder experimental work in the shortwave field.

George B. Porter, acting general counsel, says that if any serious abuse is made by the general public of private radio messages vigorous steps will be taken to invoke the law.

In order that the public may be fully informed concerning the protection thrown around private radio messages, the Commission suggests that each purchaser of a combination broadcast and shortwave receiver be furnished by the salesman with the excerpts of the Radio Act concerning the secrecy of radio messages and the penalty for violations.

FEDERAL RADIO COMMISSION ACTION HEARING CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1934

NEW—Pittsburgh Radio Supply House, Greensburg, Pa.—C. P., 620 kc., 250 watts, 7 a. m. to LS.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1934

Hearing Before Commission en banc

Informal hearing on petition of Radio News Service of America for modification of Rule 232 of the Commission Rules and Regulations.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1934

WGES—Oak Leaves Broadcasting Station, Inc., Chicago, Ill.—Modification of license, 1360 kc., 500 watts, 1 KW LS, unlimited time (facilities of WCBD). Present assignment: 1360 kc., 500 watts, 1 KW LS (Sunday) 3/7 time.

WCBD—Wilbur Glenn Voliva, Zion, Ill.—Renewal of license, 1080 kc., 5 KW, limited time.

WGES—Oak Leaves Broadcasting Station, Inc., Chicago, Ill.—Informal application for unlimited time, 1360 kc., 500 watts, 1 KW LS.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1934

NEW—A. V. Tidmore, Salisbury, Md.—C. P., 1200 kc., 100 watts, daytime only.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED

WTAG—Worcester Telegram Publishing Co., Inc., Worcester, Mass.—Granted license covering changes in equipment and

increase in power; **580 kc.**, 250 watts, for auxiliary purposes only.

WHBU—Anderson Broadcasting Corp., Anderson, Ind.—Granted license covering rebuilding of station destroyed by fire; **1210 kc.**, 100 watts, unlimited time.

WRJN—Racine Broadcasting Corp., Racine, Wis.—Granted license covering changes in equipment; **1370 kc.**, 100 watts, unlimited time.

WNRA—Kathryn Jones, Muscle Shoals City, Ala.—Granted consent to voluntary assignment of license to Muscle Shoals Broadcasting Corp.

KUSD—University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. Dak.—Granted special temporary authority to remain silent on April 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1934, during spring vacation.

WQBC—Delta Broadcasting Co., Inc., Vicksburg, Miss.—Granted special temporary authority to operate from 6:30 to 7:15 p. m., CST, from April 8 to April 30, 1934.

WTAG—Worcester Telegram Publishing Co., Inc., Worcester, Mass.—Granted special temporary authority to operate auxiliary transmitter with power of 250 watts for period beginning April 15 and ending in no event later than May 1, in order to move main transmitter as authorized by C. P.

KSCJ—Perkins Bros. Co. (The Sioux City Journal), Sioux City, Iowa—Granted special temporary authority to operate from 7 to 8 p. m., CST, April 4, provided WTAQ remains silent.

KEX—Oregonian Publishing Co., Portland, Ore.—Granted C. P. to move transmitter from Portland to North Portland, and install new equipment.

KRMD—Radio Station KRMD, Inc., Shreveport, La.—Granted special temporary authority to operate from 7:30 to 9 p. m., CST, April 8, 15, 22 and 29, 1934.

WSFA—Montgomery Broadcasting Co., Inc., Montgomery, Ala.—Granted C. P. to make changes in equipment and move transmitter locally.

WODX—Pape Broadcasting Corp., Inc., Mobile, Ala.—Granted C. P. to make changes in equipment and move transmitter from Springhill, Ala., to Mobile, and move studio to same as new transmitter location.

KGCR—The Greater Kampeska Radio Corp., Watertown, S. Dak.—Granted C. P. to change transmitter locally in Watertown.

KBTM—W. J. Beard (Beard's Temple of Music), Jonesboro, Ark.—Granted modification of C. P. extending completion date to May 2, and change studio location in Jonesboro.

WRAM—Wilmington Radio Assn., Inc., W. Durham, N. C.—Granted modification of C. P. to change corporate name to Durham Radio Corp.

WSUI—State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa—Granted special temporary authority to operate from 4 to 6 p. m., CST, April 13 and 24, 1934, and from 5 to 6 p. m., CST, April 14 and 28.

WMEX—The Northern Corp., Chelsea, Mass.—Granted modification of C. P. to extend completion date to May 15.

SET FOR HEARING

WEVD—Debs Memorial Radio Fund, Inc., New York—Modification of license to change hours of operation from sharing with WBBR, WFAB, and WHAZ to unlimited (facilities of WBBR, WLTH, WARD, and WVFW).

WWSW—Walker & Downing Radio Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.—CP to change frequency from **1500** to **890 kc.**; increase power from 100 watts night, 250 watts day, to 250 watts night, 500 watts day; make changes in equipment and move transmitter locally (facilities WMMN).

WPFB—Otis Perry Eure, Hattiesburg, Miss.—C. P. to move transmitter and studio from Hattiesburg, Miss., to Troy, Ala.; change frequency from **1370 kc.** to **1210 kc.**, and change hours of operation from specified hours to daytime.

KGW—Oregonian Publishing Co., Portland, Ore.—C. P. to change studio locally, make changes in equipment, and increase day power from 1 KW to $2\frac{1}{2}$ KW (night power, 1 KW, to remain same, and **620 kc.** same; unlimited hours).

KVI—Puget Sound Broadcasting Co., Inc., Tacoma, Wash.—Modification of license to increase day power from 500 watts to 1 KW (night power, 500 watts, **570 kc.**, unlimited hours to remain same).

ORAL ARGUMENT GRANTED

The Commission en banc will hear oral arguments on April 18 in re Examiner's Report No. 539, which deals with the applications of stations **WARD**, **WBBC**, **WLTH**, **WVFW** (formerly **WFOX**), all of Brooklyn, N. Y., for modification of license and renewal of licenses.

MISCELLANEOUS

KFNF—Henry Field Co., Shenandoah, Iowa—Granted regular license, and hearing scheduled for April 13, 1934, cancelled, as licensee has corrected complaints.

WKBO—Keystone Broadcasting Corp., Harrisburg, Pa.—C. P. to move transmitter and studio locally and make changes in equipment, heretofore granted, was retired to closed file for want of prosecution.

KOIL—Mona Motor Oil Co., Council Bluffs, Iowa—Granted regular renewal of license as company has amended charter empowering it to engage in radio broadcasting business.

WODX—Mobile Broadcasting Corp., Mobile, Ala.—Examiner ordered to render report on application for modification of license, substituting the name of Pape Broadcasting Corp., as Commission previously granted permission of receivers to assign license to that corporation. Report held up by legal complications, which have been removed.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

First Zone

WBNX—Standard Cahill Co., New York, N. Y.—Special experimental authorization to operate with an additional 250 watts power for 60 days.

NEW—Federal Broadcasting Corp., New York, N. Y.—Construction permit to erect a new station—**810 kc.**, 500 watts, limited time (facilities of WNYC, New York).

WBAL—Consolidated Gas Electric Light and Power Co. of Baltimore, Baltimore, Md.—Voluntary assignment of license to The WBAL Broadcasting Company.

WNBX—WNBX Broadcasting Corp., Springfield, Vt.—Construction permit to install new equipment and increase power from 250 watts to 500 watts.

WPRO—Cherry and Webb Broadcasting Co., Providence, R. I.—Modification of special experimental authorization to operate on **630 kc.**, power of 250 watts, and make changes in equipment for approval of exact transmitter site at Providence, R. I.

Second Zone

WCAE (Aux.)—WCAE, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa.—License to cover construction permit granted 2-9-34 to change auxiliary transmitter location.

Third Zone

KLRA—Arkansas Broadcasting Co., Little Rock, Ark.—Construction permit to install new equipment and increase power from 1 KW to 1 KW night, $2\frac{1}{2}$ KW daytime.

WHEF—J. Niles Boyd Wholesale Grocery Co., J. O. Ashworth, J. R. Smithson, d/b as Attala Milling and Produce Co., Kosciusko, Miss.—Voluntary assignment of construction permit Station WHEF to Attala Broadcasting Corporation.

NEW—A. L. Boykin, trading as Tallahassee Broadcasting Co., Tallahassee, Fla.—Construction permit to erect a new station—**1310 kc.**, 100 watts, unlimited time.

WTOC—Savannah Broadcasting Co., Inc., Savannah, Ga.—Construction permit to install new equipment and increase power from 500 watts to 1 KW.

KRGV—KRGV, Inc., Harlingen, Tex.—Construction permit to move station from Harlingen, Tex., to Weslaco, Tex., amended to make changes in equipment.

Fourth Zone

KSTP—National Battery Broadcasting Co., St. Paul, Minn.—Extension of special experimental authorization to operate with an additional 15 kilowatts during daytime, for 6 months' period beginning May 1, 1934.

WJBC—Wayne Hummer and H. J. Dee, d/b as Kaskaskia Broadcasting Co., La Salle, Ill.—Construction permit to move station from La Salle, Ill., to Bloomington, Ill., amended to change transmitter location to Normal, Ill.

WGN—WGN, Inc., Chicago, Ill.—License to cover construction permit granted 11-17-33 to make changes in equipment and increase power.

KSTP—National Battery Broadcasting Co., St. Paul, Minn.—Modification of license to increase power from 10 KW to 25 KW.

WMAQ—National Broadcasting Co., Inc., Chicago, Ill.—Construction permit to install new 50-KW transmitter at 3.5 miles south of Downer's Grove, and increase power to 50 KW. Amended to move transmitter to Bloomingdale Road and Old Army Trail, near Addison, Ill. (Bloomingdale Township).

Fifth Zone

KUMA—Albert H. Schermann, Yuma, Ariz.—Voluntary assignment of license to E. B. Sturdivant.

NEW—Abraham Shapiro, Astoria, Ore.—Construction permit to erect a new station—1370 kc., 100 watts, unlimited time.

KPCB—Queen City Broadcasting Co., Seattle, Wash.—Construction permit to install new equipment and increase power from 100 watts to 250 watts and change time of operation from limited to unlimited. Amended to omit request to change frequency and time of operation.

KGHF—Curtis P. Ritchie, Pueblo, Colo.—Construction permit to make changes in equipment and increase power to 500 watts. Amended to omit request to change power.

APPLICATIONS RETURNED

WBNX—Standard Cahill Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.—License to cover construction permit to install new equipment. (Improper form.)

WRGA—Rome Broadcasting Corp., Rome, Ga.—Construction permit to move station locally. (Improperly executed.)

KGHI—Loyd Judd Co., Little Rock, Ark.—Special experimental authority to use an additional 250 watts power at night. (Jurat incomplete.)

WDAF—Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Mo.—Authority to determine output power by direct antenna measurement. (Not signed.)

NEW—Lucien R. Gruss, Cleveland, Ohio—Construction permit to erect a new station—610 kc., 500 watts, daytime. (Rule 6, equipment and transmitter location unsatisfactory.)

KSOO—Sioux Falls Broadcast Assn., Inc., Sioux Falls, S. Dak.—License to cover construction permit to move transmitter and change equipment. (Incomplete.)

WKOK—Charles L. Kremer, Receiver, Sunbury Broadcasting Corp., Chas. S. Blue, Horace Blue, Sunbury, Pa.—Involuntary assignment of license from Charles S. Blue. (Request of applicant.)

KPCB—Queen City Broadcasting Co., Seattle, Wash.—Authorization to install automatic frequency control. (Unnecessary.)

KOL—Seattle Broadcasting Co., Inc., Seattle, Wash.—Modification of license to change operating frequency from 1270 kc. to 850 kc. (Request of applicant.)

NEW—Cole's Furniture Store, Harry E. Cole, Prop., Potosi, Mo.—Construction permit to erect a new station at Potosi, Mo., to operate on 1420 kc., 8-10 watts power, and specified hours. (Rule 6, power, time of operation, antenna and monitor.)