

▲ From this modern radio studio in the Interior building will come Federal Government reports to the Nation. A small speaker's studio can be seen through the glass of the control room in the background. The "more important" visitors to the studios, by talking into the microphone in foreground, may have their voices recorded in the "oral guest book."



▲ Officials and specialists of the Department gather in the conference room to check the radio "program reports" of that Department, which emanate from the new broadcast studios recently put in operation in the Interior building.

UNCLE SAM'S RADIO STUDIOS

The United States Government does not have its own broadcast station but it does have its own studios. From these new \$100,000 studios the Department of the Interior sends special programs of its activities and plans by wire to broadcast stations throughout the land.



▲ The chief engineer for the Department's new broadcast studios inspects his control room equipment, capable of producing radio programs ready to be "fed" to any station or network in the land.

Electrical transcription of "program reports" on the work and services of the Department will be made on this recording machine, part of the equipment of the new broadcast studios.

THE United States Department of the Interior, feeling an obligation to report to the public, the functions and services of its various Offices and Bureaus, has created facilities for the careful planning, preparation and production (up to the point of making the actual broadcast) of program-reports to the public by radio. Therefore, in July, 1938, a radio section of the Division of Information was created.

The Radio Section is housed in the top floor of the new Department of the Interior building, in the first radio studio ever built by a government

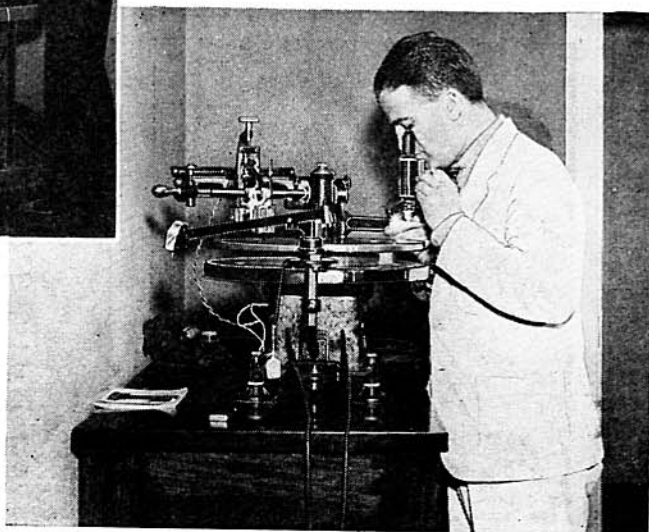
agency, with the idea of informing the people of the United States what their government is doing.

Here are offices, an audition room, reception room, artists' lounge, engineers' office, control room and 2 studios; a large studio for dramatic production and a smaller studio for speakers. The large studio is 41 x 24½ feet and has outlets for 6 microphones; this is studio A. The smaller studio is 22 x 13½ feet and has outlets for 3 microphones; this is studio B. The control room contains all equipment necessary to amplify, monitor, and dispatch programs originating in the studios. Both studios are of full floating construction and all rooms are air-conditioned.

The staff of the Radio Section consists of Shannon Allen, Acting Director; Bernard Schoenfeld, Chief Script-Writer; Lola Wyman Horton, in charge of Audience Preparation; and Hugh Russell Fraser, head of the research unit. A. R. Rumble and H. A. Robitaille are the engineers.

The task of preparing program-reports for the nation is a complicated process. The smallest detail of the workings of every agency and bureau within the Department of the Interior are tracked down by expert research specialists and included in the Research Li-

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THE RADIO MONTH IN REVIEW

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BROADCASTING (Continued)

the East Lake Country Club last month, according to an A.P. report from Atlanta, Ga. Roy S. Mather likes his Sunday golf. He also likes his Sunday football. He solved the problem of how to have his cake and eat it by giving caddy No. 2 the job of toting a portable radio set onto the links to give him the blow-by-blow football air-casts.

Radio's special features men may have their moments—but not all of them en- viable. Take for instance the program that carried the on-the-spot impressions of the \$3,000,000 oil blaze at the Cities Service Refinery near Linden, N. J., last month. When a 2½-million-gallon gasoline tank exploded 50 ft. from WOR's "remote" men, shooting the 2-ton lid more than 100 ft. into the air (with the flames up for another 1,000 ft.), listeners heard action sounds as the not-so- "remote" men fled for their lives carrying the portable transmitter.

When the 83,000-ton *Queen Mary* docked under her own power in New York harbor very early one morning last month—without benefit of tug due to a strike—the un- usual feat was broadcast. Simultaneously it was recorded, later to be transmitted by shortwave to English listeners via the Brit- ish Broadcasting system; several hours after the intricate ship maneuver, when a larger listening audience was available, this record- ing was also aired over the WOR-Mutual net.

Latest stunt on the air waves, according to the radio section of *Variety* last month, is the swiping and rebroadcasting, by cer- tain radio systems, of foreign broadcasts intended only for specific broadcasters in America. N.B.C. is the official objector.

According to *Motion Picture Herald*, last month, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hun- gary and Italy have joined Germany in sending a radio representative to this coun- try with a view to facilitating the reception in America of foreign-language broadcasts by domestic and foreign stations.

The All-India radio system described a few months ago in *Radio-Craft* may soon include the proposal made last month by a Colonial Sub-Committee. By the proposed means, one or more central receiving sets in congested areas would deliver their out- puts to 200 to 300 loudspeakers so arranged that by the operation of a switch, either of 2 programs could be received. Hence lis- teners would require only a loudspeaker. The system, said *Times of India* "is par- ticularly suited for those who are rather scared of a wireless set as regards its main- tenance."

In *WHK's* program "Voices of the Past," transcriptions bring to listeners the voices of famous statesmen of other years exactly as they sounded on various impor- tant occasions. In this station's "History Speaks," authentic dramatized backgrounds are dubbed into transcription discs to which voices of important personages are trans- ferred from old cylindrical records. Profes- sional radio players further act out drama-

tizations from scripts based on historical research, it was reported last month.

An editorial headed "The Radio Investi- gation," in the *New York Times* last month, remarked: "It is . . . a review (of radio broadcasting) and not a mere grilling of business executives that we expect from the Federal Commission."

It was pointed out however that 700 in- dividually-operated transmitting stations are not the same thing as a single network comprising this number of stations would be. Just as a million stoves in as many city homes fired with fuel drawn from a million cellars are not quite the same thing as a million gas ranges all supplied with gas by a single company. "In the circumstances," said the *Times*, "national broadcasting is necessarily a public utility and as such properly subject to regulation in the public interest."

Insofar as existing networks are con- cerned, however, coordinated operation seems to have resulted in the development of a highly efficient machine. To use the *Times'* own figure taken from an item of later date, the program service of N.B.C. alone involves an expenditure of \$100,000,- 000. Such was the figure given by N.B.C.'s vice-President John F. Royal at the 4th ses- sion of F.C.C.'s investigations into net- works operations.

Vladimir K. Zworykin last month was awarded a decree of priority regarding 14 claims in a 1923 application dealing with a potassium-layer photoelectric cell for use in television. Suit involved Westinghouse, owner of the Zworykin application, against RCA, owner of a Henry Joseph Round patent on a purportedly similar invention. Court opinion was that the patent office erred in awarding priority to Round.

UNCLE SAM'S RADIO STUDIOS

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brary. From that library, the script writers must select judiciously the material best fitted for each particular program.

Production of network programs is done in cooperation with commercial network organizations. Only where the use of exist- ing commercial facilities are impractical, are the studios themselves used. All tran- scriptions used by the Department, are pro- duced in the studios.

In this way, does the radio audience come to hear what its government, and in par- ticular, what the Department of the In- terior, is doing for the public and of its plans for their future.

Except for the recording equipment, the radio apparatus is "RCA, all the way."

A series of ordinary transcription rec- ords constitute the oral guest book onto which the voices of the "more important" visitors to the studios place their voices. (Question: Who determines who is "more important"?—*Editor*)

Facilities provide for 12 program lines for reception or transmission of programs; and 12 order lines for communication be- tween studio and point of origin of program (including contact with the Department of the Interior auditorium). An interphone system provides telephone communication over the order wires. The outputs of 4 high- fidelity receivers are fed over lines to offices of chief officials of the various Bureaus and Divisions of the Department.

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