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Favoritism Alleged In Mich. Elections

CONTINUING its vigilance on rules requiring "equal opportunities" for political broadcasts, the FCC last week designated for hearing complaints charging WHLS Port Huron, Mich., with favoring one candidate over another.

The Commission received complaints from rival candidates for city commissioner during an election last April. One charged the station with refusing him time on the ground a script he submitted was unsuitable for broadcast. Another complaint charged the station with refusing time to "any candidate" out of fear the first candidate would cause it trouble.

The Commission order designating the hearing is based on the belief that the station granted the candidate who charged censorship, Carl E. Muir, time for a political address about a month before election. This contention has been challenged by the station. Mr. Muir won the election.

Hearing is to determine whether the station's alleged refusal to accept the script offered by Mr. Muir and to deny its facilities to any of the candidates constitute violation of Section 315 of the Communications Act.

Stations Offered Plan for Syndicated Promotion

A SYNDICATED PROMOTION service for radio stations has been developed by Noble & Swars Inc. (new name of Walter P. Burn & Associates, which was taken over by William Noble and Lawrence Swars following Mr. Burn's retirement a few months back). Mr. Swars will soon start on a cross-country tour to explain the service to station managers.

Production of the material will be under the supervision of Hartley Samuels, who has been a promotion executive at CBS, WHN New York, Atlantic Coast Network and, most recently, NBC; and John L. Fox, former art director of Lennen & Mitchell, New York. They will handle the overall planning and will coordinate the copy and art work.

Production Team

DAN SEYMOUR, announcer-producer, has formed a new radio program producing team, P. L. S. Productions, with Tony Leader, radio director, and Judson Phillips, script writer. Organization has offices at 10 E. 43rd St. New York. H. Philip Minis and Blake Cabot have joined the script staff headed by Judson Phillips. *You Make the News* a P. L. S. production started on Mutual Nov. 15, Thursdays, 10-10:30 p.m.

Zuzulo Job Expanded
FRANK ZUZULO, trade news editor with Mutual, has been named assistant to Jim O'Bryon, director of public relations for Mutual. Mr. Zuzulo will continue with his trade news duties.

Proximity Fuse Proves Quality Possible in Large Production



Dr. Selvidge



Mr. Diamond

ALTHOUGH THE RADIO proximity fuse is ranked by many as second only to the atomic bomb in shortening the war, its greatest importance to the radio industry probably lies in the fact that its developers proved quality control in large scale production is possible.

This point was brought out by Dr. Harner Selvidge, head of the Rugged Tube Division of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Labs, speaking in Washington last Monday before a meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers. The rugged tube is the special type used in the proximity fuse made by Johns Hopkins Labs with U. S. Bureau of Standards. Harry Diamond, chief of the Bureau's Ordnance Development Division also spoke.

Big Scale Production

Dr. Selvidge revealed that production was on such a large scale that by the end of the war there were more rugged tubes produced than the entire output of the whole tube industry before the war. Each tube was tested for quality before it left the assembly lines, he said. They could not take chances with duds.

Every tube was centrifuged to test its resistance to gravity. So "rugged" was the tube in final development, that it reached from 18,000 to 20,000 G, an astronomical figure in usual terms of gravitational resistance.

The Germans had been experimenting with acoustic proximity fuses, Dr. Selvidge told the group, and were greatly interested in U.S. research along those lines. In fact, he said, when a group of German spies landed in this country in 1941, after cross-examination, they revealed that the first problem they were to solve was: "Does the U.S. have a photo-electric proximity fuse?"

This country had been working on the idea of radio-controlled fuses in projectiles for some time, according to Dr. Selvidge. In 1940, the Office of Scientific Research and Development set the project into high gear, with Army and Navy splitting the responsibility of its development. Signal Corps, Dr. Selvidge said, did the majority of Army procurement.

There were two projects on

radio proximity fuses, the scientist said, one for spinning projectiles; the other for nonwhirling projectiles. The first was undertaken by Johns Hopkins; the second by the Bureau of Standards.

Technical Aspects

Mr. Diamond addressed the meeting on the more technical aspects of the fuse. He pointed out, illustrating with slides, that one of the great advantages of the radio proximity fuse is its wide target area. Radio impulses sent off by the tiny transmitter within the nose of the projectile go out in a figure eight design, or roughly, in the shape of a widened propeller.

Any object coming within that electronic area sends back an echo and causes the bomb to explode, spraying the target with killing fragments, he explained. Chances of a hit are increased many times over usual projectiles because of the wider target area of the radio beam. This is true of ground as well as air targets, as other type ammunition causes great damage only upon direct contact, while the radio proximity fuse causes an explosion above ground, and permits thousands of fragments to "rain" upon the area.

"The foxhole would have been extinct if we had had the radio proximity fuse a few years before we did," he added.

The fuse was put into operation as soon as it was, he said, because it was one of the few instruments of warfare that required no special training for handling. All the testing and most of the assembly was done at the factories. The batteries, sent in a separate container, had to be screwed onto the radio unit, the whole then screwed into the projectile. That was practically all the knowledge needed for their use.

Weston Plans
WESTON BISCUIT Co., New York, through Calkins & Holden, New York, may start using radio after the first of the year to promote the new product, Crack-ettes.

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