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TRUMAN MUCH PLEASED WITH INAUGURAL TV; SOME OTHERS NOT

According to a reliable informant close to the President, the television broadcasts seemed to please Mr. Truman almost more than any other feature in connection with his Inauguration. Evidently he had had time to hear from the country regarding the telecasts and had termed them a complete success.

It was said that the television angle was the most frequently mentioned thing in that part of the mail from the East and the newly added Middle West television territory, in the deluge of mail received at the White House following the Inauguration.

There was praise for the Inaugural television from another of the top flight viewers in Washington. Mrs. Wayne Coy, wife of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, stayed home to watch the Inaugural Parade on her video set, and was quoted as saying she was perfectly satisfied and felt she had missed nothing "except maybe the color".

The criticism of radio and television editors varied.

"The cameras of television, covering an inauguration for the first time, caught both the solemnity and pageantry of the occasion with such startling detail and realism that the sense of 'being there' was inescapable", Jack Gould observed in the New York Times. "When the ceremonies were opened with the singing of 'The Star-Spangled Banner', hundreds in offices, homes and public places instinctively followed the action of the spectators in Washington and rose promptly to their feet.

"From the technical standpoint, the coverage of the inauguration was for the most part excellent, but occasionally there were some flaws. Chiefly, the announcers seemed bent on talking every moment they could. In their grasp for words they usually sounded trite and superfluous when what their audience was seeing was sufficiently moving and inspiring in itself. At the parade, the music of the bands and the noise of the crowd often was unnecessarily cut off.

"The view of the proceedings that was projected into the living room was more revealing than that obtained by most spectators spread out in front of the Capitol."

"Television industry, given a once-and-for-all chance on President Truman's inauguration to demonstrate its reported superiority over the newsreels, flubbed the opportunity", Stal wrote in Variety. "Comparison of the two mediums' coverage gave the reels a decided edge, leaving tele only its uncontested immediacy to brag about.

"Not that TV did a bad job. That could hardly have happened with the industry bearing down on all cylinders, pressing 14 cameras and its top announcers and directors into service. But the standout

work expected of the pool pickup from Washington failed to materialize, especially in coverage of the inauguration parade.

"TV lost the showmanly touch accorded by the reels. With one camera stationed directly opposite the President's stand on the White House lawn, it would have been interesting to watch more of Mr. Truman's and Vice-President Barkley's reaction to the different floats. Instead, the cameras kept cutting to such relatively uninspiring sights as the state governors in their cars, or the police motorcade. When they had a chance to inject a little color through concentrating on the West Point cadets or the Annapolis middies, the cameras again went roving, brushing off almost completely the precision marching of the future officers pointed up so neatly by the reels.

"The announcers, too, missed the boat. Where they should have let the camera eye handle the description, they came in with unimportant remarks to distract the viewers' attention."

"At the Lafayette Hotel cocktail lounge, a spokesman said, "Yes, some of them have been here all day, (the day of the parade)", Sonia Stein wrote in the Washington Post. "Yes, they keep ordering; some of them must be seeing two pictures by now."

Miss Stein concluded:

"Television can see over the heads of the crowds. Through the voice of a narrator, it can help the audience identify celebrities they might not recognize even if they saw them face to face.

"It can bring such historically important ceremonies into the school as it did with the presidential inauguration in Baltimore, St. Louis and Milwaukee.

"But what it cannot do, is give the joy of participation, the feeling of being one of a crowd. It leaves out of its presentation the part of the show some parts of the audience want to see as it jumps around from spot to spot for the best pictures.

"It deprives us of color in the presentation of an event where even the colors worn by the spectators make a vivid and pleasing picture.

"The roar of jet planes flying low over the Capitol is spine-tingling. The television report of the same thing is not.

"The smell of hot dogs and mustard on a crisp, cool day doesn't come over the television channels.

"You can be omnipresent with television - you can be absolutely everywhere. But you can't be there."

A sour note was added by a Post reader, Eric Reisfeld, of Silver Spring, Md.:

"I saw the Inauguration on television - and it was a sad spectacle. I am rather certain that it decided quite a few people, besides myself, against spending money on a set for some time to come.

"It was a rare picture that was not 'fuzzy', 'foggy', or whatever other excuses may be made for a very simple, basic defect: out of focus. Apparently the camera people on these cameras along the route had less knowledge of the workings of a lens than the average amateur photographer.

"Perhaps the time will come when it will be understood, that outside of knowing the limitations and peculiarities of this medium, a television cameraman should know basic photographic principles in preference to knowing the exact electronic process by which his pictures are being transmitted.

"As another criticism, leveled at the producer of this telecast, let me yet mention that there was a marked lack of continuity in the show, some floats being shown each time they passed one of the four camera locations, others being omitted completely."

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SARNOFF, "GREAT MAN", SETTLED RECORDS BAN, SAYS PETRILLO

That credit for settling the year old ban on record manufacturing was given to Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, of RCA by James C. Petrillo, President of the American Federation of Musicians, was revealed in the January issue of Radio Age.

"I feel that something should be said about a great man who brought this about, for this is another victory for all of us", Mr. Petrillo was quoted as saying, after the pact had been signed. "And feeling that one man in the industry was a fair man, I went to see General Sarnoff, some five-six months ago and I said, 'General, what are we going to do about this thing. Are we going to fight it out like we did before, or are we gonna settle this matter in a nice manner like Americans should?' And he said: 'Jimmy, there shouldn't be any fights; we ought to get together on this thing.' And we did get together. He grabbed hold of the bull by the horn himself, called in the industry - did a swell job - advised me as to what he thought was right and wrong. I mean when I say advised me, he said: 'This is the thing we can do, and this is what we will do, and no more than this', and so on, and I believed every word that man said. And, believe me that everything he said was God's honest truth. Night and day, when he says this is the truth, this is what's gonna happen - that's exactly what happened. I can't say too much for that man in this industry, and I think that labor has a friend in General Sarnoff."

"This is almost as great an emotional surprise for me as seeing the first record cut here after a year of silence," said General Sarnoff in reply. "I don't know any appropriate response that I could make to so generous a statement as Jimmy Petrillo has just made about me. All I can say is that this is not the work of any one man. It took patience, restraint, wisdom and some skill in negotiations on both sides to arrive at this settlement.* * * * In these negotiations Mr. Petrillo has been fair and worked hard."

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HIGH COURT UPHOLDS LOUD SOUND TRUCK BAN; DECISION PUZZLING

Sound trucks which send out "loud and raucous noises" can be banned by city ordinances, the Supreme Court said yesterday in upholding a Trenton, N. J., regulation by a 5 to 4 vote.

In the sound truck decision, five separate opinions were handed down, and there was no majority opinion, only a majority judgment.

Last year, the high court ruled 5 to 4 that a Lockport, N.Y. ordinance under which Samuel Saia was fined and jailed for not having a loud speaker permit, was unconstitutional. That ordinance was overruled because the police chief had sole authority to decide who should get a permit.

Chief Justice Vinson and Justices Rutledge, Murphy, Douglas and Black joined in the Saia decision.

In yesterday's case, Charles Kovacs, international representative of the CIO United Steel Workers, had been fined \$50 in a test case for violating the Trenton ordinance governing sound trucks.

Justice Reed announced the judgment in an opinion in which Chief Justice Vinson and Justice Burton joined. Senator Reed said that the New Jersey Supreme Court had ruled that the ban involved only "loud and raucous noises", and:

"We think it is a permissible exercise of legislative discretion to bar sound trucks with broadcasts of public interest, amplified to a loud and raucous volume, from the public ways of municipalities", without injuring rights of freedom of speech.* * *

Justice Frankfurter concurred, but added, "Nor is it for this court to devise the terms on which sound trucks should be allowed to operate, if at all", for he said legislatures are free to act as long as they do not attempt to prescribe ideas.

Justice Jackson also concurred, but he said the decision repudiated the Saia decision, from which he had dissented, and added he believed the Trenton ordinance bans all sound trucks. Comparison with the Saia decision, he said, "I think, will pretty hopelessly confuse municipal authorities as to what they may or may not do."

Justice Murphy dissented without written opinion.

Justice Black, in a dissent in which Justices Douglas and Rutledge joined, agreed that the Trenton ordinance bans all sound trucks, "and it strains the imagination to say that the ordinance itself would warrant any other interpretation.

"If Trenton can completely bar the streets to the advantageous use of loud speakers", he said, all cities can do the same, and preference is given those who can afford newspaper, radio or motion picture advertising.

Justice Rutledge, in addition to joining the Black dissent, wrote a separate dissent in which he declared:

"In effect, Kovacs stands convicted, but of what it is impossible to tell, because the majority upholding the conviction do not agree upon what constituted the crime. How, on such a hashing of different views of the things forbidden, Kovacs could have known with what he was charged or could have prepared a defense, I am unable to see. How anyone can do either in the future, under this decision, I am equally at loss to say."

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RALPH ATLASS SEEKS KLAC, L.A. "BECAUSE HE LIKES CALIFORNIA"

Not many people in this world get to do what they want to do and at the same time live exactly where they want to live. Someone asked Commander George B. Storer how Fort Industry happened to buy a station in Miami. Commander Storer said that one of the main reasons was that he was very fond of Miami and wanted to have an excuse for spending more time there.

Ralph L. Atlass, Chicago broadcasting magnate, was quoted as saying almost the same thing about the West Coast in connection with his negotiations for Station KLAC in Los Angeles.

"I like it in California and hope to live there some day", Mr. Atlass was quoted as saying in reply to a question as to whether he intended to transfer all of his interests to the West Coast. The latter part of the query was evidently intended to smoke Mr. Atlass out on a rumor in circulate recently that he intended to retire from radio.

Mr. Atlass said reports from the West Coast that he was interested in buying the 5 kw station for in excess of \$400,000 are "substantially correct."

Mr. Atlass is chief owner of WLOL, Minneapolis, and has a heavy interest in WKTY, La Crosse, Wis., as well as WIND, Chicago. He revealed that negotiations are underway for the La Crosse Tribune to purchase WKTY.

Mr. Atlass said the Los Angeles deal is being discussed with Warner Brothers. The motion picture firm's purchase of KLAC and KLAC-TV and KYA, San Francisco, from Mrs. Dorothy Thackrey has been held up by the Federal Communications Commission. Warner Brothers already own KFVB, Los Angeles.

Mr. Atlass, partner in the proposed Los Angeles venture, Benjamin F. Lindheimer, is one of Chicago's most influential financial, political, and sports figures. A close friend of Illinois' late Gov. Henry Horner, Mr. Lindheimer owns the Los Angeles Dons football team, nearly all of Chicago's Washington Park and is chief owner of Arlington Park.

Ralph Atlass is a brother of H. Leslie Atlass, vice president of CBS in charge of the Central Division and general manager of

WBBM, Chicago. The Atlass brothers developed WBBM, WIND and WJJD into outstanding Chicago stations, selling WBBM to CBS and WJJD to Marshall Field.

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SYLVANIA TO ISSUE ADDITIONAL COMMON STOCK TO FINANCE TV

Don G. Mitchell, President of Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., states that the company contemplates the issuance and sale of additional common stock to finance a part of the company's expansion in television.

At the end of 1948, Mr. Mitchell said, Sylvania was producing at a rate of 500,000 picture tubes annually, an eight-fold increase during the year, with Sylvania's Emporium, Pa., plant accounting for most of this output. The company's Ottawa, Ohio, plant which started production in December is scheduled to reach full operation around the middle of 1949.

A new plant at Seneca Falls, N. Y., is being equipped to turn out television picture tubes. The company's wholly owned subsidiary, Colonial Radio Corporation, has commenced the manufacture of television sets in volume and indications are that in 1949 its television set sales will be larger than its sales of radio receiving sets.

Mr. Mitchell stated that Sylvania now has an investment of more than \$5,000,000 in plants, facilities, and current assets for the operation of its television picture tube division.

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RADIO PARLEY COLLAPSE LOOMS

Soviet Russia's sharp criticisms threatened to break up the World Radio Conference being held in Mexico City, according to an Associated Press report from there last week.

The conference president and vice president, both Mexicans, resigned after a stormy session lasting into the early hours of the morning. The Soviet bloc of 11 nations had refused to join in a vote of confidence in their management.

A Committee, including the U.S.S.R. and Romania, was named to ask the Mexicans to forgive and come back, but the group failed to find them.

Belgium has taken over the conference presidency temporarily.

The World High Frequency Broadcasting Conference began in Mexico City last October to try to work out a plan for sharing the eight crowded short-wave broadcast bands between 6 and 26 megacycles. It is considering two plans, one offered by Russia and the other by the United States. Earlier the delegates of the Soviet bloc walked out.

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1948 TV SET PRODUCTION MORE THAN 975,000, RMA REPORTS

More than 975,000 television receivers were produced during 1948, bringing the postwar total TV set production to at least 1,160,000, the Radio Manufacturers' Association reported this week. An additional 25,000 to 30,000 unassembled TV set kits were reported to have been manufactured last year.

With set manufacturers applying an increasingly large share of their manufacturing facilities to television, particularly during the second half of 1948, production of radio receivers last year declined about 20 percent under the all-time peak reached by the industry in 1947. Last year's output of radios, however, was the second highest in the industry's history.

Total industry production of radio sets in 1948 was estimated by RMA at more than 16,000,000 of which RMA member-companies manufactured 13,265,793. In 1947 the entire industry's production of radio sets exceeded 20,000,000.

TV set production by RMA member-companies reached a new high of 161,179 in December, only 17,500 sets under the entire output of television receivers in 1947.

RMA member-companies reported manufacturing 866,832 TV sets in 1948 as compared with 178,571 in 1947 and 6,476 in 1946. Production by non-member manufacturers brought the total TV set output in 1948 to more than 975,000.

FM-AM and FM only sets made by RMA members, however, last year rose 35 percent above the 1947 output despite the general decline. RMA companies reported 1,590,056 in 1948 as compared with 1,175,104 in 1947, and the December tabulation reached a new high of 200,326 FM-AM sets as against a previous peak of 171,753 in September. Over 100,000 of the 1948 output were FM only sets.

A decline in AM only home receivers accounted for the entire decline in radio set production in 1948. Table models dropped from 72 to 46 percent of the total radio output, while consoles maintained about the same proportionate share it had in 1947 or 12 percent.

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EX-SEN. WALLACE WHITE, JOHN KENNEDY DROP IN AT WHITE HOUSE

Among President Truman's callers during the past week were John A. Kennedy, of San Diego, California, well known broadcaster and editor, and former Senator Wallace H. White, Jr., of Maine, co-author of the Radio Act.

Mr. Kennedy has been a frequent visitor in connection with the President's support of a National Water Resources Committee.

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BALTIMORE RADIO "GAG" IS APPEALED

Radio station WCBM on Tuesday (February 1), appealed its contempt-of-court conviction under Baltimore's "gag rule" prohibiting the broadcasting and publication of certain information on criminal proceedings.

Attorneys for the station instructed the clerk of the Baltimore Criminal Court Monday to enter an appeal to the Maryland Court of Appeals at Annapolis.

Station WFBR also has indicated it will appeal, while Station WITH, also found guilty, has not announced its decision.

The three stations and an announcer were cited for broadcasts concerning the arrest of Eugene James for the slaying of 11-year-old Marsha Brill. James has been sentenced to hang.

Station WSID of nearby Essex, Md., was acquitted because there was no proof that its broadcast was heard in Baltimore. A charge is pending against a fifth station, WBAL.

The radio stations argued in court last week that freedom of news should not be restricted on the chance some of it might prejudice a man's right to a fair trial.

The State argued back that restrictions in force in Baltimore for ten years have done more than anything else to promote the orderly administration of justice and eliminate "trials by newspaper".

court

At the/hearings last week the intervenors were the National Association of Broadcasters, the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Paul D. P. Spearman, council for WCBM, advanced the theory that Congress and the Federal Communications Commission have exclusive power to regulate and control radio communications and the programs broadcast. He argued that the Federal Communications Act of 1934 specifies that there shall be no censorship.

Commenting upon the case the Editor & Publisher said:

"The Rules of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore forbid publication of any statement an accused person may make after arrest, reports about his actions and discussions of past criminal record, or disclosures about evidence found by police.

"Last Summer Baltimore police arrested a murderer who confessed to killing two children in Baltimore and Washington. Baltimore newspapers and radio stations kept silent on many details of the crimes because of the gag rule but the Washington papers, circulating freely in Baltimore, carried the complete story. Subsequently, radio stations in the Maryland city quoted the Washington newspaper stories bringing contempt citations.

"This is censorship by the courts and is even worse than attempted censorship by legislation. It is obviously unworkable and patently unconstitutional. It's absurdity is apparent.

"The Baltimore justices can jail every editor and every radio announcer in Maryland but they still can't touch those in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Washington, etc. Try as they might they can't seal up the residents of Maryland or Baltimore in a news vacuum of their own making.

"The sheer hopelessness of the idea should indicate to them the certainty of its unconstitutionality."

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TRUMAN STILL DISTRUSTS POLLS; INDIANA HONORS GALLUP "MEMORY"

President Truman said last week he had no more confidence in public opinion polls than he had before the election, even though a recent one showed 69 per cent of the voters approved of his actions.

At a news conference, a reporter called his attention to this result of a recent Gallup Poll and asked whether he would comment.

The President said he never did have any confidence in polls and he didn't have any now. He made his own decisions, he said, on whether an action is right or wrong after he got all the facts and polls had no effect on him whatsoever.

The Indiana Senate, with a Republican majority, stood for a minute last week in tribute "to the memory of Dr. George Gallup."

Just before the Senate recessed to hear a broadcast of President Truman's inaugural, Senator Harold Handley, Republican from Laporte, moved that the lawmakers stand in memory of the poll director.

The Senators laughed heartily and then Republicans and Democrats alike stood up.

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EMERSON REPORTS \$2,401,768 NET

Emerson Radio & Phonograph Corp. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries this week reported a record net income of \$2,401,768, or \$3 a share for the fiscal year ended October 31.

This compared with net income of \$2,263,024, the equivalent of \$2.82 a share, for the previous year.

Consolidated net sales for the 1948 fiscal year totaled \$30,926,842 against \$32,658,122 the preceding year.

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MAX BALCOM, RMA PRES., JACK GOULD, EDITOR, SIZE UP TELEVISION

Television manufacturers see no near-future developments which will make receiving sets now in use obsolete, Max Balcom, President of the Radio Manufacturers' Association, and Vice-President of Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., said last Monday night on CBS-TV in a "People's Platform" discussion on "How Will Television Influence the American Home?"

Participating in the roundtable under the chairmanship of Quincy Howe, in addition to Mr. Balcom were:

James C. Hanrahan, Vice-President of Scripps Howard Radio, Inc., and General Manager of WEWS, Cleveland affiliate of the Columbia Television Network, and Jack Gould, radio and television editor of The New York Times.

Mr. Gould emphasized that responsibility for the development of television programming along the best possible lines rests equally on broadcasters and the public.

"Television right now is heavy on vaudeville and variety entertainment", he said. "The drama programs have made some brilliant offerings and there's good reason to hope that a greater diversification of programming is on the way. It's up to the public, however, to write and tell the broadcasters what they like and what they don't like. If that vacuum in the broadcasters' knowledge is filled by an articulate public, we won't have much trouble about programming."

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UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES PROBES BAR RADIO, CAMERAMEN

Chairman John S. Wood announced Monday that the House Un-American Activities Committee in Washington had voted unanimously to bar radio recorders, newsreels, television and news photographers from future Committee hearings.

The action was taken at the Committee's first meeting since it was overhauled by Democratic Congressional leaders in an effort to spike widespread criticism that the group was more interested in publicity than investigations.

He declined to discuss the Committee's reasons for barring news photographers and picture-taking mediums. In the past, the committee sometimes was criticized for the "circus-like" atmosphere of its sessions.

Whenever important witnesses, such as Whittaker Chambers or Alger Hiss, were questioned, the Committee room invariably was jammed with newsreel cameras, photographers and wire recorders.

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CORNING GLASS CUTS PRICE OF TV TUBES 24%; NEW GE TUBE

The Corning Glass Works disclosed in New York last week it had begun mechanized production of fifteen and sixteen inch glass bulbs for television tubes and would cut prices 24 per cent.

William C. Decker, President, said economies from the new process would permit price reductions effective Feb. 1. The production of bulbs for smaller sized television tubes already had been mechanized.

The glass bulbs or blanks are used by cathode ray tube manufacturers to make viewing tubes for television sets. Because they represent only a portion of the total cost of a finished television viewing tube, the cost saving will be considerably less than 24 per cent.

The Corning development is regarded in the industry as the glass maker's answer to the mass-produced, metal-sided, sixteen-inch tube developed by RCA and others.

One industry source said the development probably would not have any immediate effect on prices of sets containing the fifteen and sixteen inch viewing tubes, which give pictures of 125 to 130 square inches in area. He said most 1949 prices on such sets were based either on use of the cheaper RCA metal tube, or to meet competition from sets using the metal tube, and that the Corning reduction had been discounted in advance.

The General Electric Company announced last week development of a picture tube designed to increase by 50 per cent the viewing area in low-priced television sets.

The tube has a diameter of eight and one-half inches. It easily handles 39 square inches of picture area, J. M. Lang, Manager of the G.E. Tube Division, said.

The seven-inch tube now used gives about 26 square inches of picture area.

Production is expected to get under way this year. Mr. Lang said the tube probably would cost no more than the seven-inch tube.

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AFL TO ENLARGE RADIO PROGRAM, PUBLISH MILLION-COPY PAPER

President William F. Green, of the American Federation of Labor, in convention at Miami, said Tuesday it was definitely decided to have the league publish a national weekly newspaper, aiming at an early circulation of one million and an eventual circulation of more than four million. The paper would keep a critical eye on the activities of Congress, and would seek to keep the AFL rank and file up to the minute on political events.

The newspaper will be started in Washington just as quickly as a staff can be organized and arrangements made for publication.

The radio program is still in the consideration stage, Mr. Green revealed. The program would be a five-nights-a-week news broadcast, jointly sponsored by AFL and Labor's League, covering all news developments, and giving labor's point of view on the major issues. A nationally prominent newscaster is being sought for the program.

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RADIO, CABLE RATE RISE AUTHORIZED FOR OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS

The Federal Communications Commission, after extensive hearings, last week authorized increased international communication rates to companies operating from the United States.

It is estimated that the new rates, effective not before February 2nd, will mean additional annual revenue of \$2,542,000 on outbound traffic and \$565,000 in inbound traffic.

The companies are RCA, Inc., Western Union Telegraph, Tropical Radio Telegraph, Globe Wireless, Ltd., All America Cables and Radio, Inc., Mackay Radio Telegraph, Commercial Cable, Commercial Cable Pacific, Press Wirless, Inc., U. S.-Liberia Radio, Cables and Wireless (W.I.), Ltd.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. BUSES TO INAUGURATE TRANSIT RADIO MONDAY

A select few District bus riders may travel to music next Monday. A Capital Transit Company spokesman said it is hoped to have five or six radio-equipped buses operating in northwest Washington, D. C. by that day.

The radios will pick up programs from WWDC-FM, Washington, and Ben Strouse, one of the owners of the station, has promised commercials will be "brief and conservative".

The first buses to be equipped will be in the transit company's western division. The company plans to equip all of its buses with radios, and then will begin installing them in street-cars.

The Washington, Marlboro and Annapolis bus line has had one radio-equipped bus in service for about a week, alternating it on three routes.

R. A. Chew, Traffic Manager of W. M. & A., said his company plans to have all 50 of its buses that are in regular service eventually equipped with radios.

Mr. Chew said he wished the public would realize that the radios are not costing the bus company any money, and in fact will profit from the plan. The cost of the radios and their installation are paid by the radio station.

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SCISSORS AND PASTE

Jack Benny's Debut As Film Producer Apparently Not So Hot (B.C. in "New York Times")

It might be that Jack Benny's first fling as a producer of a film was embarked upon merely to provide him with another "turkey" about which to kid. That is the kindest explanation that we can remotely conceive for the incompetence of the efforts - a little dud called "The Lucky Stiff".

This fantastic hodgepodge of mumming, which came to the Globe on Saturday, is a painful attempt to draw laughter with an assortment of corpses and a fake ghost. The corpses are those of several characters who get killed in the course of a racket probe and the "ghost" is that of a night-club singer who has been supposedly executed for murdering a man. The idea is that the singer, actually innocent, is aiding the D.A. in smoking out the villains. Fancy that, if you can.

Obviously, Lewis R. Foster, who wrote the feeble script, and also endeavored to direct it, failed to fancy it himself. For his story is thoroughly helter-skelter, lacking spirit or fun, and it has no more pace or direction than a very poor amateur show. Caught in it and completely wasted are Brian Donlevy as a racket sleuth and Dorothy Lamour as the nightclub singer.

Mr. Benny will have to go some to laugh this off.

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TV To Provide 5,000 Hours Of Pix In Few Years, Paley Predicts (Abel Green in "Variety")

Estimate by William S. Paley, Columbia Broadcasting System prexy, that video within a few years will provide a market for 5,000 hours of film annually is a source of both relief and perplexity to the picture industry. Five-thousand hours of film is a tremendous order when it is realized that Hollywood's current total output of features, westerns and shorts occupies something less than 650 hours of screen time.

Above all, even the most casual visitor to this capital of Celluloidia must realize that the potential inroad of TV is one of the principal problems bothering execs. There is apparent a great deal of confusion and consternation in the realization by studio toppers that they've got to get into the video act but they don't know exactly where. * * * *

That's why Paley's estimate of TV's whopping maw for pix is a relief. If tele actually proves to be that much of a market for films - and can pay for them - it will clearly leave plenty of place for the studios. As a matter of fact, of course, Hollywood's future would be assured.

On the other hand, the Paley estimate is likewise a reason for perplexity because studio toppers recognize their responsibility to theatre operators. They have no desire to risk exhibitor ire by turning the majority of their productive facilities or talents to a competing media. If their profits are to lie in films, they prefer to keep them there.

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Warns Release Of Theatre Films To TV Will Bring Legal Action
("Hollywood Reporter")

The Theatrical Owners Association this week-end warned producers and distributors that release of films made for theatres to television stations will be countered by "such action as is legally permissible." The directors of the exhibitor group resolved that release of theatrical film to TV is "a grave danger and injustice . . . economically indefensible." It would lead to a decline in theatre rentals and an eventual loss of producer income, they said.

The group was told by FCC Chairman Wayne Coy there is no legal reason why a system of special TV programming solely for theatres cannot be worked out, with coaxial cable or relay in the UHF to carry the programs.

Producers were called upon to experiment with special trailers for local television showing, with exhibitors to rent the trailers and buy the tele time themselves.

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George Storer Tells How To Go Broke Running A Television Station

Hazards of operating a television station today were projected by Fort Industry prez Commander George B. Storer in operation of his WSPD-TV, Toledo, at the CBS tele clinic.

On the basis of eight hours of programming per day (including test pattern) for six days a week, Storer pays out a total of \$15,233 in operating costs each month. His top month for billings in 1948 was December, when the station took in \$10,739. And, the operating costs figure does not include such weighty capitalization factors as depreciation, taxes, reserve for new equipment, etc.

Speaking to delegates at clinic, Storer pointed out that the budget was based on monthly operating costs without network program source via the coaxial cable. Toledo, as part of the midwest network, is now linked to all four major webs and, since Jan. 12, WSPD-TV has been running network shows. Station's billings, consequently, are expected to show a hefty upswing for January and during the rest of this year.

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Radio's Yesterdays
("London Calling")

Marconi arrived in England early in 1896. By the August of 1898, his apparatus had so far been developed that he was able to place it at the disposal of the Royal Family. The Prince of Wales, aboard the Royal yacht "Osborne", had injured his knee; Queen Victoria, in residence at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, was naturally perturbed, and desired day-to-day reports of her son's progress. But the yacht was at sea in Cowes Bay, and the only means of convenient communication was wireless. Marconi's help was sought; on August 3 telegraphic apparatus was installed on the yacht and in Ladywood Cottage, in the grounds of Osborne House, and for sixteen days the system established constant and uninterrupted communication, some 150 messages passing to and fro.

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Donn B. Tatum, Los Angeles attorney, has been named a member of the Board of Directors, General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Don Lee Broadcasting System, it was announced last Saturday by Lewis Allen Weiss, President of the 45-station regional web and Mutual Network Board Chairman.

In addition to his functions as General Counsel of the network, it is also planned to have Mr. Tatum assume some of the executive operational duties and responsibilities assisting Mr. Weiss and Willet H. Brown, Executive Vice-President.

The Federal Communications Commission is continuing to revise its commercial radio operator examinations to bring them into step with developments in radio theory and practices and with the Commission's Rules and Regulations. During this process, supplements to the "Study Guide and Reference Material for Commercial Radio Operator Examinations" are issued from time to time as changes or additions are made to the material used in the examinations. Supplements Nos. 1, 2 and 3 covering the radiotelephone examinations have been incorporated into the revised edition of the Study Guide dated July 1, 1948.

Despite the printers' strike, in effect throughout 1948 and now in its 15th month, Chicago's four major newspapers carried 96,639,459 lines of advertising, daily and Sunday last year, a gain of 1,971,777, or 2.1% over 1947.

"Television will put radio in the old ladies' home but is no threat to newspapers", the 81st annual convention of the Michigan Press Association in Lansing, Mich., was told by Harry Bannister, General Manager of the Detroit News' stations.

More than 200 million radio receiving tubes were sold in 1948 by RMA member-companies, the Radio Manufacturers' Association revealed this week. Tube sales during last year totalled 204,720,378 an increase of more than five million over the 199,533,827 tubes sold in 1947.

Sales of receiving tubes in December also increased considerably over December 1947 but fell below the November 1948 sales, RMA said. December sales totalled 19,270,164 compared with 16,511,408 in December 1947 and 21,118,874 in November 1948.

Contents of Radio Age for January include Radio in 1948-1949, by Brig. General David Sarnoff; Changes in RCA Management; New Phonograph and Record; Television in Boston by Frank M. Folsom; Television Coverage Extended; Film Recording at "411"; RCA Frequency Bureau; Large-Screen Television, by Ralph V. Little, Jr. and Dr. Zworykin Receives Poor Richard Club Award.

A second printing of the National Association of Broadcasters' staff study, Television, forced by heavy and steady demand for the chapter-by-chapter publication, according to the Association.

The new re-printing of the study will include its introduction and the first three chapters, all the material thus far published, the NAB said.



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No. 1861

February 9, 1949

DREW PEARSON HITS THE FRONT PAGE FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS

Drew Pearson has recently set a new mark for other radio commentators to shoot at.

(1) Through being the originator of the Friendship Train, he has again been brought into the international spotlight and honored as responsible for the French Merci (Gratitude) Train.

(2) By attacking Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, Military Aide to the President, for accepting a decoration from Argentina, whose President Peron was described by Mr. Pearson as an enemy and detractor of President Truman.

(3) By predicting last Sunday night over the ABC network that Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, would resign from the Commission within the next 60 days.

(4) By making certain charges over the same network involving the Rev. Father Charles E. Coughlin, pastor of the Shrine of the Little Flower in Detroit, made famous through his radio sermons. These allegations were characterized by Father Coughlin as a "Pearsonian lie".

Mr. Pearson was one of the central figures in New York last week when a tremendous ovation such as only New York can give, was accorded the French Merci Train. Later he was presented with a certificate of distinguished citizenship by Mayor O'Dwyer.

Mr. Pearson was again a central figure when ten cars of the Merci Train rolled into the Capital last Sunday to receive a rousing welcome.

Vice-President Alben W. Barkley, addressing a crowd of 3,000, said that the train brought the heart of France to this country. Gathered from all parts of the French Republic, the gifts borne by the train constituted France's response to the American Friendship Train. Through this medium the French people received food, fuel and clothing valued at \$40,000,000 last year.

"I do not know what the contents of these French box cars may be", Mr. Barkley said, "but I am told they contain beautiful and valuable gifts. What pleases me more is that these forty-nine cars bring us the heart of France. The French people and the American people understand each other and will stand with each other in the fight for liberty, justice and equality."

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, ranking Republican member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, was introduced by Drew Pearson, Chairman, as "our most revered Senator."

"This is a significant and eloquent moment in the lives of our two nations", the Michigan Republican said. "It shows that we

have hearts, as well as hands, across the sea. This is not government speaking to government in the calculated language of diplomacy, but countryside speaking to countryside in terms of the values that have bound France and America together for the last 200 years. The Friendship Train went from the hearthstones of America to the hearthstones of France. The same concept of affection and friendship has inspired the French gratitude train. Amid the world clamorings of strife, fear and hatred this moment marks the way of line commended by the Prince of Peace."

Henri Bonnet, French Ambassador, told the crowd that the "Merci Train" expressed the gratitude of millions of French people who for years had turned toward the United States. Thanks to American aid, he declared that France could win the hard struggle for post-war recovery. Andre Picard, originator of the French train, read a greeting from Eduard Herriot, former Premier of France, Louis Cast, President of the French National Federation of Railroad War Veterans, explained that the gifts ranged from a small doll contributed by a French orphan to very precious items.

With eight jet-propelled airplanes roaring overhead in aerial salute, Senator Tom Connally, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, cut a ribbon to open one of the gift cars. As a token, a small painting was then delivered to Salvind O Olson, Chairman of the National Capital Merci Train Committee. Forty-eight similar cars are en route to the forty-eight State Capitals. Both the French and American National anthems were played by the Metropolitan Police Band. Ambassador Bonnet gave a dinner, for the French Committee with the train, in the French Embassy Sunday night.

The afternoon welcome was preceded by an impressive ceremony Sunday morning in Arlington National Cemetery, where four French war veterans delivered an eternal flame which had been lighted at the tomb of the French Unknown Soldier in Paris on January 22nd.

Mr. Pearson played even a more spectacular part in his further needling of General Vaughan, which to the apparent delight of many in all branches of the Armed Forces, he has been doing for some time. Not content with denouncing the General for his evident disloyalty to President Truman in accepting Argentina's highest military decoration, the Order of the Liberator San Martin, Mr. Pearson announced he was going to stand outside the Argentine Embassy in Washington to note for future reference, notables attending the lavish function in connection with the bestowal of the medal upon General Vaughan by the Argentine Ambassador. Mr. Pearson did just this and it is believed his presence discouraged attendance at the function. The only person the commentator mentioned as having been present was Lieut. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Chief of the Air Force, remarking, "and he entered through the back door".

In predicting that Chairman Coy of the FCC would leave the Government service within 60 days, Mr. Pearson did not specify what position, if any, the former had in mind. He remarked "Coy is another good man lost to the Government." It has been reported on several occasions previously that Mr. Coy was quitting and that in one instance the President personally had persuaded him to stay.

Up to this writing, with one exception, little if anything has been printed or broadcast about the charges made by Commentator Pearson against Father Coughlin. The exception was the Detroit Free Press of Tuesday, February 1, which devoted practically its entire front page to the accusations, with a caustic denial by Father Coughlin, as well as denials by other parties said to have been concerned. The Free Press states the case reportedly will be presented to the Detroit Federal Grand Jury this month.

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PRESIDENT TRUMAN WOVES THEM AT RADIO CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER

President Truman, off the record, gave the Radio Correspondents' Association at their dinner in Washington last Saturday night, a sample of one of his fighting campaign speeches and they ate it up.

"It gave us an idea of how he appealed directly to the people of the country. No oratory but natural, human, and man to man. I never heard a better talk in my life", said one of the broadcasters who attended the dinner. Others spoke of it with much the same enthusiasm, particularly the humorous jibes at the radio commentators who guessed wrong on his election.

At noon on Friday the day before the dinner, following their usual custom in connection with the Radio Correspondents' gatherings, the Board of Directors of the Mutual Broadcasting System called at the White House to pay their respects to the President. The group was headed by Lewis Allen Weiss, President of Don Lee of Los Angeles, and Chairman of MBS.

Approximately 700 persons attended the Radio Correspondents' Dinner in the Presidential Room at the Statler. As a token of their esteem for the President, association members presented him with a reproduction of the table on which the two Bibles used in his swearing-in ceremonies January 20 were placed. The Capitol table has been used by most Presidents since Lincoln.

The President also received a film copy of the television recording of his inauguration. Albert L. Warner, of MBS, President of the Radio Correspondents' Association, made both presentations.

The distinguished gathering included Vice President Barkley, Chief Justice Vinson, Speaker of the House Rayburn, President Pro Tem of the Senate McKellar, Justices Reed, Douglas, Black and Rutledge, Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, Secretary of Defense Forrestal, Attorney General Clark, Postmaster General Donaldson, Secretary of Interior Krug, Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, Secretary of Commerce Sawyer, Secretary of Navy Sullivan, Secretary of Air Force Symington; Gen. Bradley, Army Chief of Staff; Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Senate Majority Leader Lucas and Senator Taft, Republican, of Ohio.

Among the entertainers were Nadine Conner, opera singer; Janet Blair, movie actress and singer; Borrah Minnevitich and his

Harmonica Rascals and Comedian Sid Caesar. Jack Carter of Washington was master of ceremonies.

The United States Marine Band conducted by Maj. William F. Santelmann provided music during dinner.

The talent was arranged through Mutual, American Broadcasting Co., Columbia Broadcasting System, DuMont Television Network and National Broadcasting Co. Francis W. Tully, Jr., of the Yankee Network was Chairman of the Dinner Committee.

The dinner was preceded by a reception given by the combined radio and television networks.

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CONGRESSIONAL RADIO, TV NEWS BAN CALLED "DISCRIMINATION"

The restriction of radio and television coverage of sessions of the House Committee on Un-American Activities is "discrimination against some forms of reporting the news", Committee Chairman Wood has been advised in a letter from A. D. Willard, Jr., Executive Vice President of the National Association of Broadcasters.

Mr. Willard's letter to Representative John S. Wood, asked that the Committee's ban be "at least reconsidered", and that radio and television men be allowed to explain "how much it means to their audiences to keep them informed" of the Committee's work.

Following is the complete text of Mr. Willard's letter:

"It is with very real concern and deep regret that I note the decision of the Committee on Un-American Activities against radio broadcasting of Committee sessions, along with other forms of reporting these matters of vital interest to the people of America.

"It seems to me, in a very disturbing sense, a kind of discrimination against some forms of reporting the news. Television, tape recording, and instantaneous broadcast of such sessions, are new forms of journalism. To take a single example, tape recording is now used as were words in quotation marks in an older era of news reporting. The radio reporter, telling the story of an important hearing, can now drop into his dramatic narrative the very words of the man quoted, in his own voice. Television is no less graphic, to say the least.

"Closed sessions are one thing; no newsman can rightly object to a fully closed meeting. But a session closed only against some forms of reporting is one which discriminates.

"I am sure, as are the American broadcasters for whom I speak, that your Committee's decision is so sweeping as to deprive the American people of a great deal of truly priceless information. I urge, therefore, that it be at least reconsidered, and the representatives of radio and television be allowed to tell you how much it means to their audiences to keep them informed of the major work being done by your committee.

"Broadcasting, in all its forms, would be the last to advocate infringement on any individual's fundamental rights. Radio, in its own struggle to maintain freedom of speech without abridgement, is only too conscious of the fundamental rights. But it is difficult to see how faithful, factual, verbatim reporting of such important sessions can invade or threaten the rights of any witness or committee member, whether this reporting be done by direct radio broadcast, by radio newsmen, or by television.

"Freedom of information, I am sure you will agree, becomes a meaningless phrase if the materials of this information are denied to the professional radio men who would disseminate it to their audiences.

"I hope that you will seriously reconsider the prohibition laid against all these forms of reporting."

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"TV SERVICING LIKE TURNING FROM BIKES TO AUTOS", BALCOM, RMA

Max Balcom, President of the Radio Manufacturers' Association, which is one of the sponsors of Town Meetings of Radio Technicians, carried the word last Wednesday night to Atlanta, now going through its first phase of television development. This was the fourth of such meetings in an effort to lend a hand to the serviceman who is making the transition from radio to television.

"The radio-television industry produced more than 975,000 TV sets in 1948, bringing the postwar total output to well over one million", Mr. Balcom declared. "It expects to manufacture and sell more than 2,000,000 television receivers in 1949. Future years will see the annual production rate continue rising until television becomes as standard in the American home as radio is today.

"All of us in the radio industry - and that includes you who are providing the highly essential servicing of the sets we manufacture make - are on the threshold of one of the greatest and most rapid industrial developments in American history. The total income from television within a few years probably will dwarf that from radio in its most prosperous years. Already it is accounting for at least half of many set manufacturers' revenue.

"The two million television sets we expect to produce in 1949 may not seem like much in comparison with about 16 million radios manufactured in 1948. In units, that is true; but in dollars it presents an entirely different picture.

"Television receivers sell today from \$100 to more than \$4,000. The average retail price is between \$350 and \$400 - a price equal to the more expensive radio phonograph console. As a matter of interest, manufacturers' sales of television receivers in November, 1948, represented only 10.4 percent of the total set production for that month but 45.9 percent of the set manufacturers' dollar volume.

"What does this mean to the radio technician? It means that he will be working on a much more costly product than he has been in the radio field where the average service job, probably, was done on a table model which sold anywhere from \$10 to \$35. It's like turning from repairing bicycles to servicing automobiles.

"Another thing for the serviceman to bear in mind is that with the two million TV sets that the industry plans to produce in 1949 will go \$100 million or more in installation and the first year's servicing charges. Moreover, this figure will grow yearly with the increasing tempo of TV set production."

"The servicing of home receivers, particularly the new TV sets, is rapidly becoming a big business, and it will require well trained technicians who are familiar with the instrument they are servicing and the most modern techniques for detecting and correcting any trouble that may develop."

Mr. Balcom continued:

"Perhaps I have placed too much emphasis on television tonight. I have done so because television is the newest and the most exciting addition to the receiver line. I do not mean to imply, however, that radio receivers are passing out of the picture. On the contrary radio set production undoubtedly will continue well ahead of television for several years to come, and I do not believe that television will ever supplant radio. There is room for both services.

"For one thing, don't forget there are approximately 75 million radio receivers in this country, some 2,000 AM stations, and more than 700 FM stations. Neither the public nor the station owners are going to scrap such an investment in a hurry, regardless of the attraction of television. Sales of automobile radios and portables, moreover, are the greatest in the industry's history and are likely to remain at a high level for some time.

"FM broadcasting and the proportion of radios with FM reception facilities are growing steadily. An FM-AM set, while not as complex as a TV receiver, is a much more complicated instrument than the AM radio and requires greater skill to service.

"In addition, privately-owned radio communications systems are becoming more and more numerous. The number of 'land transportation' radio transmitting stations, according to the Federal Communications Commission, has almost doubled in the past year and numbered over 3,500 on January 1, this year. And this station count does not represent the number of communications receivers used in conjunction with these transmitters. For instance, 65 taxis equipped with radio communication receivers may operate under one station authorization."

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DESPITE YOWLS, TEST SHOWS CAPITAL FAVORS TRANSIT RADIO 9-1

This is the big day they are going to try out transit radio in the buses of Washington, D. C. (Wednesday, February 9). Although test runs have shown that the public favored the innovation, according to the Capital Transit Company, quite a few advance protests have been registered. These are mostly in the form of letters to the editors of the local newspapers.

Among those received by the Washington Post are the following:

"If any store I now patronize begins to use transit radio, I'm going in and tell them why they have just lost our family of 10 as customers. When a product is advertised on transit radio, I'll buy some other brand - and I'll tell the dealer why the transit-advertised brand is off my shopping list.

"If the advertisers are allowed to know that transit advertising is regarded as an annoyance by the riders, I believe the whole nuisance could be stopped."

(Signed) Helen D. Rice

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"The Capital Transit Co. again proposes to inflict its riders with radio loudspeakers on buses and streetcars. The small comfort of having our commuting hours to study or read, or merely think, will now be denied. Let us vigorously protest this outrageous intrusion of booming advertising dinning at our ears, added to the noisy confusion of traffic, as we travel to work and back.

"There have been unprecedented numbers of accidents in the past year involving public vehicles in the District of Columbia. Adding more noise to the motorman's problem can only result in further diversion of his interest from driving. Many commuters employ these precious hours to study. Must our rights be trampled in the greedy rush for more advertising media?"

(Signed) Ione Conway

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"Before this thing is done, and it is not too late, I believe a group of some citizens, or some club, should start suit in court the moment the first radio appears, alleging a breach of the public peace.

"There are still many street car and bus companies in the United States, where the fare is less than 10 cents, and it irks me considerably to have to pay 13 cents here, and be worried by the thought of having to listen to radio noise in addition."

(Signed) William E. Dixon

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"If the District government permits the Capital Transit Co. to turn streetcars and buses into traveling juke boxes, violating every principle of human consideration, the company should be required to take out amusement licenses for each of its vehicles, and to pay amusement taxes, like any other juke-joint proprietor.

"Streetcar and bus patrons who pay for transportation are entitled to ride in peace and quiet and to be protected by their governing agencies from arbitrary invasion of their rights and privileges. If local authorities are not prepared to safeguard such rights, injunction proceedings may be the only alternative."

(Signed) Claude N. Palmer

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"Whether or not the majority of bus and car riders like radios is beside the point. I do not know whether they want it or not, but even if they do, the majority has no right to force radio on the minority, since no fundamental right of the majority is involved."

(Signed) R. A. Seelig.

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"Assuming some of the music will be from the eighteenth century, the era of elegance, a gentleman will sometimes have the opportunity to rise, bow low and offer his seat to a lady to the appropriate strains of Mozart or Handel.

"This item is for the unreconstructed rebels and rugged individualists who resent progress, no matter how much it does for them. Just consider how good it will feel, after enduring the discomfort of listening to what you don't want to listen to, for anywhere from 10 to 60 minutes, or finally disembarking!

(Signed) David Freilicoff.

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The National Gateway Citizens Association in a resolution urged the Capital Transit Company not to pursue its bus-radio program. The group met last Monday at the Church of Christ, 28th and Douglas Streets, N.E., Washington.

This favorable letter appeared in the Washington Times-Herald:

"Let me add my penny's worth in regard to music in street cars and buses. I think a majority of the people are in favor of it, but do not have time to write letters to the transit company or newspapers. I would rather listen to music than listen to some one in the next seat criticize his neighbors. Let's have music wherever we go."

(Signed) "Street Car Rider"

Capital Transit hopes to have 10 radio-equipped buses in operation by midweek. The mobile carriers of melody will be split evenly, at the beginning, between Northwest and Northeast Washington.

At some future date it is envisioned that all 1900 of the company's buses and streecars in regular use will be radio-equipped.

To see how the people were taking it, Charles F. Davis, Jr. a Washington Post reporter, made a trip on a W. M. & A. suburban line bus near Washington which has been equipped with radio for about two weeks. The ride was to Seat Pleasant, Maryland, and back, about 90 minutes.

"The passengers make no expressive show of emotion as they enter the bus and hear music for the first time on a public conveyance", Mr. Davis wrote. "They don't clap their hands in gless nor do they show annoyance. They simply accept it.

"Someone must be carrying a portable radio", declares one gray-haired woman as she boards the bus with a companion.

"Perry F. Scott, 77, of Spaulding Avenue, Dupont Heights, Md., climbs aboard, spies an official of the bus company whom he knows and says:

"This will make you forget your troubles. I listen to the radio quite a bit at home. I like all the programs - even the commercials."

"But Scott, who is in the general merchandise business and who has been riding the bus line for more than 20 years, decides that music is best for the bus radio.

"And Mrs. Dorothy Hall, a housewife, of 6414 B St., N.E., Washington, D. C., likes the radio too.

"I like to listen to the music when I'm not talking', she says. She likes the 'soap operas' but doesn't think they would do for buses because 'you might have to get off in the middle.' She suggests 'some hill-billy music twice a week.'

"It's cheerful', says Mrs. Mary Rogers, a housewife, of 2125 - 32nd Place, S.E., 'and it makes the ride seem shorter.'

"But she hopes they never carry the 'soap operas'. She hates 'em.

"It was the first ride on a radio bus for Mrs. James Hall, a housewife, of 233 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D. C., and her initial reaction was that she was 'a little bit surprised' but liked it.

"The only critical note is sounded by Mrs. Charles Nelson, a housewife, of 6508 Central Ave., Maryland Heights, Md.

"It sounds very natural', she says. 'I always have the radio on at hom. But I like to hear the news reports and they're not loud enough. Just loud enough to tempt you.'

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G.E. INTRODUCES NEW TELEVISION-RADIO-PHONO FOR \$695

General Electric is shipping a new television-radio-phonograph console (Model 820) which will list in the east for \$695. Features of this entertainment console include a 12-1/2 inch aluminized picture tube, automatic phonograph for long-playing and standard records played from a single tone arm with detachable heads, and FM and AM radio.

The aluminized television tube produces an image said to be about 80 per cent brighter than that appearing on conventional picture tubes under the same conditions.

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BOB TAPLINGER, PUBLICITY ACE, SEEKS NEW FIELDS TO CONQUER

Formation of a national organization for public relations to be known as Robert S. Taplinger and Assoc. was announced last week by Robert S. Taplinger. The company is being established in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. It is representing top national accounts in both industrial and entertainment fields.

The organization last week opened its West Coast headquarters located temporarily at 9507 Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, until Spring when the firm's permanent offices will be completed.

Mr. Taplinger is currently in his Chicago office for a week's stay and then will go on to New York to set up the organization in that city. Subsequently he plans to divide his time between the three cities.

Mr. Taplinger had offices in these cities until 1937 when he was shifted to Hollywood by Warner Brothers to head its publicity department. Previously he was publicity manager for the Columbia Broadcasting System in New York.

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HOPE'S MONTH TRIP GROSSES NEARLY \$600,000

The Bob Hope troupe returns to Los Angeles for its regular broadcast, after a tour of 33 cities in as many days grossing between \$550,000 and \$600,000, according to estimates of the Hollywood Reporter. Hope also performed at six matinees and countless benefit shows for the March of Dimes and Heart Associations.

The tour broke all previous Hope records, and is probably an all-time high for show business. Playing arenas, football stadiums, fight palaces as well as theatres, the show had a top as high as \$6.10 and \$5.20 and played to some 300,000 people. They grossed \$27,000 in Miami, \$32,000 in Boston, \$33,000 in St. Louis and \$26,000 in Kansas City. The average for the last two weeks was \$140,000 per week. Hope used a Mainliner United Airlines DC-6 for the tour, one which was named in his honor, Mainliner Bob Hope. He does a final show and broadcast preview in Oakland tonight and returns tomorrow after laying over in San Francisco.

Beginning on January 5th right after his broadcast and three days after the troupe returned from Germany, Hope and company played Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Pennsylvania Massachusetts, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, and returned via Texas and California. Hope broadcast from Houston, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Kansas City, Mo.

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PROPOSED LABOR ACT AMENDMENTS UNFAIR TO LABOR, NAB CHARGES

Proposed amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act are not equally fair to radio, which has problems involving talent and creative effort not shared by manufacturing and similar fields, a representative of the National Association of Broadcasters told the House Education and Labor Committee Tuesday.

Richard P. Doherty, NAB Employee-Employer Relations Department Director, in a statement submitted to the Wage and Hour Subcommittee of the House group, recommended changes that would:

- ...eliminate the basing of overtime payments on regular salaries plus talent fees;
- ...clarify the meaning of "regular rate of pay" by excluding premium pay;
- ...allow child actors and performers to be exempted from the child labor sections of the Act;
- ...and provide for approval of guaranteed annual employment plans by the Wage and Hour Administrator in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Doherty's statement pointed out that the bill under consideration specifically provides for employment of minors under properly regulated conditions in motion pictures and theaters, as well as in newspaper-delivery work.

"However", it added, "Section 13(d) does not grant to children the same opportunities in radio and television. This is obviously an oversight. Talented youngsters have always derived genuine employment benefits and opportunities from the field of radio broadcasting. Television is now rapidly expanding as a potentially important medium for even greater opportunities for such youngsters."

Turning to overtime pay regulations, Mr. Doherty asserted that prevailing regulations are unfair in requiring that overtime be paid on average hourly earnings as computed by adding all talent fees received by an employee to the regular weekly salary.

"Because the rate at which talent fees are characteristically paid averages three to five times (sometimes much higher) the regular hourly rate of pay", he said, "prevailing regulations are harmful to both the employee and employer. Faced with excessively high overtime obligations (based on talent fees plus regular weekly salary) employers are reluctant to assign announcers to additional fee programs if the time involved results in work beyond 40 hours a week."

The NAB statement also asked that extra compensation or premium pay, as determined by the Administrator, be excluded from pay used as a base for figuring overtime pay.

Mr. Doherty pointed out that radio broadcasting is "typically characteristic" of industries in which lump sum payments are made for certain types of work performed outside normal weekly work periods, or on normal days off. He suggested that the term "premium

pay", added to the already-covered term, "premium rates of pay", would clarify the bill's overtime provisions in this field.

"Radio broadcast stations and networks", he said, "broadcast seven days a week although the typical prevailing employee work-week is five days per week of 40 hours, or six days per week. Consequently, unlike many manufacturing plants, mercantile establishments, etc., all station employees do not have the same assigned work schedule."

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HOLLYWOOD-RADIO-VISION SCHOOL DOES SOME EXPLAINING TO FTC

Universal Radio-Vision Training Corp., 1025 North Highland Ave., Hollywood, and its officers have filed an answer with the Federal Trade Commission denying charges of misrepresenting a home study course in electronics, radio and television.

Charging violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act, the complaint alleged that the respondents "are making numerous false, deceptive and misleading statements and representations" with respect to the advantages and benefits to be derived from their course of instruction.

Except for admitting dissemination of some of the challenged advertising, the respondents limited their answer to a denial of the material allegations of the complaint. They requested permission, however, to file an amended and amplified answer.

Hearings will be held in due course.

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NEW 26 POUND 7-INCH TUBE \$149.50 PORTABLE TELEVISION SET

A seven-inch direct view tube portable television with a built-in antenna to retail at \$149.95 was introduced in New York Tuesday by Tele-tone Radio Corporation. The set is said to be the only portable on the market with a built-in antenna and is priced \$50 below other 7-inch portables, according to S. W. Gross, President.

The receiver weighs only twenty-six pounds, making it the lightest portable in production, Mr. Gross added. The company also introduced a ten-inch direct view tube table model to list for \$219.95. A sixty-three square inch picture is provided by using a round screen. The set is the lowest priced ten-inch tube unit with a sixty-three square inch picture and undersells nearly all ten-inch tube models, Mr. Gross declared.

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SCISSORS AND PASTE

"Better Than Being There", Wolters Sees Inaugural From Chi (Larry Wolters, Radio & Television Editor, "Chicago Tribune")

Some reflections on the telecast of the inauguration of President Truman and the parade:

More persons witnessed the events of the day through TV, than saw all the previous inaugurations from Washington through Roosevelt. One commentator estimated the number of TV viewers at 20 million, approximately the same size of the radio audience that tuned in the first broadcast inauguration - that of Calvin Coolidge.

The video audience, however, got a much better understanding of the inaugural than that first radio audience did some 20 years ago. The televiewers saw history in the making; the radio audience merely heard it described by eyewitnesses.

To anyone acquainted at all in Washington television gave a sense of real participation -- of being there. In fact, it was better than being there because of the many points of camera pickup.

The gathering of the crowd in the stands was full of interest. Now and then viewers were able to identify notables in the crowd before the commentators spotted them. Our viewing circle spotted Gen. Eisenhower in an open car before the announcers identified him.

The ceremony of the inaugural itself was transmitted in all its detail. Televiewers could see better than anyone except the closest of the audience in the stands.

As always in a special event of this nature there were distractions. In the background behind the principal actors were many poker faced individuals. A few smiled but many others appeared frozen. And perhaps they actually were.

Usually it is women's hats that hold the center of interest. On this occasion it was those of the man - silk toppers in great profusion, some with light bands; homburgs, soft felt, the vizored gear of the military and the plumed pieces of the diplomats. Amidst this welter of male headgear the women didn't have a chance.

Some of the most interesting shots were those of President Truman and Vice President Barkley in the reviewing stand. These showed them in informal moods, apparently totally unaware of the cameras. At least they betrayed no traces of any self consciousness.

In the reviewing stand Mrs. Truman's face was often obscured by the American flag.

The outstanding scene stealer was the Dalmatian dog attached to the Los Angeles county sheriff's posse as they marched in the parade. At a command from his master he sat up or rolled over again and again.

Everything considered television on inauguration did its most impressive job to date. It brought millions of persons a chance to see history in the making.

The thousands of children and teachers who witnessed the telecast as well as the millions in other walks of life must have been impressed with the educational potential of this new medium.

No Transcontinental TV Net Planned Yet, Says A. T. & T.
("Hollywood Reporter")

There are no plans at present for a transcontinental television network, officials of the A. T. & T. stated in New York in an interview with the Reporter. The four TV networks, queried by the telephone company as to their cable requirements for transmission to the Coast, have failed to reply up to this time. The Bell System is ready to develop Coast-to-Coast network facilities depending on the needs of the video industry but will call for considerable advance notice - up to two years - to complete the work.

As an example, the phone company required 15 to 18 months' notice to complete a 250-mile length between St. Louis and Memphis. More than two years were consumed in constructing the 800-mile cable linking New York and Chicago, it was pointed out, despite utilization of some existing long-distance phone facilities.

Work will be started this year, however, on a regional coaxial cable to provide TV service between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The phone company will also install in 1949 an extra channel between New York and Washington, another between Milwaukee and Madison, and by June, two additional Westbound channels to Chicago will supplement the current link now used in either direction.

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Survey Says Four Networks Gave Away \$4,297,557

A total of \$4,297,557 in prizes was distributed on programs on the four major radio networks in 1948, the Billboard said last weeks.

The trade publication said that total was arrived at in a survey of 54 give-away programs. Sam Chase, writer of the article, described the survey as "a most conservative estimate based on real, rather than quoted values."

The Billboard gave this breakdown of 1948 give-aways by networks: Mutual, \$1,430,372; CBS, \$1,371,695; ABC, \$1,021,290 and NBC, \$474,200.

Could Frank Buy It?
("Washington Post")

During the General Motors preview show Frank Stanton, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and Nile S Trammell, President of the National Broadcasting Company, admired an expensive car.

"Plan on buying it, Frank?" asked Trammell.
Stanton replied: "If I do, I'll have to sell Jack Benny first."

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::: _____ :::
::: TRADE NOTES :::
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Metropolitan Washington now has 34,200 television sets installed and operating, it was announced on February 1, 1949, by the Washington Television Circulation Committee.

The Committee derives its estimates from monthly television set sales figures furnished by the Washington Electric Institute to which are added the number of sets and kits sold by dealers and distributors who are not Electric Institute members.

These figures are cross checked by comparison with quarterly sales reports issued by the Radio Manufacturers' Association and by frequent cross-section polling of the metropolitan area to determine the percentage of Washington families owning sets. These cross-sections of the population are selected by the area sampling method. The Committee's reports include only television sets which are actually installed and operating.

The U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, The National Association of Broadcasters, and The Radio Manufacturers' Association will give a luncheon honoring four national winners of the "Voice of Democracy" contest Wednesday, February 23rd, at the Hotel Statler.

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President of the National Council of Negro Women, has withdrawn her sponsorship from a Civil Rights rally scheduled for Washington this week.

Sponsors for the rally include Henry A. Wallace and Mrs. Virginia Durr, wife of ex-FCC Commissioner Durr. Mrs. Durr was the unsuccessful Progressive Party candidate for Senator from Virginia in November. Other sponsors listed are Representatives Adam Clayton Powell and Vito Marcantonio of New York, singer Paul Robeson and music critic Deems Taylor.

R. S. Yeandle, General Electric television engineer will leave this country on February 10th for a six-week tour of South America, to encourage the adoption of U. S. television standards in Latin American countries.

Action by State Motor Vehicle Departments prohibiting television in motor vehicles because of its hazard to driving safety was recommended last week by the American Optometric Association.

"Inasmuch as vision is a primary requirement of safe driving, anything which distracts the attention of the driver is a potential cause of death and accidents", said Dr. John B. O'Shea, president. "Television in view of the driver would be a distraction which should be prohibited. It could become one of the most serious driving hazards in the history of automobiles."

Dr. O'Shea said that television for occupants of the rear seat of an automobile might provide an interesting diversion for passengers, and should not be prohibited, but television in the front seat could probably not be controlled without prohibitive action by the several States.

Dan Regan, former newspaperman, has been appointed to the public relations staff of the Television Broadcasters' Association, Inc., Will Baltin, Secretary-Treasurer, has announced.

Prior to World War II, Mr. Regan had worked in the newsroom of the American Broadcasting Company and NBC in Washington, D. C. He had also been on the staff of the United Press and Transradio Press Service before going into service. Following the war he spent two years in Europe as Berlin Bureau Chief of the Stars & Stripes magazine, "Week-end", and also as Director of Public Relations for the American Red Cross in Italy.

The Senate District Committee Tuesday unanimously approved the bill of Chairman J. Howard McGrath (D) of Rhode Island, to let Washington, D. C. have daylight saving time every Summer. Mr. McGrath said he would ask Senate approval of the measure at the first opportunity.

The bill would authorize the District Commissioners to put daylight saving time into effect each year from the last Sunday of April to the last Sunday of September.

The licensing justices in Liverpool, England, decided Tuesday that the corner pub must remain British. That means no juke boxes, the United Press reports.

Mrs. E. M. Jones, pub licensee, wanted to introduce one, and explained at length what it is. The box she wanted to install had to be converted to British peculiarities. It had to be adjusted to take three British pennies instead of one nickel.

"Too loud", said the police.

The licensing justices pondered and said no juke boxes.

Dr. William Littell Everitt, head of the University of Illinois Department of Electrical Engineering, will be the principal speaker at this year's National Association of Broadcasters' Engineering Conference at Chicago, April 6-9.

During the late war, Dr. Everitt was Director of the Operational Research Staff, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army. He was given the Exceptionally Meritorious Civilian Award for this and other wartime engineering work.

Since the adoption of the revised Part 2 of the Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations, "Rules Governing Frequency Allocations and Radio Treaty Matters", numerous inquiries concerning the new system of call signs, as well as the new service classifications and terminologies, have been received at the Commission which issued a public notice, to inform all concerned as to the procedure to be followed in making the changeover required by the new rules in compliance with agreements reached at the International Telecommunication and Radio Conferences, Atlantic City, 1947. It states:

Radio stations classified in Part 2 as broadcasting stations (except auxiliaries) are not involved except as to matters of terminology used in authorizations. Amateur stations, coast stations (except for coastal telephone stations in the territory of Alaska), and ship stations (already changed over) will likewise be affected only as to matters of terminology in their licenses.

Policies in assigning calls to broadcasting stations will be those heretofore in effect.

FEB 17 1949

W. EST. BRAMMELL



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February 16, 1949

OWN VOICE MAY DOOM AXIS SALLY; RADIO RECORDINGS TRAP HER

Add to radio's wartime accomplishments the unprecedented use to which it has been put in the trial for treason of Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, 48 years old, born in Portland, Maine, who was better known as "Axis Sally". Little did Miss Gillars suspect that sitting quietly in what appeared to be a modest home in Silver Hill, Maryland, almost in the shadow of Washington, was a group of Federal Communications Commission monitors, not only listening to everything she said but transcribing it for future reference. If the government had anticipated just such a trial as is now being given to "Axis Sally" it could not have prepared for it better. There were something like 30 of these deadly recordings made, the first of which so affected "Axis Sally" that when she heard her own voice played back for the first time, she fainted.

It would seem that hearing a defendant actually say what she was charged with saying would be sufficient evidence. However, treason trials are different - the hardest kind in the world in which to convict, due to the fact that in treason two witnesses to each "overt act" are required. Thus far the required number has testified to 3 of the 10 acts charged to Miss Gillars. However, the radio angle is so new in a court of law it is still a question of how important a part as really hearing the defendant's broadcasts may play. It is one of the first trials in this country where those in the court room have been equipped with headphones and regardless of the legal standing of the recordings, the effect upon the listeners as well as the prisoner hearing the rebroadcasts, has at times been almost startling.

Radio likewise came into the case when prospective jurors were asked, among other questions:

"Do any of you listen to the broadcasts of Walter Winchell?" At this eight arose. Another question was, "Do any of you listen to Drew Pearson?" Mr. Pearson's percentage was slightly higher as 13 arose. Still another question was "Have any of you listened to the German or Shortwave radio during the war?" Nobody stood up at this.

Specifically, Miss Gillars is charged with broadcasting a propaganda line under the name of "Midge at the Mike", calculated to make Americans, especially soldiers, feel that the war was a conspiracy against the best interests of the United States at a time when a deadly struggle with the Axis was in progress.

Miss Gillars caused some excitement last week by suing Austine Cassini, a newspaper columnist, now Mrs. William Randolph Hearst, Jr. for \$100,000. Mrs. Hearst charged, among other things, that Miss Gillars was allowed to go to restaurants outside of the District Jail for her meals. Miss Gillars retorted that evidently the newspaper people didn't know she had permission to do this.

In one of the records intercepted by FCC monitors in 1933 and 1934, the feminine voice beamed at our troops on the battlefield in Germany said:

"I wonder if she isn't running around with '4-Fs' back home . . ." and "they'll (United States troops) just get kind of woozy and would like to throw down those little old guns and toddle off home. Well, it would be the right thing for them to do after all, because they're certainly not making any headway in the sector right now . . ."

And the Voice, as reproduced, told an anxious American mother that her son's leg had been amputated and "how little did she ever dream that she'd be asked to sacrifice him for Roosevelt and his Jewish cohorts . . ."

That "Axis Sally" posed as a Red Cross worker in soliciting interviews with wounded American soldiers for broadcast over the Nazi propaganda radio, was testified by Gilbert Hansford, 27 year old veteran, of the 29th Division, now living in Cincinnati.

A Government witness, Hans von Richter, himself a former German radio official and former Nazi, identified the voice of the woman on the broadcast as the voice of Miss Gillars.

Von Richter told the jury he remembered the broadcast in which Miss Gillars, dubbed "Axis Sally" by American GI's, allegedly beamed Nazi propaganda to United States troops overseas and to American homes.

"What was the purpose of the broadcasts?" asked John M. Kelley, Jr., chief prosecutor.

In clipped, Prussian accents, Von Richter replied: "To make the people of the United States not to follow the policies of the (Roosevelt) administration and their war effort."

Ulrich Haupt, a German actor, who said he was born in Chicago, identified the voice of Evelyn as Miss Gillars' on 38 occasions, while he said he could not identify it 34 other times.

A general example of the broadcasts follow:

(Music "Pack Up Your Troubles in the Old Kit Bag")

"Hello Gang: This is Midge, calling the American Expeditionary Forces with their 'Home Sweet Home' program."

"Well, kids, you know I'd like to say to you 'Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag', but I know that that little old kit bag is much too small to hold all the trouble you kids have got. But maybe for the next half hour we've got some music that will help you forget them a little bit . . ."

(There followed a short interval of dance music.)

The Voice continued: ". . . I think now it's Jack's turn. He's got the moments for you, blue moments that would only disappear if you could have honey around. Well, maybe you'll be lucky enough one day. You never can tell."

(There followed a song "Blue Moments" with a crooner emphasizing the theme "If you're loving someone else. . .")

Then the Voice again: "Well I'm afraid she'll never surrender 'till you kids surrender. Well, how about it? It's not a bad idea really. After all, you're fighting - it's a tough fight, but there's no getting the Germans down. You've been trying for a long, long time now and you remember what was told to you before you went to Africa; that it would be a walkaway for you boys. Well, was it, Doesn't look that way . . . forces . . . better hold tight...

(Playing of song "Hold Tight")

The Voice: "Gee, I'm afraid, Dick (Dick had been introduced as the band leader) you'll be giving them . . . some very bad ideas. They'll just get all kind of woozy and would like to throw down those little old guns and toddle off home. Well, that would be the right thing for them to do after all because they're certainly not making any headway in the sector right now . . . Gee, I'd never have a war if I could do anything to prevent it and I think most women are like that.

"Well, maybe not Dorothy Thompson (newspaper columnist). I seem to remember she once said: 'I'd willingly sacrifice a million American boys on foreign battlefields.'" Well, Miss Thompson, if you should be listening in tonight, well, I think you, or your ilk at least, have accomplished that little feat, haven't you? And the good work is still going on."

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FCC OFFERS U.S. PROPOSAL FOR INTER-AMERICAN RADIO CONFAB

The United States has announced the date of convening at Washington, D. C. of the Fourth Inter-American Radio (FIAR) Conference to be Friday, April 1, with the provision that aeronautical radio experts of the respective delegations will meet at Washington on Tuesday, March 15, 1949, to commence work on the American Regional Plan for aeronautical mobile frequencies.

The official statement reads:

"It is customary for the Commission to ascertain the views of the public generally and to advise the Department of State with respect to frequency allocation matters such as those expected to be discussed at the forthcoming FIAR Conference.

"Attention is invited to the fact that a proposal pertinent to the revision of the Santiago (1940) allocations deals exclusively with the service-allocation of radio frequencies to services and classes of stations and does not indicate the assignment of particular frequencies to particular stations. The allocations in this proposal are those contained in the Atlantic City table of frequency allocations, or are proposals made pursuant to the Atlantic City allocations. The Atlantic City table of frequency allocations below 27.5 Mc is not now in force. It is recognized that certain stations will be out-of-band when that table becomes effective. However, before that time station assignment lists consistent with the Atlantic City allocation table must be compiled. Before final action on such lists is taken by the Commission, all interested parties will be afforded opportunity to study and comment upon proposed lists."

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CAPITAL RADIO MUSIC BUSES INCREASED; TIME 35% SOLD

More than 100 Capital Transit Company buses in Washington, D. C., will be equipped with radio receivers by April 1st. Original plans called for operation of only 20 radio-equipped buses for a period of 90 days, but initial advertiser and listener reaction has been so favorable WWDC-FM and Capital Transit Company decided to speed up installation.

More than 500 vehicles will be equipped by the end of the year and, during 1949, it is planned to install receivers in all Capital Transit buses and street cars.

WWDC-FM went on the air to the buses last Thursday with more than 35 per cent of the available time sold.

"Most people seemed to like the music they heard - waltzes and other selections of the 'dinner music' type - commented audibly on the timely announcements, about the weather, and did not wince visibly at the brief commercials", the Washington Post observed the day the radio bus music started.

"Some looked surprised when they stepped into the wired-for sound buses and looked around for the loudspeakers, six in number, which carry the programs.

"'I thought somebody had a portable radio when I got on', said Miss Maxine Wade, 22, a teletype operator, who lives at 2015 Kalorama Road, N.W. "Anyway, I think it's really nice.'

"Though the first day of the "radio runs" were on five Northeast and five Northwest buses, "they're already making requests for music", said Harry R. Stiffler, bus driver on the route from 13th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., to Chevy Chase.

"One enthusiast, Mrs. Lillie Belle Meal of 5461 Central Ave., S.E., a practical nurse, who was crocheting to a waltz at the time, said sitting in a bus now is 'just like sitting at home.'

"Mrs. George D. Drechsler, a housewife, and her mother, Mrs. M. C. Johnson, both of 7420 Lynnhurst St., Chevy Chase, said the programs were 'lovely', and did not bother them at all while they were talking.

"Radio-equipped buses can be spotted by their antennas, on the front part of the roof, explained Harold Nichols, Capital Transit inspector.

"'Then if you like them, you can get on', he said.

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FCC OKAYS TRANSFER OF UNIT WTOP

The Federal Communications Commission last week granted final authorization to The Washington Post to acquire a 55 per cent interest in WTOP from the Columbia Broadcasting System.

The FCC first approved the transfer on October 20, 1948, but added the stipulation that The Washington Post divest itself of WINX before taking over WTOP.

The Washington Post subsequently arranged to sell WINX to William Banks, Philadelphia broadcaster, for \$130,000. By FCC rules, this proposed sale must be advertised for 60 days before it is eligible for final approval, to give other interests a chance to match the bid.

Last week's amendment of the October 20 ruling permits The Washington Post to take over immediate control of the District's only 50,000 watt station. CBS will retain a 45 per cent interest, and the station will continue to carry that network's programs, as well as local originations. The newspaper is ordered to complete its sale of WINX by August 1, or surrender its license.

Officials of The Washington Post and CBS stated that details of the transfer of WTOP would be completed within one week, and that the station will thereafter be operated by a corporation to be known as WTOP, Inc. The new company will purchase WINX-FM, and use it as a frequency modulation outlet for WTOP programs.

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STUDENT "VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS" WILL MEET PRESIDENT

An appointment with President Truman and a luncheon at which Attorney General Tom C. Clark will present four scholarships are features of a week which will begin for the four young winners of the nationwide "Voice of Democracy" contest next Sunday, Feb. 20, in Washington, D. C.

The four young men, high school students who won the contest over 250,000 other students by writing and voicing the best five-minute broadcast scripts on the subject, "I Speak for Democracy", are being brought to Washington by the sponsors of the competition, the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Broadcasters and the Radio Manufacturers' Association.

The winners are Richard Caves, Everett, Ohio; Charles Kuralt, of Charlotte, N. C.; George Morgan, Jr., Hutchinson, Kans.; and Kerron Johnson, St. Paul, Minn. They will be accompanied to Washington by Mrs. W. H. Kuralt, mother of Charles; Mrs. Verna Caves, mother of Richard; Francis Campion, teacher and coach of Kerron Johnson; and George Morgan, Sr., father of George.

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GENERAL SENATE PROBE WORRIES FCC INDUSTRY; FEAR PADDLING

Apparently a full scale Senate investigation is just ahead not only for the Federal Communications Commission but for the broadcasting industry itself. This became apparent when shortly after Senators E. W. McFarland (D), of Arizona, and C. W. Tobey (R), of New Hampshire, in what seemed to be a non-political move, introduced a resolution to continue the communications probe launched in the 80th Congress, which resolution had been favorably acted upon. The measure (S. Res. 63) was ordered favorably reported by the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee last Wednesday.

The 1948 Communications Study by a subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee, composed of Senators McFarland and Tobey served as the basis of a recent report endorsing the FCC's "Blue Book" on programming, and urging a breakdown of the clears and a power ceiling of 50 kw.

Authorization for \$15,000 for expenses incidental to the investigation and powers of subpoena were asked in the 1949 McFarland-Tobey resolution.

The resolution called for "a full and complete study and investigation" of all radio telegraph and telephone communications, both domestic and international. Probers would be authorized to examine their relations to national security and international treaties and to make legislative recommendations on the basis of their findings.

Language of the resolution bore a very close resemblance to the resolution which authorized the 1948 study of communications.

Licensing practices and allocations of the FCC would be examined.

It was pointed out that the study would help Congress determine what policies the law-making body should develop on allocations due to "problems arising from unprecedented demands for frequencies."

Commenting upon the situation, a prominent man in the communications industry said:

"The fact that this resolution was sponsored by McFarland, a Democrat, and Tobey, a Republican, and unquestionably endorsed by Senator Johnson (D), of Colorado, Chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, makes it pretty evident that it is no longer a party measure. It is a major 'look-see' behind the scenes and much of interest will be revealed - maybe some of it sensational perhaps reflecting upon past officials of the FCC and bringing them back into the picture under charges."

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GENE BUCK PRESENTS FAMOUS ASCAP SONGSTERS TO ALFALFA CLUB

Each year the well known Alfalfa Club of Washington, which has just celebrated its 38th birthday, nominates its own presidential candidate. Not so long ago it was Senator Alben W. Barkley, who some day may really be president. Another good candidate would be Gene Buck, former President of the American Society of Composers, who for many years has supplied de luxe talent for the Alfalfa gatherings.

Last Saturday's gala affair was no exception. Under the direction of Mr. Buck, popular songs of the past fifty years were sung and played by their own authors in a program presented by ASCAP.

"Sweet Adeline" was sung by Harry Armstrong, who wrote it fifty years ago. He told the Alfalfa guests his song could be sung as a solo, duet, trio or quartet, standing up or falling down.

"Underneath the Bamboo Tree" and "My Castle on the Nile" were sung and played by J. Rosamond Johnson, survivor of the famous composer team.

"The Memphis Blues" and the "St. Louis Blues" were presented by 75-year-old William Christopher Handy. He played "St. Louis Blues" on his muted cornet.

Fred Ahlert, President of ASCAP, played and sang his hits: "When the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day", "I'll Get By", and others.

In addition to authors and composers of old-time favorites were some of the newest members of the society: Herbert Shriner, CBS comedian; Sid Stone, pitch man on the Milton Berle show and the De Lovely Sisters quartet.

The Alfalfa Club holds a dinner each year to celebrate the virtues of the plant which goes the furthest for moisture. Its membership has included presidents, vice presidents, cabinet members and other distinguished persons.

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CBS GETS McCARTHY, SIXTH "NAME" PROGRAM

The Columbia Broadcasting System acquired its sixth new "name" program last week - the Edgar Bergen-Charlies McCarthy show.

Bergen will move to CBS next Fall. The program will be heard Sunday from 8 to 8:30 P.M. (EST).

Bergen's switch from NBC to CBS followed those of "Amos 'n' Andy", Jack Benny, Red Skelton and Ozzie and Harriet Nelson. Bing Crosby is switching to CBS from the American Broadcasting Co. next Fall.

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I.T.& T. CONFIRMS FARNSWORTH DEAL; EYE REPORTED ON OTHERS

International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation and Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation have confirmed the fact that an agreement in principle had been reached for the acquisition by I. T. & T. of the Farnsworth Company on the basis of one share of I. T. & T. stock for each twelve shares of the 1,680,568 shares of Farnsworth stock outstanding.

"It is expected that this will take the form of a sale of all the assets of Farnsworth subject to its stated liabilities", the statement continues. "Pending consummation of the sale, I. T. & T. will make a \$1,000,000 secured advance to Farnsworth to enable that company to pay certain of its obligations and to replenish its working capital. The agreement of sale will be subject to the approval by vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding stock of Farnsworth, to certain other conditions and to approval of counsel for the respective parties as to legal matters."

In announcing this entry of I. T. & T. into the television receiver field, it was stated that if the sale is consummated, the I. T. & T. expects to continue manufacturing operations at Fort Wayne and the national Capehart Distributor and Dealer organizations which have been built up over many years.

Sources close to I. T. & T., according to the New York Times, said that this first venture into the field of manufacture of television receivers would soon be followed by others, with mention made of Raytheon Manufacturing Company, the Admiral Corporation, and Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corporation.

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COY, FCC, STANTON, CBS, STOCKTON, AC&W, WHITE HOUSE CALLERS

President Truman had several visitors last week connected with the radio and communication industries.

First there was Wayne Coy, FCC Chairman, and later Frank Stanton, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System. One guess was that the President was trying to persuade Chairman Coy to remain on the Commission, and another that Coy was discussing the proposed Senate investigation continuance as it might affect the FCC.

Mr. Stanton was supposed to have called on Mr. Truman to give Chairman Coy a boost and to express the hope that he remain.

The third visitor was Kenneth Stockton, President of the American Cables & Wireless Co. He was accompanied by Ex-Senator Burton K. Wheeler, of Montana, Washington counsel for I. T. & T.

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PAUL PORTER RAPS FEDERAL LOYALTY CHECK

Paul Porter, ex-Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, now in law practice, came into the news two ways this week (a) by denouncing the Federal Service loyalty check, and (b) by being engaged by the Western Union to assist in the fight on the 25% excise tax on telegrams.

Addressing the National Citizens Conference on Civil Liberties, Mr. Porter declared that the Government loyalty program should be abolished.

He predicted that this program "would in the end leave the Federal service merely a haven for mediocrity and those without ideas."

"Let's face it frontally, and not accept an area of compromise on an issue that does not admit of compromise", he said.

He advocated that the question of security be turned over to the heads of agencies, and that the heads of the so-called "sensitive" agencies receive broad powers to dismiss.

Mr. Porter made many charges against the Government's system of investigating the associations of employees suspected of having or informed upon as having, or having had, Communistic connections. He said that capable people had declined Federal service because of this program. Its origin, he charged, was political - an action that was intended "to say in an election year that the executive would do a better job of witch-hunting than Congress."

"It was destined not to succeed", he added. "No one has a right to Federal employment but Federal employees have a right to be citizens, without thought control and the poking of fingers into people's minds and beliefs and pasts. The past as a criterion for the future is in itself an un-American concept.

"Very alarming is the chain reaction which has been set up in the Federal employment system. One investigation leads to another. Individuals who have served the Government with the ability and distinction are on the list of those derogatory to serve with.

"Guilt by association is in itself a complete violation of the American concept. The sooner the 'loyalty apparatus' is dismantled, the sooner it is turned over to those who have professional experience, the sooner we will have a Federal service free of malice, suspicion, gossip and innuendo."

He termed the entire operation of the loyalty program "a competition between bureaucrats and politicians as to who can find the most Communists", and said he had never known a case in which there had been an overt act, such as must be proved in the case of treason, yet he held that disloyalty was almost as damning a charge as treason so far as the individual's place in the community was concerned.

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TAFT PLAYS SECOND FIDDLE TO GENE AUTRY

Even Senator Bob Taft, of Ohio, once headed for the Republican presidential nomination, got a laugh out of this one.

As told by Claude Mahoney, ace Washington CBS Washington news commentator, who hails from Indiana, the Senator's adjoining State, while Mr. Taft was appearing on the "People's Program" at Station WTOP in the Capital, Gene Autry, super-duper radio cowboy was rehearsing in a nearby studio.

Some bobby-sox fans had seeped into the building seeking Mr. Autry's autograph. When Senator Taft came out, they pounced on him asking if the Senator had seen Autry. When informed that he had not, one of the bobbies asked:

"Were you on the radio?"

"Yes", the distinguished statesman replied, with modesty of course.

Whereupon the bobby-soxer followed with:

"What do you do - sing?"

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SOUTH DAKOTA PRESS AIDS BROADCASTERS IN RADIO LIBEL LAW

An amended radio bill is expected to pass the South Dakota Legislature - minus a section relieving broadcasters of liability for defamation in political campaign speeches.

South Dakota newspapermen were successful in their determined fight against the objectionable section, which was deleted after a public hearing in which the press attacked it. A compromise was agreed upon.

As it now stands, the bill provides that radio owners or operators will not be liable for damages for defamatory statements by radio or video unless it can be proved they didn't exercise due care.

Two other sections of the bill were deleted - one in the committee, and one - the political defamation section - on the floor of the Senate.

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A new music service from WIBW-FM is being piped into the Capper Publications Building, 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. daily.

Both the broadcasting station and the company are headed by Ex-Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas.

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TWENTY MORE DEATHS IN ECUADOR "MARS RAIDERS"; ANOTHER HOAX HERE

According to the latest reports from Ecuador, salvage crews combing the ruins of the riot-wrecked El Comercio "Radio Quito" building uncovered 20 charred bodies, and it was feared that the death toll would mount as the search progressed.

Police announced they had arrested 15 persons.

The bodies were those of victims of Saturday night's rioting, touched off by a local copy of Orson Welles' famous "Men from Mars" broadcast.

The radio dramatization of H. G. Wells' "War of the Worlds" caused widespread panic in the Quito area and when it was revealed as a hoax, furious Ecuadoreans stormed and burned the building housing the radio station and publishing facilities for two newspapers.

This is how the show was staged over Radio Quito:

The usual musical program was interrupted by an announcer saying, "Here is an urgent piece of late news."

This was followed by a vivid description of an invasion by an enemy that approached Quito in the shape of a cloud after destroying the neighboring town of Latacunga, twenty miles to the south.

Then the announcer said:

"The air base of Mariscal Sucre has been taken by the enemy and it is being destroyed. There are many dead and wounded. It is about to be wiped out."

The voice personifying the Government Minister asked the citizens to be calm "in order to be able to organize the defense and evacuation of the city."

At this point the "Mayor" arrived. He said: "People of Quito, let us defend our city. Our women and children must go out into the surrounding heights to leave the men free for action and combat."

The voice of a priest begging for divine mercy in the catastrophe was heard.

A recording of the church bells of Quito sounding an alarm was played. The announcer said that from microphones set up in the tower of La Previsora, tallest building in Quito, he could see a monster approaching from the north engulfed in fire and smoke.

That was the high point of the broadcast. People began fleeing from their homes and running through the streets. Many were clad only in night clothing.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATORS ADVISED TO USE TELEVISION, NOT FIGHT IT

Characterizing this country as a "Sit Down" America, Dean Kenneth Bartlett of Syracuse University, got out of the usual convention groove by admonishing the delegates of the New York State Association for Health:

"You people have never had so much competition as you have today, for you want people to do things, but they just want to sit and watch a television screen.

"This city's first television station started operating only recently, but, already, children are putting their sleds away early to see television shows.

"Instead of trying to fight the new medium, however, educators should try to make use of it for it offers them unparalleled opportunities.

"There is bound to be a popularization of many non-spectator sports", he held. "Among these will probably be lacrosse, soccer, high school baseball, certain types of gymnastics. These are going to receive more attention in the future. This can help you sell your program if you will take advantage of it."

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FMA TO HOLD TIME SALES CLINIC IN NEW YORK APRIL 1

The FM Association announced last week that plans are under way for an "FM Times Sales Clinic" to be held in New York City, Friday, April 1, 1949.

William E. Ware, FMA president, said the chief objective of the clinic "is to fill in some of the blanks in current thinking and appreciation of FM coverage and of its effectiveness as a sales-producing medium."

Radio time buyers, advertising agency representatives, advertising managers and others interested in FM will be invited to attend the time sales clinic.

In announcing the clinic, Mr. Ware said "in the absence of measurements report of the Hooper and BMB type on listenership and coverage patterns for FM, we feel there is widespread lack of understanding and perspective on the present status of FM."

Mr. Ware pointed to the fact that there was a 35 percent increase in FM set production in 1948, contrasted with a decline in AM set production.

"We don't happen to believe", Mr. Ware concluded, "that anything as modern as FM radio or as reliable as the human ear is going to become obsolete, even if people's eyes do become distended while watching for the promises of television."

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SCISSORS AND PASTE

Police Use Radar Speed Trap; Most Everybody Pleads Guilty
("New York Times")

Speeders in this village (Garden City, Long Island) have been reacting quite differently for the last year when told to "pull over". But then again, they are being detected quite differently - by radar.

Thus, instead of being pursued, they drive right into the law's hands. A policeman steps out in front of them and motions them aside.

Some motorists are so defiant as to say, "How do you know I was speeding?"

That's the \$64 question so far as Patrolman Arthur Fredericks of this village is concerned. He's the motorcycle policeman who has been assigned to radar duty. Anticipating it, he replies, blandly: "We clocked you."

"How could you clock me when you were standing here ahead of me?"

"Radar!"

The motorist is completely surprised. Some still don't believe and ask to be shown proof.

Patrolman Fredericks then takes them back some 200 feet to a car parked at the side of the road and facing in the same direction in which the violator had been driving. The motorist, if he hadn't been speeding, perhaps would have noticed its trunk compartment half open and would have thought the driver was getting ready to fix a flat.

The trunk compartment contains radar equipment, and the hatch is left half open to permit the apparatus to function. The equipment picks up the suspected car 175 feet away and keeps it in the radar path until the approaching car is abreast of the parked car.

Inside this ordinary patrol car sits a policeman watching a radar-actuated pen record the speed of the approaching car on graph paper.

When the graph "peaks" to forty miles an hour or more, the policeman radio-telephones to another patrol car 200 feet ahead, giving the license number of the violator.

Several hundred warnings and about twenty summonses have been issued thus far as a result of radar detection. All those who have been summoned to court have pleaded guilty.

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"Movies Which Can't Lick TV, Must Join It", Samuel Goldwyn

In five to ten years one segment of the motion picture industry will be producing feature pictures for exhibition in theatres while another equally large section will be producing them for showing in homes via television, Samuel Goldwyn predicts in an article "Hollywood in the Television Age", published in yesterday(s) (February 13) New York Times magazine. Movies, which cannot lick video, must join it, and the combination should result in mutual profit and greater entertainment for the public, he opines.

Phonevision may well be the key to full participation by the motion picture industry in video, according to Mr. Goldwyn. This device has the greatest potentialities for financial returns made for television, he says. However, he notes that while Phonevision seems ready for commercial adaptation today it will be many years before production of features for TV becomes practical because of the huge investment required and the need for reasonable assurance of cost recovery.

Convinced that television will cause Hollywood to achieve new heights, Goldwyn declares that the industry must turn out better pictures than the present average. He names "Joan of Arc", "The Snake Pit", "Portrait of Jennie", "Johnny Belinda", "The Search", and "Miss Tatlock's Millions" as proof that Hollywood has great creative capacities and cites them as the type of films which will have to be the norm in the future.

Features made primarily for television will differ chiefly in technique variation, as Mr. Goldwyn sees the future. There will be a greater emphasis on story values, a return to a lustier, broader type of acting, pacing will be more rapid and running time will be limited to an hour.

"The range of possibilities which television opens to motion picture producers is almost limitless", Mr. Goldwyn says, "for every television owner becomes just as much a boxoffice prospect inside his home as outside it."

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Harry Broadcasts Rival's Fire But Tells Him First
(Leonard Lyons in "Washington Post")

Capt. Harry Butcher, who was General Eisenhower's naval aide at the time Ed Kennedy, the Associated Press correspondent, was ousted for breaking the armistice story prematurely, now owns a radio station in Santa Barbara, Calif.

His rivalry with Kennedy still exists, for Kennedy is managing editor of a newspaper in Santa Barbara - a paper which owns the competing radio station.

Butcher, staring out of his office window, suddenly saw a cloud of smoke curling from the roof of the rival's building. He stifled the temptation to let it burn, telephoned Ed Kennedy about the fire, and then broadcast a description of the blaze, over his own radio station.

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Pollsters Claim Election Miscue Didn't Hurt Them

Speakers at the Iowa State University Conference on opinion research, Dr. George H. Gallup and Archibald M. Crossley said their miss on the November election had not affected their business. Dr. Gallup said that only "a handful" of newspapers had cancelled contracts and that they were renewing rapidly. He said he had at least two newspaper clients since the election.

Mr. Crossley reported new marketing research clients since Nov. 2. He said he was not planning any more political polls at this time.

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 ::: TRADE NOTES :::
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The Army has developed a portable teletypewriter so light that one man can carry it on a parachute jump. The new teletypewriter weighs only 45 pounds, will operate on both wire and radio circuits and is waterproof.

The Mutual Broadcasting System announced on Tuesday that it would try to bar all "professional" quiz program contestants. The network said there are more than 400 of these "regular" contestants who "are not interested in the educational and entertainment value of quiz shows but only have a desire to win valuable prizes."

A new glass for television picture tubes containing no lead, thereby reducing the weight of the bulb more than 15 per cent, has been developed by Corning Glass Works, William C. Decker, president, said last week. Full-scale production will begin immediately to allow extensive manufacturing and service tests. As the new glass contains no lead, the bulbs will be less costly to produce, as well as lighter.

Washington's newest television station, WOIC, will enter daytime programming with a special feature to be carried during the 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. period daily, starting Monday, February 21.

RCA has a new universal transmitter control console, capable of providing centralized control of all mixing and primary switching operations for AM, FM, and television transmitters.

RCA's new model BTC-1A console, already in use by several of the nation's latest broadcasting stations, introduces a unique "block type" construction, styled and finished to match RCA's TF, FM and AM transmitters and auxiliary equipment. Up to nine different types of "blocks" or sections may be selected and bolted together in various combinations to form a console capable of satisfying the requirements of one or more transmitters of any type.

Station WNHC-TV, New Haven, Conn., has signed an interconnected television affiliation contract with the National Broadcasting Company. This addition increases the number of stations receiving NBC network telecasts "live" to 16.

Philco, as a manufacturer, will continue to give servicemen all possible help in the form of technical training, information and field engineering but will not usurp the serviceman's job, declared James M. Skinner, Jr., Vice President - Service and Parts, Philco Corporation, at a luncheon given last Sunday by the Federation of Radio Servicemen's Association of Pennsylvania.

"We are trying to help the 30,000 members of Philco Service to build their business", Mr. Skinner said, "and we have full confidence that the servicemen of America are capable of installing and taking care of our products, whether radio, television, refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners. We don't think that Philco belongs in the service business, just as we don't have company-owned retail stores."

The National Broadcasting Company last week filed with the Federal Communications Commission an application for an experimental ultra-high frequency television station which will be erected in the vicinity of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The application was made for the purpose of continuing the ultra-high frequency television experiments which were conducted in Washington during the last six months on NBC's Washington station, WNBW. During that experiment WNBW operated simultaneously on Channel 4, 67 mc. and on 504 mc.

The Connecticut station, if approved by the FCC, will operate at 529 mc. with an output of 1,000 watts power. Antenna gain will bring the effective radiated power up to between 15,000 and 20,000 watts.

A radio teletype circuit, designed to eliminate service interruption when ice and storms fell telegraph poles, went into operation recently, with Niagara Falls as an experimental junction.

The system linking the Evening Review in Niagara Falls, Ontario, with the Canadian Press Building in Toronto, is the first such circuit installed for commercial use by the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Company.

In the Canadian Press Building in Toronto, news stories are typed by operators on teletype keyboards and sent by wires to a "hub" in Toronto. From the "hub" the current is fed into a carrier channel which transforms the signals into an audio frequency.

This audio frequency goes to a transmitter atop the Royal York Hotel which beams waves across Lake Ontario on the 160-mega-cycle radio band to a station in Merritton. From Merritton the impulses are relayed by wire to the Canadian Pacific office in Niagara Falls, Ont., thence to the Evening Review office.

Members of the Television Advisory Committee of Holland recently paid a two-day visit to Britain to study BBC television. They were entertained at Broadcasting House, London, and at the BBC's television headquarters at the Alexandra Palace. The visitors included Dr. A. W. Schade van Westrum, representing the Netherlands Board of Education; Mr. R. Uges, representative of the Cinema Association, Holland, Mr. K. van Dijk, Director of the Netherlands Christian Broadcast Corporation, Hilversum; Dr. J.M.A. van Rooy, Burgomaster of Etten-Leur, representing the Board of Radio Affairs; Mr. E. J. Verschueron, Director of Multifilm, Ltd., Haarlem, and the secretary of the committee, Miss Verschoor.

During their visit the committee were able to watch television programs in rehearsal and transmission in the studios and study British methods of television production. They also inspected the engineering departments and scenery workshops.

In a "Fourth Estate" cartoon, Trent, the artist, shows a speaker welcoming guests at a State Press Association luncheon, and one guest saying to another:

"Any minute now, he'll get off his crack about radio advertising - 'Advertising should be seen and not heard.'"

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HEINL NEWS SERVICE

Radio — Television — FM — Communications

2400 California Street, N. W.

Washington 8, D. C.

Robert D. Heinel, Editor

Founded in 1924

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NBC GENERAL LIBRARY

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FEB 25 1949

NILES TRAMMELL

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RADIO HANDOUTS RATED LOW IN PRESS MATERIAL EVALUATION

Radio program news sent to the press has been given a very low classification in a survey made by the Journalism Department of the University of Miami.

Seventeen institutions which supply publicity were rated by editors on the basis of how often their releases are acceptable for print. A value of 3 was given for "nearly always acceptable". Detailed questionnaires were sent to the city editors of 182 dailies with circulations of 50,000 or more. Sixty-one replied.

Chambers of Commerce handouts - the most highly commended - were the first on the list. The free material sent to the newspapers by radio stations and networks stood 15th on a list of 17. The comparative ratings follow:

<u>Institutions</u>	<u>Average</u>
Chambers of Commerce	2.25
Fraternal & social groups	2.21
Professional associations (doctors, teachers, dentists, lawyers, etc.)	2.15
Special events (fairs, festivals, etc.)	2.03
Educational institutions	2.01
Labor organizations	1.84
Armed forces	1.84
Political groups	1.72
Public utility firms	1.65
Legitimate theaters	1.61
Federal Government agencies	1.42
Public relations agencies	1.35
Trade associations (textile, steel, oil, railroads, NAM)	1.35
Industrial and manufacturing concerns	1.32
Radio stations and chains	1.30
Motion picture industry	1.17
Night clubs82

Top-ranking suppliers of publicity are non-profit institutions Commercial enterprises, usually good advertisers, rate lowest, James L. Julian, Assistant Professor of Journalism, University of Miami, comments.

City editors say they receive enough unsolicited publicity handouts to fill more than half the space of their daily papers, Mr. Julian continues. However, receipt of this material does not lessen the work of their staffs, because most of the handouts are not worth printing.

Although less than 6% of this unsolicited material is usable, the majority of city editors do not want it to stop coming to their offices. Most say that handouts often suggest tips for stories to be developed with local angles by their staffs. That's why 78% prefer to have unsolicited stories continue coming to their desks.

Respondents claim they receive 10 to 500 handouts daily, the average being 77 stories.

One-third of the editors use 2% or less of the handouts. Only 7% use more than 10% of the releases.

Newsmen were asked to give the most common reasons for rejecting handouts - assuming that they had space to print them. Their replies, in order of frequency, are: limited local interest - 53; no reader interest at all - 53; story poorly written - 16; reasons of policy - 12; disguised advertising - 9; material obviously faked - 6; apparent inaccuracy in story - 5; release duplicated - 2; and material stretched too thin - 2.

Respondents claim that the above faults are found in from 25 to 99.9% of all handouts. Average of estimates is 82.4%.

What is a city editor's reaction to receiving a publicity story which accompanies an order for ad space? Here are their replies, in order of frequency: reject it unless it's news - 19; business and editorial offices separate - 9; seldom or never happens - 8; carries no weight - 4; advertising is not news - 3; resentment - 3; into wastebasket - 3; reader space not for sale - 1; gives appearance of pressure - 1; omit unless directly ordered to carry it - 1; the b-----s! - 1; bad - 1; will use reluctantly - 1; grrrrr! - 1; not handled this way - 1.

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RMA "SPRING CONFERENCE" SCHEDULED MARCH 15 AT CHICAGO

The annual "Spring Conference" of the Radio Manufacturers' Association will be held on March 15-17 at Chicago, and industry leaders will discuss a number of problems and proposals resulting from the rapid expansion in the fields of television and changing radio market conditions.

President Max F. Balcom will conduct a meeting of the RMA Board of Directors on Thursday, March 17, to pass upon varied proposals of RMA divisions and committees.

Continuation of the RMA "Radio-in-Every-Room" campaign and plans for National Radio Week in 1949 will be considered by the RMA Advertising Committee on Tuesday, March 15.

Television service problems will be discussed by the RMA Service Committee also on Tuesday, and the RMA Parts Division will organize a new Antenna Section to act on this phase of TV reception.

Set manufacturers will consider a number of proposals involving television, including expansion of RMA's statistical service on Wednesday, March 16. On the same day the Executive Committee and Section Chairmen of the Parts Division and the Executive Committee of the Amplifier & Sound Equipment Division will meet.

Plans for RMA's "Silver Anniversary" convention, scheduled for May 16-19 at Chicago will be acted upon by the Convention Committees.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. TRANSIT RADIO PLEASES SOME; GRIPES OTHERS

It is still too early to reach a definite conclusion about the radio music recently installed on Washington, D. C. buses. The Capital Transit Company and Station WWDC report that the innovation has been so favorably received that the number of buses so equipped have been tripled and that about half of the advertising time available has been sold.

Bus riders have been heard from in letters to editors of local newspapers and their reactions vary. The following is a cross-section of those received by the Washington Post;

"I'm taking this opportunity to say how very much I like the music on the buses. The other day I was fortunate enough to board a bus so equipped and feel I must express my pleasure."
- Mrs. J. F. Waple

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"The other day I rode on one of the new radio-equipped buses for the very first time. The music is really very nice - not too hot and not too, too sweet - just relaxing and pleasant to hear. If it was the commercials that worried people, now they will have to admit - commercials couldn't be taken in an easier form - very short and not too frequent."
Silver Spring, Md. - E. Gilleran

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"The complaint of Mr. G. A. Sullivan, Jr. in the Post relative to transit radio last Sunday was quite justified.

"The present hours of special programming of news and soft music for transit radio are from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M., Monday through Friday, and from 7 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Saturdays.

"Due to mechanical failure, two bus receivers have remained on past normal hours, one during the evening and one last Sunday. This failure has been corrected and both the Capital Transit Co. and ourselves have taken steps to prevent a recurrence.

"The programs which were inadvertently carried on these receivers were not designed for bus listening and, while they had entertainment value for the home listener, could on occasion be irritating to a bus rider. Certainly the 'One O'Clock Jump', to which Mr. Sullivan particularly refers, is not the type of music planned for transit riders. We are very sorry that Mr. Sullivan was unduly annoyed."

- Ben Strouse, General Manager,
WWDC-FM, Washington

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"During the battle of the installment of the transit radios, I waited. I read the pros and cons. The other morning I rode downtown to work, on a bus with this contraption installed. I can't speak for the other passengers, but I certainly will speak for myself.

"Under normal circumstances the sound of this jazzed-up trash gives me violent indigestion. But so early in the morning - ugh - I came to the office with a violently turning stomach, and swimming head. I couldn't concentrate on the paper.

"I don't think that any fairly well-educated person can take this sort of noise for as long a time as it takes the buses to go downtown in the morning, or in the evening to go uptown. It usually takes 45 minutes from the Munitions Building to Euclid St. Now with this blasted radio going - I think I'll buy myself some ear stoppers so I don't hear anything."

- William Osten

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"Not until last Sunday was I subjected to the transit radio torture which seems inevitable for all residents of Washington. I believe the Capital Transit Co. said the music would be soft and soothing so the passengers might relax and enjoy their ride. The two radio announcers who babbled at each other were bad enough, but one of the songs, which lasted 5 minutes and 40 seconds, was 'The One O'Clock Jump.'

"This, of course, is one of the loudest jazz tunes ever written, and it really was quite a wonder that not one of the windows in the bus was cracked. A look of pain and futility was all that registered on the faces of the unfortunate passengers. The Capital Transit Co. could not be using Webster's definition of relaxation soft, or enjoyable.

"I hope you will continue to fight this diabolical scheme which the Capital Transit Co. has thought up to annoy the passengers and collect money. It is also quite possible that you might frighten the D. C. Board of Commissioners out of hiding so they would prohibit such nonsense and keep to some degree the sanity and safety of the District."

- G. A. Sullivan, Jr.

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This one from the Washington Times-Herald:

"Well I had my first taste of the new advertising scheme of the Capital Transit Company anent the broadcasts on the Sixteenth Street buses.

"I boarded the bus for a few blocks' ride at Twelfth and G Streets. The first thing that attracted my attention was a raucous noise, presumably music, that must be the new bus radio.

"In about three minutes I was informed as to the time, always having a timepiece with me, I was not interested. I was then greeted by the fact that I could buy all the finest furs obtainable at a certain shop.

"The weather was then served me. In my hand I had the latest edition of the Herald so I was not interested in that. This was followed by more so-called entertaining music.

"During the past year I have finally educated my wife to not have the radio turned open when I am in the house on the penalty of my leaving for my club; am I now to be penalized by the local transportation company and be forced to listen to this tripe?"

- Passenger

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SOUTH DAKOTA PROTECTS RADIO AGAINST LIBEL; PRESS DEMURS

South Dakota is the latest State to pass a law protecting its radio stations from libel suits resulting from defamatory remarks made by speakers during broadcasts.

Gov. George T. Mickelson signed the measure which exempts stations from damages resulting from defamatory remarks broadcast by persons not associated with the stations if it is shown that the stations tried to prevent such defamation.

This trend doesn't please the newspapers as revealed by the Editor & Publisher which says that pressure groups are attempting to do on a State level what they have not been able to do on a national level. It declares these measures are unconstitutional and continues:

"The Federal Communications Commission ruled in the Port Huron Broadcasting case that under Section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934 broadcasters are forbidden to censor political broadcasts or to restrict the broadcast of libelous material contained therein. Broadcasters have reasoned, rightly, that they are caught between the Federal law and their own State libel statutes. So they are seeking legislation in the various States exempting broadcasters from liability under the libel laws in connection with political broadcasts.

"Colorado, Florida, Virginia, Wyoming, Illinois and Utah already have such libel exemptions on their statute books. The bill is now being debated in the South Dakota legislature.

"The Sioux Falls Argus-Leader has aroused the press of South Dakota and is leading the fight against the bill. The most obnoxious part was deleted after a public hearing in which the newspapers played the leading role. But in most other States this measure has been slipped over without notice or opposition.

"Why is such legislation undesirable? Because it relieves broadcasters of any responsibility for what is said over their facilities during political broadcasts. It opens the way for slander to run rampant and go unpunished, contrary to the public interest. It leaves newspapers open to charges of news suppression when things are said over the radio that a newspaper would not dare to print.

"Rather than permit such discriminatory legislation, newspapers and radio stations might better work together to amend the Communications Act. Nobody should be granted a license to destroy or assist in destroying the reputation of one another."

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STUDY ON STANDARDIZED COMMUNICATIONS ASKED

The National Securities Resources Board last week asked leaders of the communications industry to study the problem of standardizing the radio, telegraph and telephone equipment used by the various armed forces. The question was raised at a meeting of 31 industry representatives, military officials and civilian government agency spokesmen who were called together by the Board to help draw up mobilization plans for any future M-day.

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POUND WINS POETRY PRIZE; WHY CAN'T HE BE TRIED FOR TREASON?

That's the question being asked about the amazing award to Ezra Pound, an American alleged treasonable broadcaster, who last week won a \$1,000 prize, the Bollingen National Prize for Poetry, for the best poetry published in 1948.

Broadcasting during the war from Italy, and known as the American "Lord Haw Haw", Pound, born in Idaho, was indicted for treason by a grand jury in July, 1943. He was re-indicted on the same charge after he was returned to this country in November, 1945. He denied to reporters that he had betrayed his country, or that he had ever supported Mussolini. In court he angrily disavowed Fascist sympathies.

A jury decided he was incompetent to stand trial, and he was sent to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D. C. in December, 1945. Attendants there say he is still busy writing, and that recently he has been translating Confucius.

Those who believe Pound, now 63 years old, is feigning, argue that anyone who can win a national poetry prize or can translate from Confucius is competent to be tried for treason or anything else.

Pound has consistently denied the Federal Government's charge that he betrayed the United States or that he broadcast Axis attacks.

At that time, Pound was returned to this country and sarcastically told reporters. "There is an idea afloat here that I betrayed this country. If that damned fool idea is still in anybody's head, I want to wipe it out."

"What I want to know is whether anybody heard my broadcasts, and, if so, how they could have any earthly idea of what I was talking about."

The Justice Department said the time quoted excerpts from Pound's broadcasts and said "The general trend of his comments follows the familiar Axis propaganda line: that international Jewry is the root of the world's difficulties, that the United States is being used as a pawn by the British, and that the Fascist way of life is the hope of the world."

The Department also said "Pound's style as a broadcaster has much in common with his style as a writer; much of what he says is meaningless and incoherent, further complicated at times by the use of words of his own coinage."

Pound's award has caused red faces among the poets that anyone confined in a mental institution could win a national poetry prize.

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WASHINGTON POST TAKES CONTROL OVER 50 KW STATION WTOP

The Washington, (D. C.) Post last week assumed control of WTOP, Washington's most powerful radio station.

Frank Stanton, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and Philip L. Graham, President of The Washington Post Co., signed final papers last week at WTOP, completing the transfer announced May 17, 1948.

In the brief ceremony, WTOP, which has been owned by the CBS since 1932, was assigned to WTOP, Inc., a new corporation of which 55 per cent is owned by The Washington Post, and 45 per cent by CBS.

Eugene Meyer is Chairman of the Board of WTOP, Inc. and Mr. Graham is President.

Under the new arrangements, WTOP remains affiliated with CBS. Through the affiliation, the Capital's only 50,000-watt station will continue to air the familiar CBS network programs.

The Columbia network will continue to maintain a separate Washington office in the Warner Building, staffed by network personnel, with Earl H. Gammons as Vice President in Charge. This office will include the legal department, the CBS News and Public Affairs Department under Theodore F. Koop, and Country Journal program headquarters.

John S. Hayes was named General Manager of WTOP. He has been Executive Vice President of WINX, the original Washington Post station, since January 1, 1948. Mr. Hayes said:

"WTOP now enjoys a greater share of audience than any other Washington station. We plan, therefore, no major changes in policy, programs or personnel. The station has risen to leadership through the teamwork of its present staff. All of our efforts will be directed toward maintaining and extending that leadership."

The Washington Post and CBS originally announced their plans last May 17, and made application to the Federal Communications Commission last June 15. FCC permission for completion of the transaction was granted February 9, 1949.

An application to sell WINX to William A. Banks of Philadelphia for \$130,000 is now pending before the FCC. Transfer of WINX-FM to WTOP, Inc. also awaits final FCC action.

WTOP is a descendant of the small 37-watt WTFF, which became WJSV in 1927, with offices and transmitter in Alexandria, Va. WJSV was acquired by CBS in October, 1932. Its power was increased from 10,000 to 50,000 watts in 1940 when the transmitter plant was moved to Wheaton, Md. The call letters changed from WJSV to WTOP in 1943 when its position on the dial moved to 1500 kilocycles.

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TRUMAN GIVES PEARSON ANOTHER \$1,000,000 FREE ADVERTISING

President Roosevelt gave Drew Pearson a million dollars worth of free advertising when he called him a liar. President Truman surely duplicated the largesse when without naming him, he called Drew a S.O.B.

It was thought FDR had gone the limit in castigating commentators and columnists but there were those in Washington who felt President Truman had gotten down to the bottom of the barrel by inferentially dragging in the name of Mr. Pearson's mother. Already in official copies of the speech, the White House has expunged the bitter characterization.

The question has been raised as to whether or not even the President of the United States might not be sued for libel in such a case.

The writer does not recall an instance when the President has been sued for alleged slanderous remarks but remembers when President Theodore Roosevelt sued an editor of a small paper in Michigan charging that President Roosevelt had been intoxicated at a dinner.

Unlike most libel suits which are usually settled out of court, this suit came to trial and, of course, was the sensation of the country. The dinner President Theodore Roosevelt attended was in the old Arlington Hotel at Vermont Avenue and Eye Street, N.W., present site of the Veterans Administration, and just across Lafayette Park from the White House. The late "Jimmy" Sloan of the Secret Service produced a book which the Secret Service kept, which showed that the President had only been out of the Executive Mansion, I think, something like 40 minutes. Counsel for prosecution argued that even Theodore Roosevelt, as fast as he moved, could not have walked across Lafayette Square, made a speech, gotten intoxicated and walked back across the Park, a matter of three blocks, in such a small period of time. The judge in the case agreed, and the editor was found guilty but was only fined several cents.

Someone remarked that maybe General Vaughan might resign to save President Truman further embarrassment when the man he was talking to, who knew of Vaughan's apparently universal unpopularity with the Armed Services official circles, and the press and radio people, almost exploded: "I'd drop dead with surprise if he did. Every President seems to have some person to embarrass him but no President ever had one as vulnerable as this bird Vaughan."

Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, the President's Military Aide, has been criticized recently by Drew Pearson and by others for accepting a decoration from President Peron of Argentina.

The President spoke informally at a dinner given in honor of Vaughan by the Reserve Officers Association at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va. At the dinner, Vaughan received the Association's annual Minute Man Award.

Earlier speakers had praised Vaughan and referred to the criticism by Pearson. The Chief Executive took full cognizance of the criticism when he arose to speak.

"If any S.O.B. thinks he can get me to discharge any of my staff or Cabinet by some smart-aleck statement over the air, he has got another think coming", Mr. Truman said vehemently.

Pearson later replied:

"If Mr. Truman is trying to discourage the right of fair comment, then he too has another think coming. The men he has on his staff are his business - even though the taxpayers have to foot the bill.

"But when his staff members accept medals from a military dictator whose principles this Government has denounced, then it's the public's business and should be Truman's."

It was thought in Washington President Truman might even himself withdraw the epithet explaining that it was an expression used hastily and in an angry moment but at the same time making it clear that his attitude towards Pearson was unchanged.

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ADDITIONAL PHILA, CHICAGO TV CIRCUITS MONTH AHEAD OF TIME

Additional channels on the Bell System's television network between Philadelphia and Chicago will be available about May 1, more than a month ahead of schedule, according to an announcement of the Long Lines Department of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company made last Friday (February 18). This stepped-up program has been made possible by special efforts on the part of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, the Western Electric Company, and the Long Lines Department to place these much-needed Bell System inter-city facilities at the disposal of the television industry as speedily as possible.

Under this program, the present pair of circuits (which transmit television programs in opposite directions) will be greatly supplemented, a total of three west-bound and one east-bound channels being made available. After May 1 two of the west-bound channels will operate on a twenty-four hour schedule while the third will be available only after 6 P. M. Between Monday and Friday the single east-bound channel will only be available for television transmission after 6 P.M. However, under a newly announced arrangement, this circuit will be placed in operation for television transmission at any time on Saturdays and Sundays - which will make it possible to bring week-end Midwestern sports events, for example, to the television audience in the East.

After May 1 occasional important television programs will also be accepted for transmission southward over the Bell System facilities between New York and Boston, which in recent months have only been arranged to carry north-bound programs. However, as this will necessitate reversing the repeater equipment involved at each intermediate station on the route, suitable advance notice will be required to permit the change-over.

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WOULD ESTABLISH SPONSORED NEWS BROADCASTS TO SHIPS, PLANES

with the FCC

Tariff schedules have been filed/by Wayne Miller (licensee of coastal radiotelegraph station WPG, Norfolk), effective March 15, 1949, establishing regulations and charges applicable to a so-called "sponsored press broadcast service" from Norfolk, Va., to ships at sea or in the air.

The proposed service consists of the radiotelegraphic transmission, by automatic equipment, of news items of a general nature, procured (and edited if necessary) by Wayne Miller from recognized news distributing agencies. For a flat charge of \$250.00 per month, a customer is entitled to one hour of newscasting daily except Sundays and legal holidays.

Service is offered subject to the following tariff provisions: (1) At the beginning of each transmission period there will be an announcement that the following news may be utilized in any manner aboard any maritime mobile vehicle if full credit is given to the sponsors (name to be inserted) through whose courtesy the news is made available; (2) WPG reserves the right to curtail, alter, suspend or otherwise limit press service if at any time such service interferes or in any way disrupts the normal coastal telegraph and/or marine relay service for which WPG is regularly licensed; (3) The previous month's sponsor of any particular period shall have prior rights to the following month's sponsorship of such period.

Wayne Miller recently established regulations and charges for a somewhat similar service designated "Sponsored weather broadcast service" to ships at sea or in the air.

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WAY CLEARED FOR CROSLY TO BUY WHAS, LOUISVILLE

Fort Industry told the Federal Communications Commission last Monday that the economic outlook does not warrant going into such heavy obligations to purchase WHAS, Louisville, its FM affiliate and TV permit. Thus the way was cleared for the Crosley Corp., licensee of WLW, Cincinnati, to buy the property for \$9,925,000, since the Fort Industry Co. and Bob Hope have both withdrawn.

Ford Industry declared in a statement filed with the Commission that it is desirous of proceeding with its TV construction in Detroit, Toledo and Atlanta, and of pushing its TV applications in Wheeling and Miami.

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TWENTY-EIGHT PERCENT EXHIBITORS INCREASE; \$6,000,000 DISPLAY - IRE

All records in the history of radio engineering shows are expected to be broken at the 1949 Institute of Radio Engineers' Radio Engineering Show and Convention, to be held at Grand Central Palace and the Hotel Commodore in New York City from March 7 to 11. Two hundred and twenty exhibitors, including the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and Veterans' Administration, representing an increase of twenty-eight per cent over last year's phenomenal one hundred and eighty, will display over six million dollars worth of the newest miracles of modern science, many of them shown for the first time.

Dissolving tumors without surgery is only one of the many potential uses of the ultrasonic fountain, a crystal built in a parabola, which can focus so much energy at a fixed point that it will gain enough power to spurt a column of water two to three feet in the air, and which may revolutionize modern surgery by doing away with the knife. Furthermore, the fountain can force the mixing of non-miscible liquids, and thus homogenize such previously uncombinable substances as oil and water.

Those interested and concerned with the current record controversy will be interested in a new pickup which will play 33-1/3, 45, and 78 rpm records without changing needle pressure. Unique television equipment, including rotatable antennas and a guest television system for hospitals, will be demonstrated and some very startling developments are to be revealed, as well as much unusual radio equipment. Facsimile recorders receiving weather maps from Washington, Tokyo, and the Rhine Main, printed circuits for television receivers, dynamic relay testers, and new germanium triodes in dynamic applications are but a few of the innumerable scientific developments to be shown and explained to the public.

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ASCAP EXTENDS TIME FOR TV MUSIC DISCUSSIONS

Robert P. Myers, NBC, Chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters' Television Music Committee, last week said an additional 30 days' extension, from March 1, of the current arrangement television broadcasters have with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, has been granted for the use of ASCAP music on television.

The NAB Television Music Committee, a newly constituted group under Mr. Myers' chairmanship, will begin discussions with a newly appointed committee of ASCAP, at a meeting tomorrow (Thursday, Feb. 24), concerning the use of ASCAP music for television.

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WAY PAVED FOR AMATEURS TO SHARE 1800-2000 KC BAND

The Federal Communications Commission has amended Part 2 of its Rules to show that the United States service allocation of the frequency band 1800-2000 kilocycles is for amateur and radio navigation (Loran) use, subject to certain restrictions on amateur operation which will not cause harmful interference to Loran or bar the expansion of that type of radio navigation service. However, this band will remain unavailable for amateurs until such time as Part 12 (Rules Governing the Amateur Service) has been amended to reflect the conditions and limitations imposed on its use by amateurs. This is the major portion of the only pre-war amateur frequency band not yet reactivated for amateur use.

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POSTWAR RADIO SET BOOM SEEN PASSING BY FELDMANN, DETROLA

Leveling off of after-the-war set manufacturing conditions were noted in the annual report of C. Russell Feldmann, President of the Detrola Corporation.

"There were unmistakable indications during the year that the unprecedented postwar boom in the home radio receiver business had slackened. This situation was accentuated by the growing rivalry of television for radio sales markets. It was felt most keenly in the case of receivers retailing for more than \$50.00. At about the same time, the phonograph section of the industry was thrown into uncertainty by introduction of long playing records requiring new types of players. Large merchandisers were impelled to withhold new purchasing commitments until they could judge more clearly the preference of consumers", Mr. Feldmann reported.

"Our Detroit radio plant was geared to produce large quantities of radio receivers, phonographs, and automatic record changers to designs specified by the mail order houses and other nationally known merchandisers. The factors mentioned above made the Detroit operation increasingly uneconomical, and the manufacture of home radios and phonographs was suspended. At the year end all other electronic activities were consolidated at our Huntington, Indiana, plant. Any further manufacture of radios and phonographs, which will be dependent on market conditions, will be carried on at our Huntington plant."

Mr. Feldmann said that in 1948 Detrola had earned the largest net profit in its history - \$1,710,083. Net sales of steel for the year were \$32,464,493 or 46% and radio \$16,419,317 or 23%. This caused the company to change the name from Detrola to Newport Steel Corporation, denoting its principal business.

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Hospital Rents TV Sets To Patients For \$15 A Week
(V. R. Montanari, "Washington Post")

Television sets, available to Georgetown University Hospital, (Washington, D. C.) patients at \$3 a day or \$15 a week, are a boon not only to the sick, but also to the doctors, nurses and visitors.

"The patients that have sets in their room sure get good care!" a resident in medicine remarked facetiously. "Doctors and nurses are always at their elbow!"

"Seriously, though", he added, "the programs do have a therapeutic value, making patients more anxious to get well since they bring the outside world into their rooms."

Sister Mary Antonella, hospital superintendent, said the video sets are "wonderful recreation" and the three sets available for rent from a television dealer are "always out".

A floor supervisor said visitors sometimes stay too long when they become interested in sports events. They want to stay to see how it comes out, the supervisor said.

One doctor said he had had to write orders not to allow more than one hour of television viewing for one or two of the patients with heart trouble. These patients, he said, were getting too excited over the games.

"It's something to look forward to during the day", said Mrs. Amory Lawrence, of Warrenton, Va., who has undergone an operation for a foot crushed by a horse. She said she had had "lessons" in golf, skiing and tennis over the set as she lay in bed.

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Jack Benny's "Unlucky Stiff"
("Variety")

CBS Board Chairman William S. Paley's capital gains acquisition of Jack Benny's Amusement Enterprise package (which gives CBS a financial toehold in Amusement Enterprise's first Benny-produced pic, ("The Lucky Stiff"), is already translating itself into Paley's initial capital loss transaction.

"Lucky Stiff", made at a cost of approximately \$750,000, opened at the Globe, N. Y., and was yanked after a week in one of the record pic folderoos for the house. It was generally panned by the crit. It's estimated that the film, released through United Artists, will wind up a few hundred thousand dollars in the red.

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Exempting Radio Stations From Libel
("Editor & Publisher")

The American Newspaper Publishers' Association reports an effort is being initiated in several States to enact legislation which would exempt radio stations, their owners and employees from any liability for damages for any defamatory statement issued on the air by or on behalf of a candidate for public office.

Why not adopt State laws declaring: "All libel laws are hereby declared null and void insofar as they apply to statements by a political candidate in the newspapers or on the air."

Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? But that's just what is being done for radio alone in Colorado, Florida, Virginia and Wyoming. No holds barred on the air - but the press can be sued for libel.

These efforts are probably a result of that ridiculous ruling by FCC in the Port Huron case that the Communications Act of 1934 forbid broadcasters to censor political broadcasts or to restrict libelous material contained therein.

Rather than absolve broadcasters of their liability in any instance that might permit slander to have an airborne field day, it would be better to amend the Communications Act to permit deletion by the broadcaster of such material.

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Television In Autos
("New York Times")

At Albany the Assembly has passed a bill sent to it by its Motor Vehicle Committee which would prohibit installation of television sets in automobiles if the screen is within the view of the driver. According to an Albany dispatch to this newspaper, the bill would not outlaw television screens visible to other occupants of motor vehicles.

We wish we could say that this bill is well drawn. But is it? The bill, with its express and limited restriction, tacitly condones, if not approves, this new form of amusement for automobile passengers. To allow television at all in motor vehicles, particularly in pleasure cars, is hazardous. It invites further accidents on public roads already undergoing unprecedented demands on their capacity.

Argument may be made that television is safe in the rear compartments of taxicabs because of the separation - physical and social - of operator and passenger. But as all the world knows, or certainly all New York, the front-seat-back-seat relationship in taxicabs is increasingly one of camaraderie, and this would carry over into discussion of the ball game or something else coming onto the screen.

The point about separation of rear and front activities would certainly not hold for pleasure cars, even if it could be argued effectively for taxis. Pleasure cars' drivers are usually akin conversationally to all those riding with them. The operator's attention could hardly be expected to remain riveted to the road when his passengers are exclaiming over a home run, touchdown or denouement in a melodrama.

The bill passed by one house at Albany deserves a speedy death, before it brings sudden death to persons along the highways and streets.

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TRADE NOTES

Frank M. Russell, Washington Vice-President of the National Broadcasting Company, will give a reception next Wednesday, March 2, at the Carlton Hotel in Washington in honor of Frank M. Folsom, of New York, President, of the Radio Corporation of America.

A life-size, reflection-projector institutional television system, known as Tele-Video, is being introduced by the Telecoin Corporation at a four-day showing, opening this week in New York. A four-unit installation, Tele-Video utilizes forty-nine electronic vacuum tubes - more than double the number used in the conventional home receiver. It is adaptable for projection on screens up to sixty-three square feet in area.

The system utilizes an optical principle in which the picture is thrown on a fourteen-inch parabolic mirror and projected through a special picture corrector on the screen a few feet distant. The demonstration is being staged by Jay Electronics, 3300 Broadway, newly appointed New York City distributor.

Open hearings on a bill to let Washington operate on daylight saving time every Summer will be held Friday, February 25th, starting at 10:30 A.M. in Room 445 Old House Office Building in Washington.

The hearings will be conducted by the House District Judiciary Subcommittee headed by Representative Oren Harris (D), of Arkansas. Persons who wish to testify were asked to notify William N. McLeod, Jr., Clerk of the House District Committee, and if possible to prepare a written text of what they will say.

Greer W. Cowley, a development engineer with the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York, died at his home in Lincoln Park, N.J., after an illness of several months. His age was 45. He made many significant contributions to radar development during the Second World War, helping to design the portable ground search equipment widely used in military operations.

The National Broadcasting Company's television network, claiming to be the nation's largest operating video chain, will include 33 stations on the air from coast to coast by May 15.

The two most recent additions, WGAL-TV, Lancaster, Pa., and WDEL-TV, Wilmington, Del., were announced in New York by Easton C. Woolley, NBC Director of Stations Departments. Both stations signed inter-connected television affiliation contracts with NBC. WGAL-TV will begin operating April 1 on channel four, and WDEL-TV May 15 on Channel seven.

A report from New York is that Frank Stanton, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, has been invited to head a university.

The Federal Trade Commission has approved a stipulation-agreement in which Stephen N ester, Virginia Nester, Nathan Lang Van Cleave and Doris Lang Van Cleave, co-partners, trading as Duotone Co., 799 Broadway, New York, agree to stop designating synthetic sapphire-tipped phonograph needles as "sapphire" without plainly describing them as synthetic sapphire.

The co-partners also agree to stop representing that their synthetic sapphire-tipped needles will give up to 5,000 plays or any other stated number of plays without plainly indicating that such needles may chip, break or wear, causing sound distortion and improper tone fidelity.

Wayne Coy, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, yesterday told four teen-age orators that the Federal Government has been a contributor to the freedom of radio.

"And in keeping radio free", he said, "We are furthering the cause of democracy in the United States and the world."

Mr. Coy spoke at a luncheon honoring the schoolboy winners of the second annual Voice of Democracy Contest.

Justin Miller, President of the National Association of Broadcasters, told the boys their writing and voicing of the best 250,000 scripts on the subject, "I Speak for Democracy", was work as important as their classroom studies.

Sponsors of the contest, in addition to the NAB, are the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Radio Manufacturers' Association.

With January revenues 18% ahead of the comparable month a year ago, WJZ, New York key station of the American Broadcasting Co., during the first month of 1949 signed 11 new accounts, five of which are scheduled to start in February and March.

In a move that may set a pattern for the industry, the Crosley Broadcasting Corporation moved into the sports promotion business over the weekend with the announcement it has filed incorporation papers for Telesports, Inc., with authorized capital of \$100,000.

The incorporators include James D. Shouse, Chairman and President of Crosley Broadcasting; Robert E. Dunville, Vice President and General Manager, and Dwight Martin, Vice President and Assistant General Manager. Mr. Dunville said the new firm plans to promote its own sports shows and to televise them if it so desires.

Under the terms of its charter, Telesports, Inc. will not only promote and televise sports events, but can carry on broad activities in other amusement and educational fields if it chooses. The charter provides for potential activities ranging from play production and exhibitions to the handling of musical copyrights and publication of books.

A primary interest of Telesports, Inc., according to Mr. Dunville, will be to encourage the development of a wider roster of athletic events, and to assure the availability of the events for television.

Mr. Dunville added that the establishment of Telesports, Inc. represents a move to augment, rather than necessarily supplant, the sports television shows which WLW-T, Cincinnati, now offers its audiences. Events promoted by Telesports, Inc., would be available for telecasting on all three Crosley video stations. These, in addition to year-old WLW-T, include WLW-D, Dayton, and WLW-C, Columbus, both of which are scheduled to go on the air in March. They could also be made available to other radio or television stations.