

HEARING HELD ON SHORT WAVE FOR TELEVISION

Washington.

Argument on an application for a construction permit for permanent operation of a television transmitter was presented before the Federal Radio Commission by WNAC, the Shepard Norwell Co., Boston, proprietor. At the same hearing experimental television transmitting licenses were requested by Aero Products Co., of Chicago, and Frank L. Carter, Long Island City, N. Y.

All three applications were for use of short waves for television.

John Shepard, for WNAC, explained to the chairman, Ira E. Robinson, and Commissioner O. H. Caldwell that WNAC, if granted the television license, proposes to synchronize visual broadcasting with audible broadcasting. Pictures of an orchestra leader directing his orchestra would be transmitted by short waves for reception by the special television equipment, while the loudspeaker would bring in the music on the regular broadcast wave.

Speeches, vocal solos and other simple combinations of motion pictures with audible broadcasting can be transmitted at the present stage of television development, he declared.

A short wave band of frequencies 100 kilocycles wide, in the vicinity of 5,000 kilocycles, is desired at this time, said Mr. Shepard. Later, through development, it may be possible to reduce the width of the band to 10 kilocycles, the same as at present used for audible broadcasting. A power assignment of 1,000 watts is desired, Mr. Shepard said, because this amount of power will reach out only as far as 500 watts on regular broadcasting.

Is It a "Utility"?

John Stewart, radio editor of the Boston Post, declared that a television station is desired for Boston, because the visual broadcasting signals from WLEX, at Lexington, just 10 miles outside of Boston, "do not get into Boston at all."

Chairman Robinson asked whether picture broadcasting was a "utility" and devoted to the public interest. Mr. Stewart replied that he considered the transmission of the picture of an artist as he is broadcasting to be a utility. The chairman said he could see the utility value of transmitting the picture of an escaped prisoner to facilitate recapture.

Mr. Carter said he desired to convert his amateur short wave station into an experimental television station.

Still Experimental

Explaining that he is employed by the Ludwig Bauman Company, chain store owners, he said that there have been numerous inquiries regarding television equipment, and that therefore he wished to promote television experimentation.

"Television," he said, "is strictly experimental at this time."

On behalf of the Aero Products Company, of Chicago, Bert Smith, chief of the technical laboratory of that company, said that an experimental license is sought to ascertain the practicability of television and further its development. At present, he said, television has not reached the practical stage, and the object is to experiment within the laboratory and, if the results seem to warrant, to "put it on the air."

Scientists Invited to Teach via Radio

Addressing the Associated Business Paper Editors, at their Fall conference in New York City, M. H. Aylesworth, president of the National Broadcasting Company, said he hoped that "prominent educators and scientists will step out of their hermitages and speak to every red schoolhouse in the country, over the radio."

He said that radio will decide future elections, and declared the recent big vote in the Presidential contest was due largely to interest in the campaign fostered through radio addresses. He found that the radio served to inform women of the issues better than they were informed previously, hence they took a great interest in voting.

U. S. TO CHECK WAVELENGTHS

Washington.

Whether radio stations are maintaining their assigned frequencies is a question which the Department of Commerce soon will be able to answer with accuracy.

In his annual report to the Secretary of Commerce, W. D. Terrell, Chief of the Radio Division, points out that special radio receivers and frequency measuring equipment have been ordered which will permit placing in operation a system of accurate frequency measurements.

One constant frequency station will be installed in a centrally located mid-Western State. Radio receivers as sensitive as any obtainable will be a part of this apparatus, together with equipment which will permit measurements of frequencies to be made, on any radio signal received, with a high degree of accuracy. The useful frequency ranges over which it will be possible to make measurements will be from 10 to 30,000 kilocycles.

This monitoring station will be able to measure the frequencies of a large portion of the United States radio stations as well as foreign stations whose signals are capable of interfering with American stations. On the higher frequencies the latter consideration is already of great importance and is becoming a serious matter.

To supplement the work to be done by the constant-frequency stations located in the geographic center of the United States, secondary standards of frequency and receivers will be installed in the offices of the supervisors of radio and sub-offices of the division. With this equipment it will be possible to make highly accurate measurements of frequency over a range between 100 and 30,000 kilocycles.

Three new radio test cars have been added to the equipment of the division, the report reveals, making a total of four in active operation in the field. Through the use of these cars, it is pointed out, considerable money has been saved the Government in the performance of the duties required under the radio laws.

These cars constitute traveling laboratories and offices, equipped to perform any duties pertaining to district headquarters. They carry frequency-measuring apparatus, radio-field intensity measuring equipment, apparatus for the examination of radio operators and all other equipment necessary for the proper performance of any work required under existing radio laws.

The importance of amateurs in the development of radio is emphasized in the report. A new system of amateur calls to indicate nationality is one of the provisions of the international radio agreement which goes into effect the first of next year.

HOOVER PLANS TO END BOARD, INTIMATES SAY

Washington.

There has been much discussion among radio men in Washington as to what Herbert Hoover as President will do about the broadcasting situation.

Some are of the opinion that he will recommend that the Federal Radio Commission will be abolished and that control of radio be returned to the Department of Commerce, where it was before Congress created the Commission. As Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Hoover was in direct charge of radio.

Robinson's Comment

Commenting on the suggestion that Hoover would abolish the Radio Commission, Chairman Ira E. Robinson of Commission said:

"Hoover is too big a man to commit himself to such action before he was sure of all the facts."

Judge Robinson further pointed out that Congress would determine radio control and not the President. He personally thought that the Radio Commission should be continued whether or not he himself continued to be a member, and he would so recommend to Congress when the proper time came.

Commissioner Sam Pickard of Kansas is of the opinion that Mr. Hoover had not made any suggestion about abolishing the Commission, as when Mr. Hoover was Secretary of Commerce he did not want the administration of the radio law to remain in that department. For that reason, Mr. Pickard thought, Mr. Hoover did not take active measures to prevent the enactment by Congress of the law creating the Commission. Commissioner Pickard further stated that he did not think that the new administration would want to be burdened with radio problems in the cabinet.

Visitor Gives His Side

One leading radio man, who had discussed the subject with Mr. Hoover, said:

"Mr. Hoover is opposed to the Radio Commission. I firmly believe he is justified in that viewpoint, as I have worked in close contact with the Federal Radio Commission and I realize, as does Mr. Hoover, that some of the members do not understand the problems that confront them and they are blocking progress."

"There is no doubt that radio controlled by the Department of Commerce will be handled on a business basis. It will be a good thing for broadcasting because the Commissioners representing various zones are continually wrangling for the stations in their own territories and that stirs up discord and impedes progress. The Department of Commerce will have no partisan views and will have the interest of the entire country at heart."

THE Philadelphia Storage Battery Company, makers of Philco all-electric radios, announced the purchase of an additional 100,000 square feet of ground with a large factory building, which will enable the company to double its output of radio sets. Improvements to cost nearly \$750,000 already have begun on the property and buildings, which are located at Allegheny and C Streets, just one block from the present Philco factory, in Philadelphia.