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WHITE SHOCKED AT FCC'S ATTITUDE

Senator Wallace H. White today urged a study by Congress of all phases of American radio, including an investigation of the Federal Communications Commission and its recently promulgated regulations affecting network broadcasting. Senator White's statement was made at the opening of hearings by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee on the resolution he introduced May 13 demanding such study.

"I have long been an advocate of a comprehensive study of this whole radio problem and of the administration of our present radio law," Senator White said.

Still Favors Study

"As far back as 1937 I offered in the Senate a resolution which was pretty general in its character, and I strenuously urged at that time that we should undertake a study of the whole radio situation, and that the Congress should particularly concern itself with matters of principles and policies as they should guide the industry, whereby we would guide our regulatory body in its efforts to administer the law.

"I still favor a comprehensive study of the whole radio situation.

"I still feel that the Congress perhaps ought to lay down more definitely than we have in the existing law, the policies and principles which should guide us and which should control the regulatory body, and which should keep the industry itself in what we believe to be the appropriate bounds."

Referring to the regulations recently promulgated by the FCC, Senator White continued, "I think those regulations suggest such an altered course and are of such importance, both to us as representatives here in the Congress, and to the industry—and I might include the

regulatory body itself—that there ought to be a study of the questions raised by those regulations.

"Surprised and Shocked"

"I am very frank to say that it never occurred to me there would be any substantial opposition in any quarter to a study of the possible or probable or feared effects of those regulations. I have thought and I might as well say it here openly, that I have been rather surprised, even shocked, that the Commission itself feels it appropriate to oppose the study which this resolution suggests.

"I have been here in Congress quite a while; I think there is only one member about this table who has served longer than I, and this is the first time so far as my knowledge goes that a regulatory body of the Government, a creature of the Congress itself, has felt it appropriate to challenge either the wisdom or the right of a committee of Congress to review its acts and the policies which it is undertaking to put into effect."

Fly Opposes Review

Chairman Fly opposes a Congressional review although the broadcasting industry has gone on record as favoring one.

"I repeat," Senator White went on, "that that position came to me as something of a shock, because I cannot recall another instance in the years I have been in Congress when a regulatory body set up by the Congress, as I say, has challenged the wisdom of a congressional survey of what it was doing and of its claimed rights.

"Now, I confess that I rather resent that attitude. It seems to me it indicates the thought that the creature has become at least as important as, if not of greater importance than, its creator. So I just do not like that attitude.

Industry Stirred by Regulations

"The radio industry has been greatly stirred by these regulations. I do not know whether the criticisms of the industry are justified or are not justified.

"I have wanted to keep an open mind as to the objectives of the Commission. I have wanted to keep an open mind so far as I could as to the effects of those

regulations upon the industry. But I confess I had thought the resolution would be reported out, and that then in the orderly course of events we would begin a detailed study of the questions raised. And, so far as I am concerned, I would have no objection to expanding this study to any appropriate length."

FCC Chairman Fly, the only witness heard during the first day, devoted much of his time to a resume of the procedure and the hearings upon which the majority of the Commission based the regulations. His testimony was not completed.