

Jett Nominated By FDR To Fill Payne's Shoes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The nomination of Ewell K. Jett to be a member of Federal Communications Commission for a seven-year term was announced by President Roosevelt Thursday (13).

Jett, if confirmed, will take the seat left vacant on the commission by expiration of the term of Commissioner George H. Payne. Commissioner Payne was renominated last July, but two days after his name had been sent to the Senate the renomination was withdrawn. A later explanation from sources close to the White House pointed out that the name of Payne had automatically been sent up for renomination without the President's knowledge.

The new nominee is known as a technical radio expert and is described as having grown up with radio. He enlisted in the navy in 1911 and studied at the navy radio school. Before coming to FCC he was loaned by the navy to the old Federal Radio Commission. Recently he was made chairman of the Inter-Departmental Radio Advisory Committee, and he is also chairman of the coordinating committee of the Board of War Communications.

Senate action of the Jett nomination is expected promptly as the active nature of the commission requires full membership.

Jett "Affronts" Republicans

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Ewell K. Jett's nomination to FCC membership by FDR was scored heavily by Senate Republican leader Bridges who termed the nomination "an affront to every Republican."

"Mr. Jett," he said, "is not a Republican, never has been a Republican and can, under no circumstances, qualify as Republican."

Protest is likely to stir opposition to Jett's appointment when his name is brought before the Senate for confirmation to succeed a Republican.

Pekor to CBS

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—Charles Pekor, for seven years a member of the NBC flackery, resigned this week to join CBS press info. He will have a road assignment with Columbia.

Pekor has a long newspaper background, he came to NBC from *The New York Sun*. When he checked out of NBC he was feature editor.

Don Douglas 7 Times a Week

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—In line with Tiny Ruffner's policy of building WOR's daytime listening audience, Don Douglas's *Black Castle*, one man show chiller which has been airing Tuesday and Thursday nights, will go on Monday thru Friday at 2:45-3 p.m., starting January 31. The eve shots will continue for at least two weeks and if reaction is favorable, they will be dropped in favor of five a week daytime slot. This means that Douglas will do seven shows a week for awhile. Reversing the usual trend, if show clicks, daytime will be the reward.

Fan Lockout

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 15.—Station KTBI had planned a New Year's Eve studio party. All during the evening announcer Burke Ormsby balled the affair.

About 11:45 Ormsby told listeners that he hoped too many had not been disappointed in not getting in for the party, but to "hurry down now, everything is all right."

Then Ormsby explained that the janitor, who had the keys to the building in which the station is located, didn't know anything about the party and had locked the doors to the building entrance at 11 p.m. The janitor unlocked the doors. The party started late but was a success after all.

KSL Comes Forth And Is Identified

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 15.—KSL (CBS), thru Manager Ivor Sharp, unhesitatingly and unashamedly pleads guilty to being the unnamed station about which H. V. Kaltenborn (NBC commentator) declared: "For example in areas down under, a Salt Lake City station—call letter not remembered—comes in like a local." (*The Billboard*, January 1.)

G. I. mail response to KSL programs has been so heavy from the South Seas that KSL programs are built entirely for consumption of the armed forces stationed there. Programs are basically messages for the men in the forces from the folks at home.

No OWI use has been made of the station's freak signal. The government agency is still using stock blurbs for rationing, salvage, etc., for the Intermountain listeners only.

Newspapers May Own Outlets "If", Says FCC Ruling

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Federal Communications Commission Thursday (13) ended one of the most bitter fights in radio history when its members voted unanimously to issue no general rule discriminating against newspaper owners who have radio holdings or who are trying to acquire radio stations.

In a formal statement accompanying the ruling the FCC stated: "The commission today closed the record and dismissed the proceeding instituted pursuant to orders 79 and 79A relating to newspaper ownership of radio stations."

It was with these proceedings that the FCC had been trying to divorce joint ownership of newspapers and radio stations and prevent the granting of licenses to newspaper owners seeking to gain the right to build any type of radio station—standard broadcasting, FM or television.

In its formal statement the FCC also said the "Commission does not feel that it should deny a license merely because the applicant is engaged or interested in a particular type of business."

Then warning that this new ruling was not a green light for those who seek to gain a monopoly in the radio industry at the expense of the general public, the statement continued, "The commission, however, does not intend, in granting licenses in the public interest, to permit concentration of control in the hands of the few to the exclusion of the many who may be equally well qualified to render such public service as is required of a licensee."

That part of the statement, it was felt here, was clearly an indication that newspaper owners might still have trouble when they apply for FM or television licenses if the granting of such licenses would represent a control of news media in their regions.

WGN, Chi, Springs With 2 New Quizzes

CHICAGO, Jan. 15.—WGN is launching two new quiz programs, one of which changed its title at the last moment because a program of the same name is current on WMAQ. The first, which started Thursday (13), was originally titled *Words and Music* and is sponsored by *The Chicago Tribune*. When announcements of the show appeared a representative of WMAQ called the attention of WGN to a program titled *Words and Music* that has been heard on the NBC station for nearly 10 years. WGN then changed its title to *Words and Rhythm*.

WGN's other new quiz show, which debuts Sunday (16), will be known as *The Sky Riders* and will be broadcast from the Servicemen's Center, with Jess Kirkpatrick, announcer, and Sally Smith, actress, conducting it.

Labor Needs Radio Savvy Say Program Managers at NAB - ACL Meeting

Unions Have Squawks, Too

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—It still is not all peaches and cream in the dispute labor orgs are having with radio execs in an effort to get more air time. This was revealed Wednesday (12) at a meeting here between the members of the program managers' executive committee of the NAB and labor representatives. The confab was engineered by the American Civil Liberties Union.

At the meeting, which was held on the second day of a two-day conference of the NAB program managers, it developed that much will have to be done both by labor and by broadcasters before that great day which satisfies all parties arrives. The NAB members went away feeling that unless labor organizations begin to realize problems of station execs who are not satisfied that labor has good program material to offer, good material that will maintain listeners, the problem will remain unsettled. The labor leaders agreed that they had a duty to offer better program suggestions than those of the past, but they also stated they felt radio should mend its ways.

Representing the ACLU was its radio chairman, Thomas R. Carskadon; Morris Novik, manager of WNYC, New York's city-owned station; Dr. Paul Lazarsfeld, director of the Radio Research Division of Columbia University, and Norman Thomas.

The labor team was made up of Charles Yale Harrison, of the AFL; George Baldanzi, CIO; Charles W. Ervin, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; Max D. Danish, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers, and Edward Levinson, United Automobile Workers, CIO.

The NAB line-up at the confab included Harold Fair, of WHO, chairman of the NAB PMEC; Willard D. Egolf, NAB secretary; Wynn Wright, NBC; Doug Coulter, CBS; George Sutherland, WFCI, Pawtucket, R. I.; William J. Adams, WHEC, Rochester, N. Y.; J. Robert DeHaven, WTCN, Minneapolis; Glenn Jackson, WSPD, Toledo, and Irvin G. Abeloff, WRVA, Richmond, Va.

Labor Complains on Time

Labor opened up its barrage with the statement that according to NAB rules, labor is allowed to buy time to discuss anything but a controversial issue, but that few station managers seemed to realize that. The difficulty labor has in obtaining time on the air was stressed. The labor leaders maintained labor should be given time on the air to express its views, even on controversial

issues. In such cases, it was thought, time should be given free.

A few specific cases in which labor claimed well-known commentators had taken definitely biased attitudes were brought before the conference. It was then recommended by the labor representatives that program managers should see to it that in similar cases in the future the NAB code limiting commentators to impartial reporting of news should be applied.

Get Program Help, Says NAB

The NAB members responded to labor's complaint that it did not receive sufficient time on the air with the warning that until it became hep to programing such a state would continue. Their position was that listeners are hard to get these days, and radio will not sacrifice listeners for any reason.

When all the fire and smoke had died away, it could be seen that the problem was a bit closer to a solution for all concerned, but there was still much to be done. Both sides agreed that only future meetings and a give and take attitude on the part of all could do the trick. That great day is still in the future.

New Ad Agency Job---Artanis Squeal Nixer

Juve Balcony Tried

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—First attempt to muzzle Frank Sinatra's bobby sock trade is being made here by J. Walter Thompson Agency after appeals to the juves at last week's opener failed to hold outbursts in check. Truman Bradley, announcer on the show, pleaded with the kids before the show went on the air asking them to refrain from showing their enthusiasm while Sinatra was in the middle of a number. Speech made little impression, for the kids let go whenever they felt the urge and mute appeals from the show's producer did not quiet them.

Agency feels that 1,100 patrons of the CBS Playhouse may not mind the childish outbursts, but that radio audience was getting fed up on that type of thing. Agency spokesman claimed that most listeners did not share bobby sock contingent's views on warbler and that he would have to be sold as a straight singer, minus vocal trimmings from the audience, during numbers. Agency spokesman went on to say that kid's enthusiasm was a fine thing and that neither the network nor J. Walter Thompson wanted to dampen their spirits. Only thing they are interested in is selling the juves on the idea of doing their cheering at the conclusion of a number, not in the middle of it.

One idea to be tried is limiting downstairs ducats to grown-ups and putting the kids in the balcony, where their voices cannot be picked up so easily. Whether this will have the desired effect or not remains to be seen.

Skeptics came to the initial airing convinced that Sinatra cued the kids in their outbursts. But they found that the warbler didn't lift an eyebrow or signal the cheering in any way. Vine Street crowd is now convinced the kids are on the level.

No \$100 "Gold Pot" For WICCListeners; Hoaxed Fans Burn

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 15.—WICC here has been on the receiving end of a hoax. The trouble began New Year's Eve when several hundred residents of the Bridgeport area began to receive telephone calls informing them that they had won a \$100 "pot of gold" award on a radio program. Each victim was told that he must appear at the WICC office within half an hour, with proper identification, to collect the prize.

Some of the call recipients were smart enough to telephone the station and learned that nothing was known of the alleged award. Others made the trip to the station, only to discover that they had been kidded. They burned plenty at the gag.

Florence Ballou Robinson, assistant station manager, said that the mysterious telephone caller has a girlish voice and identified herself over the telephone to the victims as Miss Evans, secretary to the station manager.

There is no Miss Evans at WICC. Bridgeport police are investigating.

PHOTO REPRODUCTIONS
 Now doing work for FRED 8x10
 ALLEN, GLEN GRAY, 50—\$4.13
 HARRY JAMES, HELEN FOR-
 REST, etc. Quantities as low
 as 5¢. Write for Price List. 100—\$6.60
 MOSS PHOTO SERVICE, 155 W. 48, N.Y. 19