

# BROADCASTING

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## U.S. Poised to Lease All Shortwave Stations

### 11 of 14 Outlets Tied Up for Unified Operation

UNCLE SAM was prepared last weekend to become the virtual operator of America's international shortwave broadcasting system, taking over fullscale programming from most of the private licensees, as leases for facilities were being signed with five companies as a war emergency measure.

Several of the leases were still being negotiated as BROADCASTING went to press Friday, but the basic scheme of Government program operation, which was ready to go into effect Nov. 1, was said to have been approved in principle by officials and companies involved, and all the leases were expected to be signed by Saturday, Oct. 31.

#### To Reimburse Costs

Of the 14 existing international stations, two (KWID, San Francisco, and WLWO, Cincinnati) have been fully programmed for some time by the Office of War Information and the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs (Rockefeller Committee). Last Friday representatives of OWI and CIAA had concluded or were about to conclude leases for 10 stations under the terms of which the broadcasters are to continue technical operation of their facilities, without profit, in return for which the Government will pay all costs of operation. This includes costs of staff, power, depreciation and upkeep, all to be reimbursed to the private operators.

In effect, the Government is leasing time from the five companies involved, and will use the facilities for preparing and transmitting shortwave programs throughout the world for the period of the war. Two of the companies, CBS and NBC, have arranged to build some of the programs in collaboration with OWI and CIAA, but the Government agencies are virtually in control of the entire program structure.

The 10 shortwave stations for which formal leases were being procured are: CBS's WCRC, WCBX and WCDA, New York; Crosley Corp.'s WLWO, Cincinnati;

General Electric's WGEO and WGEA, Schenectady, and KGEI, San Francisco; NBC's WRCA and WNBI, New York; Westinghouse's WBOS, Boston.

#### World Wide Unsigned

The only company still remaining outside the scheme, but expected to be lined up shortly, is World Wide Broadcasting Foundation, Boston, operating three transmitters—WRUL, WRUS, WRUW.

A lease had previously been made with KWID, San Francisco, licensed to a company headed by Wesley I. Dumm, operator of KSFO, in that city, and the operation of Crosley's WLWO by OWI-CIAA has been conducted by the Government agencies for some months under a gentlemen's agreement, formalized by the new lease.

OWI-CIAA are linking all the stations, with the exception of the two on the Pacific Coast, by land-

line. The technical setup calls for so grouping the stations that each group can simultaneously broadcast different programs to different parts of the world. All programs will clear through OWI's New York control board. Beaming will be used extensively and various languages will be employed under the program of psychological warfare worked out by Elmer Davis, OWI chief, and Nelson Rockefeller, CIAA coordinator. Both last week were represented as highly pleased with the new setup, praising the five companies for cooperating with the Government in its "integration plan."

#### Division of Time

Actual negotiations were concluded by their radio chieftains—Robert Sherwood, OWI administrative director of overseas development, and Don Francisco, director of the Radio Division of CIAA. They worked with Gordon

Persons of the Communications Facilities Bureau of OWI, and Dudley Bonsal, CIAA general counsel, who were in New York last week concluding the leases.

The operations plan envisages use of the facilities by CIAA in general from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. daily, and by OWI the remainder of the time, with various cut-ins by each for special programs as required. KWID and KGEI are not linked into the landline grouping because of the enormous cost of transcontinental lines, but they will be linked together as a unit and will operate as a separate entity. For example, CIAA will pipe all its Spanish and Portuguese programs over the Eastern segment of stations and all its English programs over the two Pacific Coast stations.

Studios of NBC and CBS, to-  
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## Mediators Study Detroit Music Strike

### Work Stoppage Averted; Higher Pay, Fewer Hours Sought

A THREATENED strike by the Detroit AFM Local No. 5 against three Detroit stations, WJR, WXYZ and WWJ, was suspended last week when it was agreed to mediate the dispute before the Michigan Mediation Board this Monday (Nov. 2). The musicians' demands include increase in wages and number of men for each station, reduction from 18 to 15 working hours per week, and guaranteed employment with two weeks annual vacation. In the case of WXYZ, the additional expenditure, according to Manager H. Allen Campbell, would amount to approximately \$35,000 per year. Increases for the other two stations would parallel this figure.

When these demands were refused by the stations whose contracts expired a few weeks ago, the union last Monday indicated its intent to strike to the State Mediation Board. According to Michigan law, however, the union had to wait five days before strik-

ing after a formal strike declaration.

The strike possibilities of the dispute were greatly reduced when it was learned AFM headquarters in New York had notified the Detroit local that a strike would be inadvisable in view of a recent public statement addressed to President Roosevelt by Dan Tobin, vice-president of the AFL, to the effect that there would be no AFL strikes for the duration.

Jack Ferentz, president of the Detroit local, stated that if no settlement were reached, a decision on strike action would be made by AFM headquarters. The dispute may also be reviewed by the War Labor Board, whose certification of any pay raise is now necessary.

In the meantime the stations are operating under the provisions of the expired contract.

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#### Clark Bill Studied

On Capitol Hill the bill (S-2874) introduced by Senator Clark (D-Idaho) to curtail Petrillo's power to pull AFM musicians off recording jobs remained status quo during the week. After introduction

Oct. 23 [BROADCASTING, Oct. 26], the measure was sent to the Interstate Commerce Committee, of which Senator Wheeler (D-Mont.) is chairman.

Neither Senator Wheeler nor the committee took any action. This in itself was not considered significant inasmuch as Capitol Hill has been slowed to a walk in the pre-election period. Senator Wheeler had indicated his opposition to the bill as an anti-strike measure.

The Clark bill is now in the hands of several Government agencies for study. Among the agencies are the War and Navy, FCC, OWI and Dept. of Justice. Should all these submit favorable reports on the proposed legislation, Senator Clark will be in a position to force further Senate action provided Senator Wheeler's committee fails to reach a decision.

Senator Clark has received large stacks of complaints from groups inside and outside the industry, requesting action to thwart the dictator tactics of Petrillo and the union he dominates.

No committee action is anticipated.  
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