

# TECHNICIAN ENGINEER

FEBRUARY, 1963

*Published for the Employees of the Broadcasting, Recording and Related Industries*

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS — AFL-CIO



# Establishment of the National War Labor Board

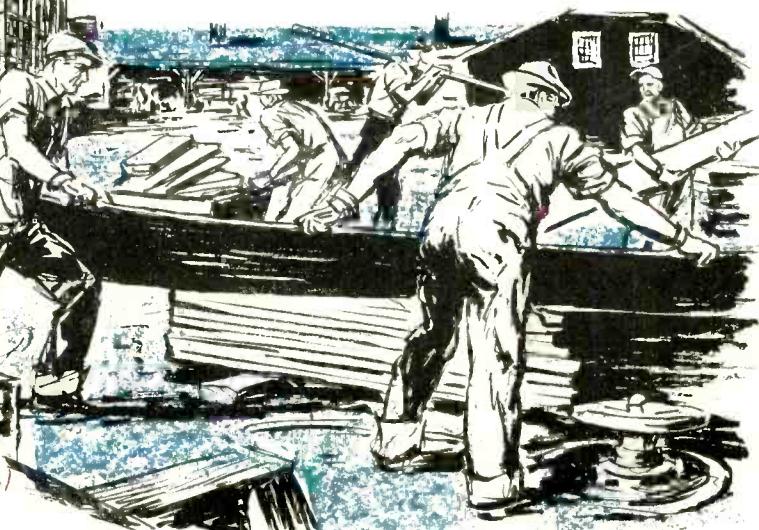
April 8, 1918

Many of the labor-industry problems of wartime (World War I) were creating such living cost pressures on the working people and on the economy that it was apparent the Government would have to intervene. A War Labor Conference Board was established which recommended the establishment of the National War Labor Board. Labor as represented by the American Federation of Labor and industry as represented by the National Industrial Conference Board agreed to the general program. The Board had five representatives from the AFL and five from industry with Frank P. Walsh and ex-President William Howard Taft as co-chairmen.

The establishment of the National War Labor Board had great significance as a new attitude by Government toward labor and foreshadowed yet other steps to be taken in the New Deal years 15 years later. Labor was accorded virtually all of its demands and the right to organize and bargain collectively through its "chosen representatives." Point No. 1 in a policy memorandum said: "The right of all workers, including common laborers, to a living wage, is hereby declared."

Labor was loyal to the nation and to the war effort and upheld its end of the Government-labor-industry bargain and Secretary of War Newton D. Baker observed that labor had proved to be "more willing to keep in step than capital."

Government action through a national board brought into focus a new concept in labor relations, an immensely important change and certainly a landmark in labor relations in the history of the nation.



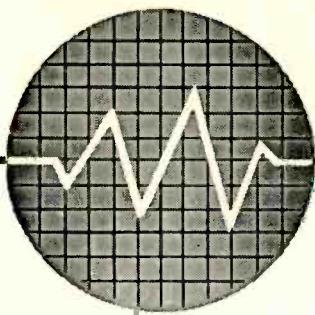
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The INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
GORDON M. FREEMAN International President  
JOSEPH D. KEENAN International Secretary  
JEREMIAH P. SULLIVAN International Treasurer



# TECHNICIAN ENGINEER

VOL. 12, NO. 2  
ALBERT O. HARDY, Editor



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## *the cover*

*Three views of the mammoth Voice of America "complex" at Greenville, North Carolina, dedicated February 8. LEFT, a small segment of the forest of antennas, many of them 400 feet high, which beam VOA signals directly to Europe, Africa, and Latin America, as well as to relay stations overseas. UPPER RIGHT, David W. Jeffries and Norman A. Schmidt at the master control console of the receiving site. LOWER RIGHT, Edward R. Murrow, director of the U. S. Information Agency, addressing guests attending dedication ceremonies.*

## *index*

*For the benefit of local unions needing such information in negotiations and planning, here are the latest figures for the cost-of-living index, compared with 1961 figures: December, 1962—105.8 (129.8 on old base); December, 1961—128.6 (Please note: With the January, 1962, index, the reference base was changed to 1957-59—100—from a previous base of 1947-49.)*

## *commentary*

The fistful of anti-union proposals dropped in the Congressional hopper this year, ostensibly designed to "curb the power" of labor, in reality are proposals that would impair the nation's strength and vitality.

Free, strong, democratic trade unions are part of the fabric of American society. Our modern political and economic democracy cannot function effectively without a strong and responsible labor movement. To weaken or cripple unions is to attack one of the basic sources of America's strength.

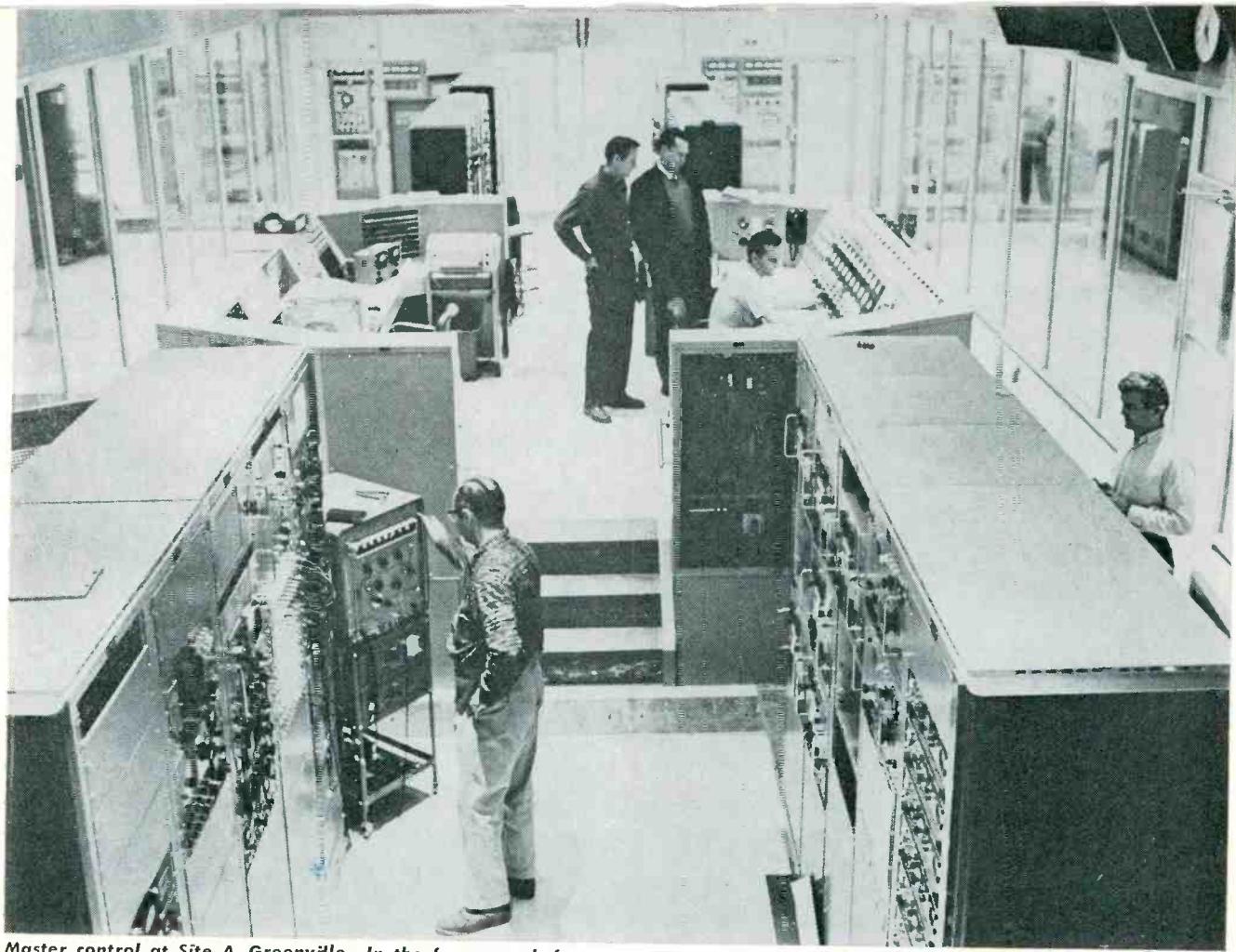
The sponsors of the anti-union bills, however, are not concerned so much with the public interest and the nation's strength and viability but with insuring unilateral power and dictatorial decision-making to that segment of management that seeks to impose its will on its workers and the country.

The same groups that are sponsoring and urging passage of the anti-union measures by and large have been and are now opposed to every progressive step to meet the nation's economic needs, its social welfare needs, its civil rights crisis.

In a period when all groups in the nation are drawing closer together to serve the public interest and the common good, the ultra-conservatives are fomenting a new type of class warfare.

Their proposals strike not only at the unions but at the national welfare and America's role as a leader of the free world.

—*The AFL-CIO News*



*Master control at Site A, Greenville. In the foreground, frequency-synthesizing equipment. The console is at center right and the inter-VOA-communications desk at center left. Transmitters surround the room beyond the glass walls.*



*The main gate to Site A is guarded by a husky North Carolinian, though VOA is receptive to visitors.*

**T**HIS MONTH the Voice of America dedicated the world's largest and most powerful radio facility. From Greenville, North Carolina, 18 transmitters with a total output of 4,800,000 watts now broadcast to the world and to VOA's relay facilities around the world, providing better reception for millions of listeners in Latin America, Europe and Africa.

The Voice of America has been on the air around the clock and in many languages since February 24, 1942. On that date the first words spoken were in German and

*"Today . . .*

## **THE VOICE IS STRONG**

*. . . where once it was weak. Today the Voice of America can better reach those whose masters seek to drown it out with jamming and interference."*\*

\* From the remarks of President John Kennedy at ceremonies marking the opening of the new transmitter complex at Greenville, N. C., February 8.

*Fred Blackburn,  
a veteran of  
VOA, is director  
of the Greenville  
Complex.*



**Technician-Engineer**



**CONSTRUCTION**—Three sites totaling more than 6,000 acres near Greenville were selected after VOA studied some 30 possible locations in the United States. Into the flat alluvial soil of Pitt County, near the Great Swamp of the Tar River and less than a 100 miles from the Atlantic Coast, men and machines then began pouring concrete and placing pipes, conduit, cables, and much more. It took three years of effort and sweat to bring the plan to completion. The pictures on this page show early construction work at Site B, when a maze of trenches was dug to plant interconnecting lines between the many antennas and structures. Union members of the construction crafts helped to build the transmitter buildings and hoist the towers into position. The picture at UPPER LEFT shows a duct bank from Switchboard No. 1 entrenched. From left, the ducts lead to the master control console, Panel H, the guard house, and the water supply.

they were: "The Voice of America speaks. Today America has been at war for 79 days. Daily at this time we shall speak to you about America and the war—the news may be good or bad—we shall tell you the truth." The first and key word in every Voice program is that word "truth."

Extensive USIA research has shown that, in ordinary times, the daily audience of Voice transmitters in the U. S. and abroad is numbered in the tens of millions. In time of crisis, such as when President Kennedy alerted the world to the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba or on historic occasions, such as during the U. S. manned orbital flights, VOA listeners number in the hundreds of millions. Even its fan mail is tremendous—last year more than 200,000 letters from overseas listeners showed great interest in its programs.

Regular Voice of America programs originate in studios in Washington, D. C. From there they go by microwave to Greenville or by land lines to other East or West Coast transmitters where they are broadcast, rebroadcast and recorded in stations around the world. In 15 Latin American countries alone, some 260 radio stations receive Spanish language programs and rebroadcast them in whole or in part to their own listeners.

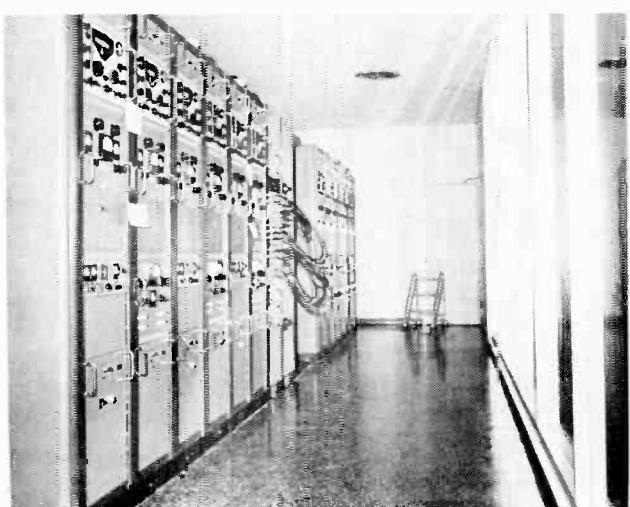
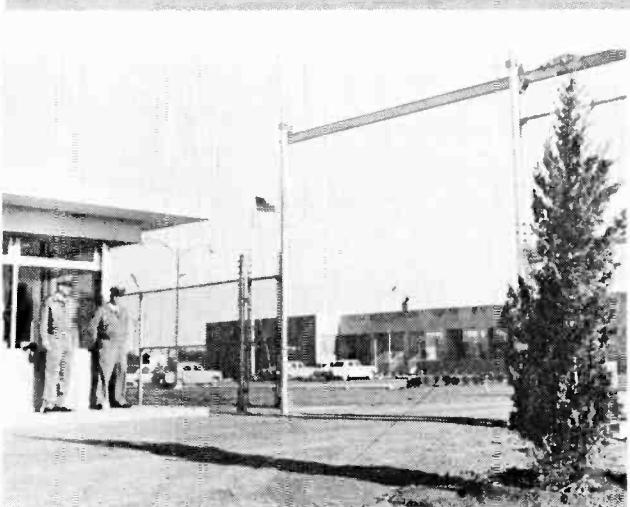
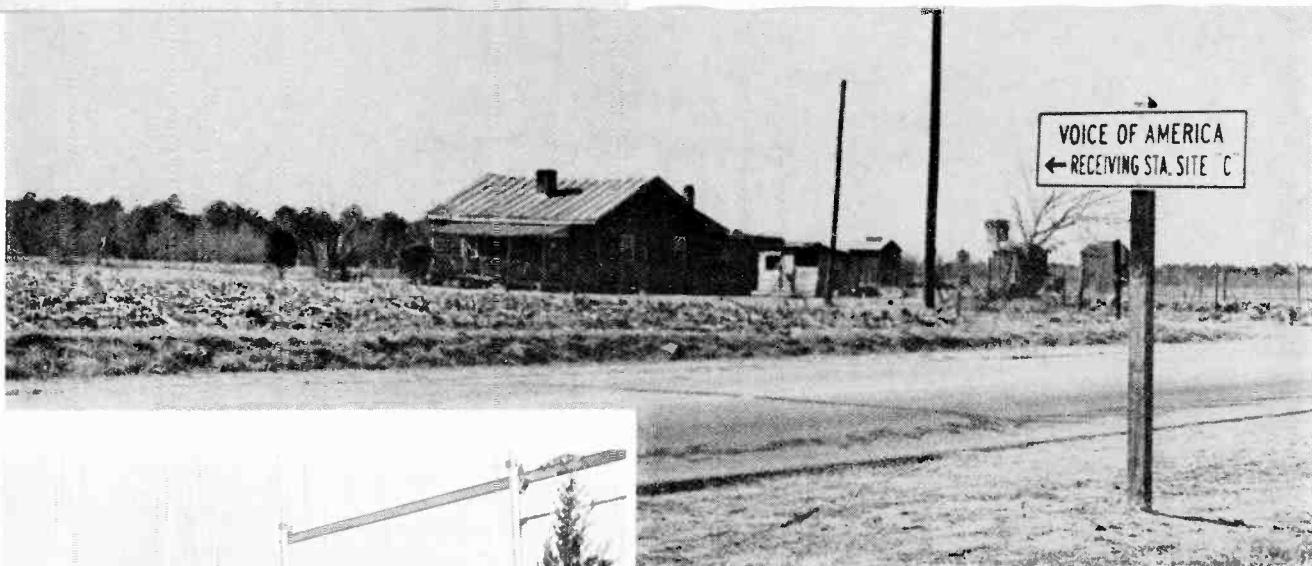
Though VOA does the best it can with funds allowed by Congress, Communist international broadcasts top those of the Voice of America by a sizable number of hours. The Soviet Union broadcasts approximately 1,205 hours weekly and Communist China transmitters, 787 hours weekly—as compared to the Voice of America's 740 hours (at the end of 1962). A close approximation of the total weekly hours of international broad-

**Concrete being poured around the first conduits for Transmitter No. 1.**



**Power for a switchboard imbedded in a form of hardening concrete.**





**SITE C, THE RECEIVING SITE**—On almost 700 acres of tobacco land northwest of Greenville is the receiving site for the 'Greenville Complex.' Here, too, guards man the gates. AT LOWER LEFT, CENTER, is the master control room for the Receiving Site. Patch panels are shown in the background. In this picture, taken at the dedication, Henry Loomis, VOA director, second from left, describes the facilities. AT BOTTOM LEFT are 14 of the British-made Racal receivers which are used in dual-diversity to receive programs from around the world for transmission to the Washington studios for monitoring purposes and, in case of emergency, may be used to pick up programs from other VOA stations in this country.

\$22,000,000.

The Greenville operation has begun with approximately 61 technicians. Many of these technicians are IBEW members or have a history of IBEW membership and, in considerable measure, representations by the IBEW are responsible for the presently reasonable and equitable wage rates which they enjoy. It may also be noted in passing that the wage rates which prevail at the Washington VOA radio and television studios are also based upon those prevailing in the broadcasting and recording industry in the District of Columbia area.



*"The Voice of America stands upon this above all: The truth shall be the guide. Truth may help us. It may hurt us. But helping us or hurting us, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that man can know us for what we are and can at least believe what we say."*

*"The truth may not alone make us free. But we shall never be free without knowing the truth."*

*"And for this the Voice of America is known by many, loved by some, hated by others."*

**EDWARD R. MURROW**

*Director, U. S. Information Agency*



*Photographs with this article are from USIA, The Washington Post, Merkle Press, and International Representative Albert Hardy.*

**Technician-Engineer**

# Lack of Economic Growth Makes 'Job Security' Top L-M Issue

By W. WILLARD WIRTZ  
Secretary of Labor

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are excerpts from the testimony of Secretary Wirtz before the Joint House-Senate Committee on the Economic Report. (Compiled by Press Associates, Inc.)

The lack of that adequate long-term growth which has characterized our economy in recent years is intensifying labor-management problems and is creating a new issue—job security—which is potentially as troublesome as the “rising cost of living” once was.

This issue is sometimes misconceived as a difference in attitudes toward the developments we describe, too roughly, as automation. It is not this.

All Americans—businessmen and workers, economists and the man in the street—have accepted new methods, new machines, new products as major factors contributing to our rapidly improving levels of living. They have recognized the historical fact that rising productivity brings with it more and better jobs than it takes away.

The difficulty is rather that improved technology accomplishes its whole purpose only when the economy is expanding strongly.

The American workingman feels safe only when jobs are available and when incomes reflect his increasing value to the economy. When business is unable to expand, however, it cannot furnish new job opportunities for those affected by improved technology, much less for new job-seekers.

Furthermore, when business is unable to expand, it cannot provide the increased incomes which are both the real fruit of rising productivity and the source of further demand.

In an economy which is not sufficiently dynamic, business operates too near the break-even point and workers—particularly those who have become permanently attached to a particular occupation, industry, area, and even firm—fail to receive the security and to enjoy the rising standards of living which are the measure of a healthy economy.

Another result is that the major emphasis of business investment is placed on labor-saving rather than expansion of capacity.

We face the fact today that a slowing up of the rate of growth in the economy in recent years has meant reduced opportunity for people to find and keep jobs.

I have just received from the Department of Labor's Office of Manpower, Automation, and Training, a report on industrial employment since World War II. It makes the recent retardation of growth acutely clear. . . .

## Unemployment and Strikes

Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz, in testifying before the Joint House-Senate Economic Committee, asked that Congress get as “worked up” about unemployment as it seems to about strikes.

“I’m appalled,” he said, “by the realization that we lost more potential man-hours last year from unemployment than in the last 35 years from all strikes.”

Wirtz added that the time lost from strikes in 1962 represented only one-seventh of one per cent of the total man-hours worked, a loss that was less than “any other year since the end of World War II.”

This report confirms the general realization that job opportunities are declining significantly in certain major industries. Agriculture, for instance, is employing three million fewer workers now than in 1947—an average annual decline of 200,000. Mining employment is also declining steadily, and is now 300,000 below the 1947 levels. But what is not so well known: employment in contract construction, which advanced sharply until 1956-57, has since then fallen by 300,000; and the same trend, including the same numerical decline, has appeared in the transportation and public utilities group.

In manufacturing there has been a net loss of 425,000 jobs in the past five years, as contrasted with a gain of 1.6 million jobs in the previous decade. This job loss was entirely among production workers, whose number declined by 775,000.

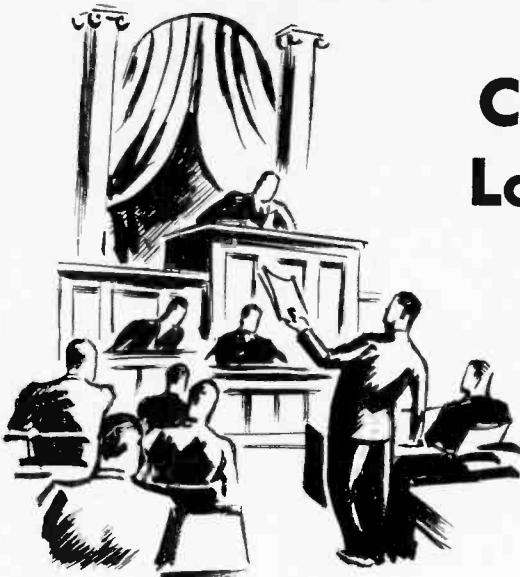
Employment in the trade sector, which had also risen rapidly until about 1957, has advanced recently at a relatively slow pace. . . .

The stern fact emerges that the number of persons on nonfarm payrolls has been expanding in the past five years at barely the rate of the first postwar decade—even while the number of workers potentially available has been increasing more rapidly.

The annual rate of increase in the last five years was only 0.9 per cent, as contrasted with an annual rate of 1.9 per cent between 1947 and 1957.

In actual numbers, there were less than half a million new nonfarm jobs added to payrolls each year of the past five, compared with 900,000 per year earlier. The contrast would be even sharper if we were to remove the government employment figures and consider only the private nonfarm sector. . . .

Small wonder, then, that we cannot be satisfied with our present rate of economic expansion. Small wonder, then, that increased productivity—the essential ingredient in our dynamic, competitive economy—has become a major complicating factor at our bargaining tables.



## Court of Appeals Rules on Local Union Charter Status

### FEDERAL COURT DECISION UPHOLDS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

THE United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has rendered a decision in the case of the revocation of the charter of Local Union No. 28 of Baltimore, Maryland, by Gordon M. Freeman, International President.

The charter was revoked August 17, 1961, because of Local 28's refusal to comply with the Constitution of the IBEW. The IBEW Constitution requires the authorization of the International President before a local union can cause or allow a work stoppage in a controversy of general nature. Local Union 28 engaged in a general strike against the contractors represented by the Baltimore Division of the Maryland Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association on June 19, 1961, without the permission of the International President and the members continued the strike even when ordered back to work by the parent union.

Prior to charter revocation a public hearing was held at the Sheraton-Belvedere Hotel before Referee Carl R. Schedler, a noted arbitrator. Following revocation of the charter, Local Union 28 appealed the decision of the International President to the International Executive Council at a meeting in Washington, D. C., September 11, 1961. The International Executive Council sustained the International President in his decision to revoke L. U. 28's charter. Meanwhile the order of revocation has been the subject of litigation.

Chief Judge Roszel C. Thomsen of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, ruled for the International Union in an opinion filed August 4, 1961. The decision of the U. S. District Court was that the complaint of Local Union 28 of the IBEW filed under Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act should be dismissed. Later in the case, Judge Thomsen, while upholding the interpretation of the IBEW Constitution as made by the International President, ruled that the International

President could not revoke the charter of L. U. 28 because of other circumstances.

The International Union appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and that body has now ruled for the International Union and upheld the right of the International President to revoke the charter of a local union in order to insure compliance with the Constitution of the IBEW.

IN the lengthy decision of the Court of Appeals there was an extended discussion of the District Court's consideration of the details of the case, and the higher court commented as follows on the general issues of strikes as well as on the particular strike involved: "The calling of a strike is such a momentous step in a labor controversy that it is usually subjected to strict control by international unions. The strike is a weapon that can bring an employer to his knees; but the effect on the employer can be too devastating for the union's own good. In addition, a strike can result in undue loss of production, harmful to the public and a strike can waste a union's funds and otherwise weaken it in its continuing effort to better its adherents' wages and working conditions.

"It is widely felt that vesting control in the international over the strike weapon assures that generally only intelligent and responsible use will be made of it after the greater interests of the international and the federal economy have been considered. Such is the potential harm from indiscriminate resort to strike that Professor Summers has commented that an international is justified in adopting severe disciplinary measures including expulsion of individual members or revocation of a local union's charter, when an unauthorized strike has been undertaken. [Summers, "Legal Limitations on

Union Discipline," 64 Harv. L. Rev. 1049, 1065-66 (1951)]"

The Court of Appeals decision comments at some length on the duty of the International President, saying in part: "His duty was to 750,000 members, not merely to a few who might gain a short-range advantage that could prove costly to the parent body, the employers, the public and, in the long run, to the plaintiffs themselves. The international was dealing day by day with many chapters of NECA and the international's relations with NECA were important to the welfare of all 150,000 who worked in the construction industry.

"**S**EVERE measures were taken against the Local but

only after full opportunity had been given the strikers, first to comply with the International President's back-to-work order and later, in the revocation decision itself, to redeem themselves. That this may be the first instance in which this international revoked a local's charter for going out on an unauthorized strike is not particularly relevant since there is apparently no precedent for the obdurate persistence of this Local after ample warnings.

"Although this Court recognizes that in determining the validity of disciplinary proceedings there is an obligation to draw upon standards of fairness beyond those expressed or embraced in the union constitution, much more is in question here than the mere propriety of an act of discipline. Even as formulated by the District Judge, the issues involved considerations of basic union policy and structure, i.e., how shall the power over collective bargaining be distributed within the labor organization? What has been granted the parent body as its proper province in collective bargaining and what has been retained by the local—perhaps it is more accurate to put it the other way: what has been retained by the parent and what has been granted to the subordinate—is a matter of internal government resting upon the contract the local and its members have made in accepting a charter from the parent. This court is advertent to the prevailing policy favoring internal union democracy and, of course, it recognizes that in appropriate cases courts may intervene to redress grievances arising from the imposition of discipline upon locals or individual members; but, in the absence of specific legislation, it does not lie within the authority of a court to give effect to its general preferences between international power and local autonomy in matters of collective bargaining. Questions as to how relations between an international and its local might best be regulated are for internal settlement or for Congress, which possesses the legislative power. Judges lack that power even when they are convinced of the desirability of improvements in the law."

The 79-page decision, written by the Honorable Simon Sobeloff, Chief Judge of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded with the following statement:

"Parent unions have played a useful role in bringing a measure of order and stability to the labor market. Perhaps their best contribution has been in restraining their component bodies from reckless resort to work stoppages and strikes. If in some quarters abuses have arisen that require correction, there should be legislation. But courts should not step in and, in order to achieve immediate objectives thought to be desirable, establish a rule that locals may with impunity defy their parent unions and strike at will. By the judicial application of *ad hoc* standards, in the pursuit of what is called democracy in union government, we will have succeeded only in introducing not democracy, but chaos. This will not only tend to disintegrate the labor movement, but the irresponsibility thus generated could have serious implications for employers and others as well.

"We conclude that while the consolidated cases are within the Court's jurisdiction, there was not sufficient basis for holding that the IBEW or its International President breached a fiduciary obligation to Local 28 or its members, or that the hearing was lacking in fairness, or that revocation was an unduly severe sanction. The local's claim based on breach of contract under the Taft-Hartley Act, therefore, fails and the charter revocation did not violate the members' rights under Sections 101 (1) and 609 of the LRMDA. . . . (Citation omitted.)

"We are not unmindful that the interests of the members of Local 28 in the various local and international Pension and Benefit funds have been made uncertain by the revocation. Whether the International or the local have title to the local's funds and other assets was not litigated in these cases and we do not pass upon this. We note, however, that the revocation order anticipated the International's taking steps to assure that the members of Local 28 will not suffer unnecessary loss of financial benefits. Moreover, there is no indication that the rank and file members of the outcast local will be unable to preserve their memberships in the IBEW by accepting the invitation extended them to join Local 24 or by transferring to some other local.

"The District Court's decision must for the reasons stated be reversed, and the case is remanded for further orders consistent with this opinion."





*LEFT: Joe McAllister,  
floorman, setting lights  
in the main studio of  
the Louisiana station.*

## Hello from **BATON ROUGE!**

**Channel 9 facility serves a growing  
industrial center of the Lower  
Mississippi Valley**

**T**HIS MONTH we salute WAFB-TV, the ABC and CBS affiliate in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in the heart of the world's petro-chemical industry. Both the IBEW and the station can be justly proud of a long and harmonious relationship, typified by the renewal agreement reached just last month.

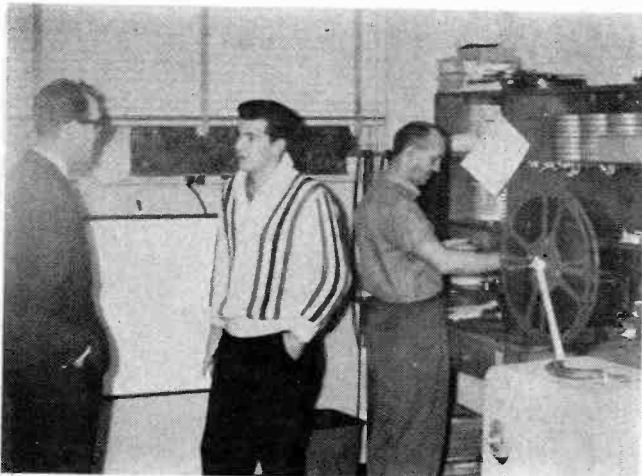
The station went on the air in April, 1953, on UHF Channel 28. The shift to Channel 9 on August 9, 1960, with slightly reduced power, boosted to the maximum in February, 1961, resulted in obviously better coverage, more viewers and a great morale boost to the staff. Its devotion to public service and its recognition through merchandizing and program awards contribute to its position of prestige in its ever-increasing market of a quarter of a million people.

Dedicated to our goal of showing "men at work", we are most happy to salute WAFB-TV this month.



*ABOVE: A view of the studio building of WAFB.*

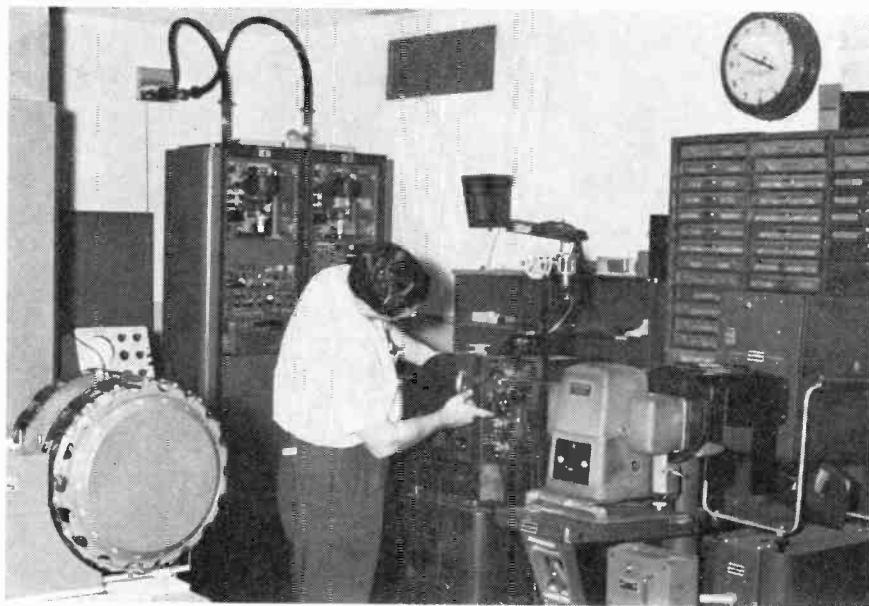
*BETWEEN: Jessie Pugh and Film Editors George David and Clarence Pourciau in the WAFB film editing room.*



**Technician-Engineer**



**Tommy Thompson, business manager of Local 995, and Don Allen, chief engineer and operations manager of WAFB-TV.**

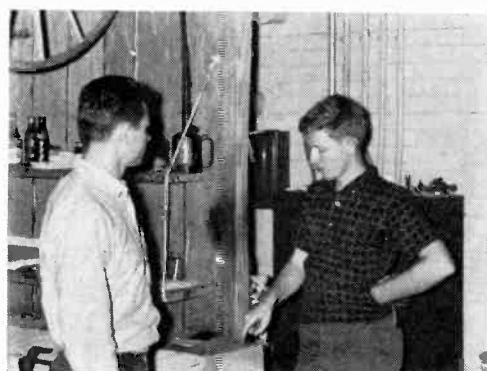


**Bill Comeaux, engineer, threading a projector in the projection room.**



**ABOVE: Al Tonguis, photographer, at the station's film processor.**

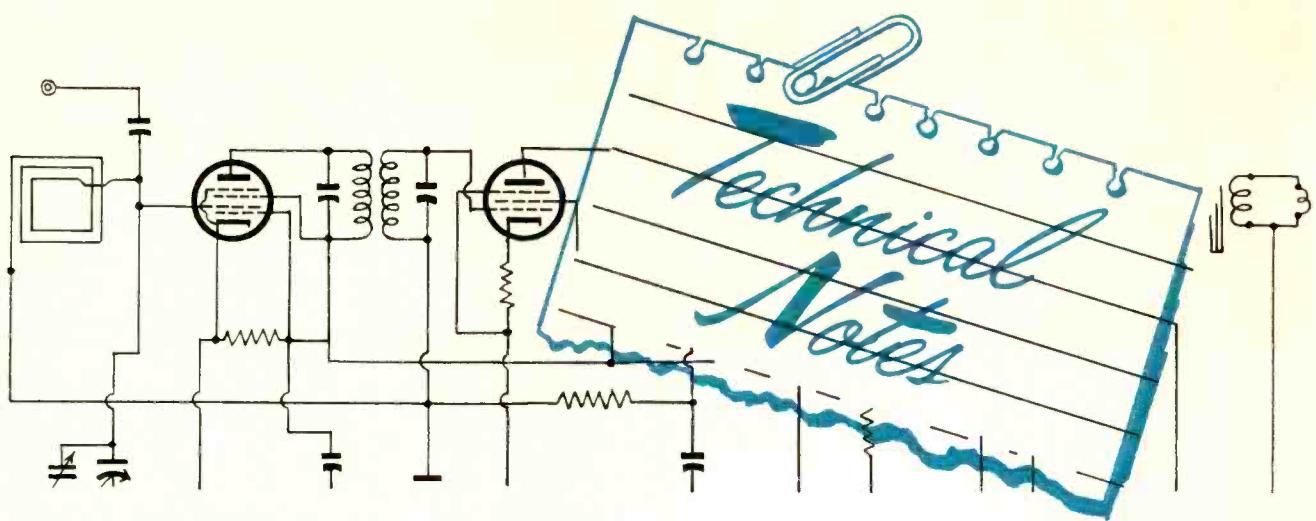
**BETWEEN: Ben Yglesias, floorman, and Bill Edwards, engineer, at one of the studio sets.**



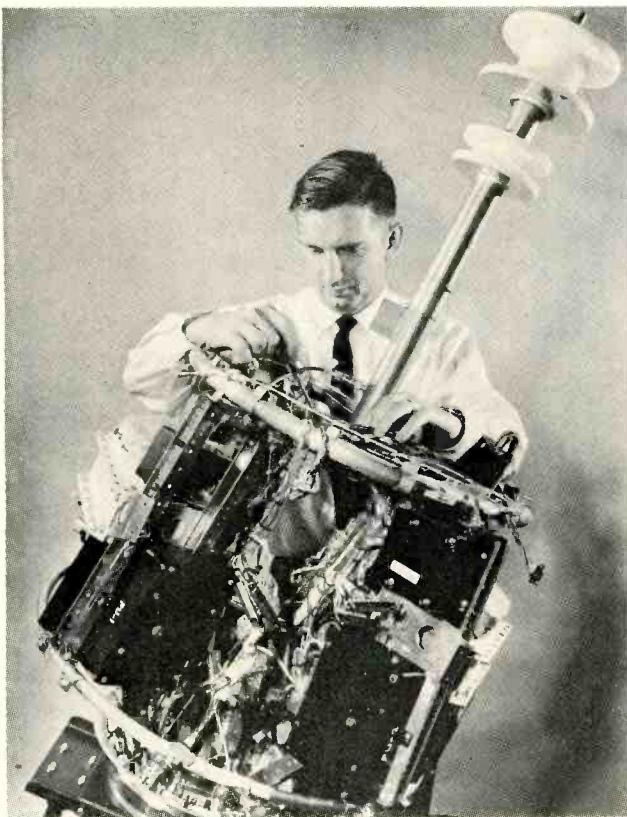
**Bill Mixon and F. A. Barner, engineers, in the projection room.**

**RIGHT: Bill Comeaux at the audio tape recorder in the control room.**





## RELAY SATELLITE



One of the communications satellites now in orbit is Relay, produced by RCA at its Space Center, Princeton, N. J. A view of Relay in assembly at the plant is shown above. Projecting from the upper part of "the payload" is a pipe-like transmitting and receiving antenna.

## SOLAR-EFFECT PIONEER DIES

J. Howard Dellinger, internationally-known expert in the field of radio research, died December 28, 1962. Dr. Dellinger was formerly Chief of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory at the National Bureau of Standards, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Dr. Dellinger, who initiated radio research at NBS in 1911, was also known for his work with the national

and international conferences on radio problems. He is credited with the discovery of the simultaneous occurrence of solar eruptions and radio effects (the Dellinger Effect). He also made studies of the ionosphere and high-frequency radio propagation and supervised the development of many basic radio aids to air navigation, and the initiation of the U. S. standard frequency broadcast service (WWV).

After retiring from NBS in 1948, Dr. Dellinger continued his work as a radio consultant and adviser. In 1960, he received the 12th annual Pioneer Award from the IRE Professional Group on Aeronautical and Navigational Electronics in recognition of his basic work on electronic systems for aircraft guidance during approach and landing.

## U-H-S PHOTOGRAPHY

Multiple-frame photography of ultra-high speed activity, with exposures as short as one two-hundred millionth of a second, can be achieved through the use of an image converter tube just announced by RCA's Electron Tube Division. Designed specifically as a high-speed light shutter for electronic cameras now in use, it is expected to be very valuable in the growing field of magnetohydrodynamics (the investigation of extremely hot gases influenced by electric and magnetic fields) and will be useful in the study of lasers, exploding wires, gaseous discharges and other high-speed phenomena.

Designated as the RCA-4449, the tube is less than 10 inches long, about 4 inches in diameter and has a photocathode 1.37 inches in diameter. Its P11 phosphor screen has a minimum useful diameter of 3 inches. The screen is aluminized and emits high-intensity actinic blue fluorescence. The flat photocathode permits the use of a wide selection of standard optical lenses and its large diameter and high electrical conductivity can provide large peak currents without defocusing effects. The manufacturer claims resolution capability of better than 17 line-pairs per millimeter (referred to the photocathode) and the tube's ability to provide exposure times

as short as 5 nanoseconds ( $5 \times 10^{-9}$  seconds) with little loss in resolution. Electrostatic focus and deflection, it has a maximum anode voltage rating of 15 kilovolts, a deflection factor of 1000 to 1300 volts per inch and a peak-to-peak gating (control grid) voltage requirement of only 230 to 300 volts.

The tube is designed to be used with a fast objective lens focused on the photocathode. Light striking the photocathode releases electrons which are attracted at high velocity toward the fluorescent screen at the opposite of the tube. After the electrons pass the gating (control) grid, they are directed through a small aperture between the deflecting electrodes which are designed for wide-angle deflection without serious distortion. Under normal operating conditions, the tube can provide a minimum increase in radiant energy on the screen of as much as 50 times the incident radiant energy on the photocathode. Three high-definition images can be produced on one photographic frame within 100 nanoseconds.

## IT'S ATOMIC AGED

In Glasgow, Scotland, a new and horrifying peril brought about by the atomic age alarmed the entire Scottish labor movement and infuriated Scottish distillery workers. The peril was represented by an official announcement from the British Atomic Energy Authority that it was experimenting—and apparently with success—on the production of a new whisky, atomic Scotch.

Explained a British scientist, "The new Scotch, if we succeed in developing it, will consist of new whisky plus isotopes. The aging process will be stepped up several hundred per cent by subjecting it to atomic bombardment. We put the whisky into a concrete, sealed chamber and bombard it with radio isotopes from a core of cobalt."

Commented an official of the distillery workers union, "If any further proof was needed that the misuse of atomic energy is going to wreck our civilization, we have it here conclusively."

## COLOR-FILM TECHNIQUE

NBC has announced the development of a new production technique for color filming of television remotes. A network crew developed the system out of necessity last year when a segment for "International Showtime" was scheduled for production in Ravenna, Italy, and there were no facilities for tape. The show is often filmed on 35 mm film, but 35 mm is less mobile than 16 mm, so the crew switched to the smaller film.

The network calls its process Synchro-16. It uses three 16 mm cameras operated simultaneously. The three films shot from different angles are then edited into one program.

An NBC crew recently used the technique to film a group of Japanese circus performers in Japan.

## CONELRAD REPLACEMENT

A special industry committee is now developing plans for a new alerting system for the American public in times of national emergency. Plans call for use of television and FM radio as well as AM radio in the new system.

The committee is headed by John F. Meagher, radio vice president of the National Assn. of Broadcasters.

One major problem in using radio and TV as an alert system is how to reach people who do not have radio or TV receivers turned on at the time. Various possibilities have been suggested, including a system called Sigalert, developed by Loyd Sigmon of KMPC (an IBEW-manned station in Los Angeles, incidentally) and a special portable, battery-operated receiver developed by Philco Corp.

The committee is under instruction from the Department of Defense's civil defense office to investigate the feasibility of a broadcast warning system which will provide an instantaneous alarm on a 24-hour basis and with a capability of reaching 98 percent of the population.

Any new system developed and approved would replace the 11-year-old CONELRAD procedures developed at the request of the Air Force and still in effect. The Defense Department told the FCC last April that there was no longer a need for CONELRAD as a means of denying navigational aid to enemy aircraft. There are at present about 2,000 AM stations in the CONELRAD net of which 480 are "key" stations.

## AIRBORNE E.T.V. PASSES TEST

After two years of shakedown, the Midwest airborne educational television project is ready to be placed on a permanent basis and expanded, the organization sponsoring the operation reports.

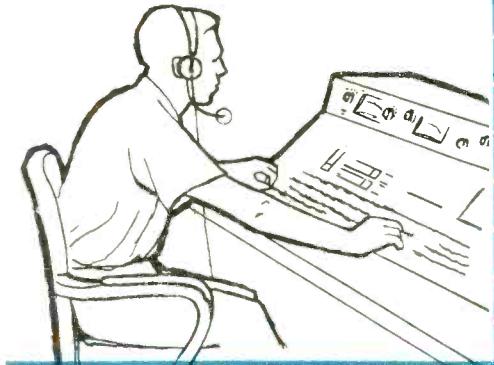
A Midwest group launched the airborne ETV plan in 1959 in cooperation with Purdue University and the Purdue Research Foundation. The licenses for the experimental stations—KS2XGA, operating on Channel 72 and KS2XGD operating on Channel 76—are now held by Purdue University.

The FCC is now being asked to transfer these licenses to an organization called Midwest Program on Airborne Television Instruction Inc.

The airborne project serves 1,160 schools and colleges in a 140,000 square mile area, with signals relayed by a DC-6 airliner flying over the six-state area.

The FCC has now been asked to establish the system permanently by:

- regularizing the use of UHF channels for airborne ETV in six Midwest states,
- modifying commission rules governing airborne ETV, and
- allocating six UHF channels for MPATI. (Two channels are now being used by the project.)



# STATION BREAKS

## UNANIMOUS IN PEORIA

Local Union No. 1292 and AFTRA joined hands some months ago and petitioned the NLRB for representation of the announcer-control men at WAAP, Peoria. The result of the voting is almost unique—all the ballots cast were for representation of the two-union coalition.

The next step which produced unusual results was the negotiation of an agreement. A single 13-hour session produced an agreement which is, to say the least, most unusual inasmuch as it provides for wages, working conditions and fringe benefits which are ordinarily obtained only after a long bargaining history and a gradual progression to full benefits. The agreement provided an increase of more than \$1,000 per year immediately and an additional 75c per hour wage increase spread equally over a three-year period. It also provides for as much as 1½ months sick leave, company-paid health and welfare insurance, 7 paid holidays and up to 4 weeks vacation. The change to a 5-day week is also much appreciated by the employees.

This new agreement represents only one of the organizing efforts of the local union in the central Illinois area to organize the broadcasting, recording and sound industries. An extensive organizing campaign is now in progress and, for what is substantially the first time, the IBEW is being recognized as a potent force in the organization of technical and related employes in the large and prosperous central portion of the state.

## A NEW VOICE FOR LABOR

The first program of a weekly series entitled "As We See It" was broadcast on February 7 by WAAP under the auspices of the Education Committee of the Peoria-Taswell (Illinois) Labor Council; the program is on the air from 7 to 7:30 p. m. every Thursday evening. Part of the program format includes the AFL-CIO produced "Washington Reports to the People" and is aired as a public service to the laboring people of the surrounding communities. Bill Dodson, business manager of Local Union 1292, is secretary and co-chairman of a committee of the Labor Council and with Bill Dryer of the Retail Clerks union is determined to get labor's viewpoint to the public.



**PEORIA PACT PARTICIPANTS:** Ray Diaz, General Manager, WAAP Radio; Mike Ferris, WAAP Announcer and IBEW/AFTRA member, and William L. Dodson, Business Manager, Local Union No. 1292. Mr. Diaz is presenting Mr. Ferris with the first paycheck earned under the terms of an IBEW/AFTRA and WAAP collective bargaining agreement. The check represents wage increase of over \$1,000.00 per year plus retroactive pay for Mr. Ferris. Mr. Ernie Strassberger, AFTRA International Representative, could not be present for the presentation.

## LAST LAUGH



'Some newspaper strike . . . Why doesn't Mayor Wagner read Dick Tracy or Li'l Abner!'

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