

MARTIN CODEL'S

AUTHORITATIVE NEWS SERVICE  
OF THE  
VISUAL BROADCASTING AND  
FREQUENCY MODULATION  
ARTS AND INDUSTRY

# Television Digest

and FM Reports

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY RADIO NEWS BUREAU, 1519 CONNECTICUT AVE. N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D.C. TELEPHONE MICHIGAN 2920 • VOL. 2, NO. 5

February 2, 1946

**CARTOON WITH A POINT:** You may get a bang, too, out of Lichty's pointed TV cartoon carried in Chicago Times Syndicate newspapers, so we've secured permission to reproduce it and enclose a copy. We have a small supply left, and will be glad to send you extra copies with our compliments.

**POLYCHROME PLEASES PRESS:** Given a choice, there is little doubt that the public would choose color television as against black-and-white. And CBS's polychrome images, as finally shown to the press in New York this week, are every bit as good as promised. In fact, they were magnificent; better, even, than Technicolor movies.

But -- is it ready for the public, as monochrome admittedly is? Demonstrated under idealized conditions, is it near enough to practicality to be worth waiting for?

CBS spokesmen admit it isn't ready yet, but say it will be within a year if whole industry gets behind it, or nearly as quickly as they think black-and-white transmitters can be delivered. Hence, they insist, we should wait for it rather than invest huge sums in broadcast and receiving apparatus that will inevitably be rendered obsolete because it cannot be interchanged with or reconverted to uhf operation.

The FCC, final arbiter, only now beginning to take field measurements on CBS's lone uhf transmissions, has given monochrome on the lower frequencies the go-ahead, thus indicating its official policy against further waiting. And among the experts, there is no consensus on the timing question, very few agreeing yet with Columbia's zealous young executives and researchers on their estimate of only another year for practical color TV.

Indeed, even some of the men who worked on CBS's custom-built color apparatus, while certain that TV's ultimate must be color on the uhf, estimate anywhere from 2-3 years before it is engineeringly if not economically feasible. Others go along with rival RCA-NBC's estimate of at least 5 years (Vol. 1, No. 16). So they urge, either publicly or privately, that those willing to spend the huge sums needed for TV, as perfected to now, should not be restrained from doing so.

Nor do they go along with the CBS thesis that today's black-and-white, which is comparable to professional home movies, is so vastly inferior that everything should be halted to wait for color.

CBS's color, as demonstrated, looked better than the color shown by RCA at its recent Princeton show, which RCA says isn't commercially practicable yet. But its black-and-white wasn't nearly as good. Perhaps there was method in the contrasts shown by CBS, perhaps it's only one observer's impression.

CBS ran off a 16mm film which was virtually a "TV commercial," showing subjects like models, merchandise and news events first in monochrome, then in color -- women's gowns, shoes, tapestries, household settings, football games, horse races. If commercial TV, when it comes of age, is as well handled as this

30-minute film was handled, especially the commentary accompanying the pictures, there can be no question about the efficacy of color TV (or even of black-and-white) as an advertising medium.

There were no live subject pickups, presumably because CBS hasn't yet perfected a camera comparable to RCA's remarkable Image Orthicon, which can virtually "see in the dark."

The images were viewed on a CBS-built direct-viewing set with a 10-inch tube magnified by a front lens to about 12 inches, a neat laboratory job perfected under the direction of CBS's 40-year-old research chief and color TV inventor, Dr. Peter Goldmark. Seen for the first time also was a custom-made 22-inch-screen color projection receiver, utilizing the Schmidt optical system, on which was thrown with remarkable detail a 35mm slide; there was no audio because of the absence of an RF tuner in the set, nor was it geared for motion pictures.

The direct-scanning receiver, we were told, contains 39 tubes, which can be reduced to around 25 for commercial production. But we were assured it is not too complicated to operate, could pick up the same pictures just as well anywhere else in the metropolitan area. As for its mechanical color scanner, to which RCA raises such vigorous objections as against an eventual all-electronic color mixer, CBS says it is virtually foolproof, adds very little to cost of the set; hence why wait for fully electronic color?

The Federal-built transmitter atop the Chrysler Bldg., less than a mile away, operated on 480-496 mc, used 20 kw power, covered a full 360-degree arc of horizon. The receiving antenna oriented itself automatically to receive direct signal or reflected signal as it bounced off buildings. There was a complete absence of any "ghost" images. The fact that both transmitter and receiver were built since V-J Day was cited as proof how quickly such apparatus can be put into production. The additional custom-built receivers CBS has ordered from GE for further placement in the metropolitan area, probably to include some department stores later, aren't yet ready for delivery.

CBS continues to make case -- and did so deftly in the "commercial" commentary -- against the presently assigned lower frequencies on the grounds not only of color superiority but of greater efficiency of uhf channels. As for definitive field tests with actual picture reception, they obviously can't be made until more sets are ready. There's a lot of disagreement still about the empirics of these channels, which FCC labels experimental and for which there are no standards.

There isn't much likelihood that CBS's lone campaign against lower band TV will do more than create doubts among potential TV station builders, perhaps cause many prospective set owners to wait for the color system; for the FCC has already given black-and-white its blessing, and such leaders in that field as RCA, DuMont, Paramount and Philco are eager to get going full blast and are actually on the air now. Within the radio industry itself, opinion is divided, most set manufacturers and a strong segment of broadcasters seemingly in favor of immediate TV.

**VARIATIONS IN FM PLAN:** Perhaps you've noticed, among the 298 conditional FM grants thus far (8 more were issued this week), that several communities originally put down for Community Stations have been given Metropolitan assignments. Look at Supplement No. 28, and you will find Metropolitan assignments down for Atlantic City, N.J.; Salisbury, Md.; Winchester, Va. Then, in this week's grants, Hagerstown, Md. is similarly favored. This despite the fact that under the allocation plan (Supplement No. 21) they were earmarked for Community outlets.

Thus it would seem the FCC spoke truly when it emphasized the allocation plan was tentative, subject to changes where appropriate. Exact channels have not yet been specified for conditional grantees, but it is obvious the Metropolitan channels planned for these 4 towns will have to be taken away from the quota of

nearby towns. Where, exactly, those channels will come from, we cannot yet determine in the absence of actual CPs designating channels -- promised soon. Inquiry indicates one of the Atlantic City Metropolitans will probably come out of Philadelphia's allotment.

Then there's Channel No. 280 (Metropolitan). Note that no assignments to this frequency have been made in Area I, while very few designations are for Area II. It is, we are told, the buffer band between Metropolitan and Community stations, to be used either way.

Announced also this week, in addition to the 8 new conditionals, was another FM hearing, date not yet fixed -- on 2 applications from Buffalo Broadcasting Co., operating AM stations WGR and WBKW. This company is under FCC notice to dispose of one of its stations, but filed for the 2 FMs to ensure that each AM has an FM adjunct. This week's conditional grants and their AM affiliates, if any:

Hagerstown Broadcasting Co., Hagerstown, Md. (WJEJ). Metropolitan.

St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. (WEW). Metropolitan.

Radio Projects Inc., Syracuse, N.Y. (Herald-American and Post Standard).  
Metropolitan.

Southeastern Broadcasting Co., Charlotte, N. C. (WBT). Metropolitan.

F. C. Todd, Gastonia, N.C. (WGNC). Metropolitan, possibly Rural.

The Pixleys, Columbus, O. (WCOL). Metropolitan.

Medford Printing Co., Medford, Ore. (KFLW, Klamath Falls, and KRNR, Roseburg, Ore.). Community.

Airplane & Marine Instruments Inc., Clearfield, Pa. Metropolitan.

**LO, THE NOT-SO-POOR MUSICIAN:** Not forgotten are the musicians who pour out sweet strains for the American radio public. Their affairs have made a busy week for Congressmen and industry. Possible next week is vote by House on Lea Bill (HR 5117), aimed at curbing power of Petrillo (Vol. 2, No. 4). Late Thursday, bill was given preferred status by potent Rules Committee, which fixes legislative program for House.

Although NAB President Miller has yet to name members of industry negotiating committee to meet with AFM panel (he's still "riding the circuit"), NAB headquarters was busy this week collating answers to questionnaires on employment of musicians and funds spent for this purpose, being returned by members.

Ban on FM duplication of AM programs was cited by Chairman Lea's House Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee as a typical example of arbitrary demands on broadcasters by AFM head. "The absurdity of such a demand is apparent. Two orchestras required for simultaneous broadcast would be an anomaly," Committee reported, estimating over \$20,000,000 per year exacted in tribute by AFM practices of this type.

Bill is not prohibition of right to strike, Committee asserted, but is aimed at abuse of such power. "The right to strike should be exercised as other rights of a citizen. We have free speech, but that is not justification for slander," Committee pointed out.

Opposition to bill comes mostly from pro-labor members on Hill. New York's leftish Rep. Vito Marcantonio, one of 5 voting against reporting bill out, told us he was opposed because "bill is definitely anti-labor. It may become law," he said, "but it will never become effective -- it's unconstitutional."

Industry is on horns of dilemma. Anxious to see some legislative curb on Petrillo, yet hopeful present situation will be cleared up by Miller, broadcasters are uncertain which way to turn. Some warn Miller against machinations of music czar, plump for passage of Lea Bill. Others, hopeful of settlement by Miller, want Congressional action postponed, at least until outcome of present negotiations is ascertained.

**LOW-BANDERS PERSIST:** FCC opinion on reasons why it turned down FM band-widening petition is expected out next week. It will stress inconclusiveness of Deerfield-Andalusia tests, preponderance of testimony against including 50 mc band. It will also assert present 100 mc FM will provide sufficient outlying coverage -- figuring 60-mile radius from 20 kw Metropolitan stations with 500 ft. antenna height over average terrain. Map of Metropolitan channel allocations may accompany opinion to show graphically how present allocations fully cover East, leave large blanks only in sparsely populated western spots as does AM also.

Meanwhile, proponents of 50 mc FM continue fight. Latest move is exemplified in telegraphic request to FCC by Arthur Freed, president of Freed Radio, asking that present low-band transmission continue because of delay in new band transmitter deliveries and time necessary for stations to attain full power output. Also, that Commission order those stations back on air that have discontinued programs due to Petrillo edict, with recordings if necessary, as protection to present FM set owners. Commission acknowledged receipt of wire, has made no reply yet.

On other side of fence, kudos to FCC for decision came from John Ballantyne, Philco president, who issued a press release stating: "The Commission, in the face of intense pressure from a limited number of manufacturers, has adopted the course of action best suited to protect the public interest." But, still unreconstructed, Dr. Armstrong asked, "Are we going to have the best service of which FM is capable, limited only by the laws of nature, or are we going to have one hedged in by regulations and restricted by artificial means?" And Zenith's Gene McDonald, also disappointed, was preparing to enlist farm editors in his unrelenting battle for rural coverage via lower band FM.

**SPOT NEWS VIA TV:** Before jampacked viewers, DuMont's experimental W3XWT broke news of Harry Hopkins' death Tuesday during demonstration in Washington's Hotel Statler staged by Televiser Magazine in collaboration with Washington-Baltimore ad clubs. The news just happened to hit during telecast interview with Mrs. Frances Bolton, personable Ohio Congresswoman, first TV images seen by most of the 200 advertising folk attending. Interest in first part of telecast was intense, images on pre-war DuMont table model being adjudged acceptable-to-good -- but not as good as can be shown on newer models. Crowd melted away during mediocre film short which followed, underlining again the necessity for tiptop programming if TV is to make good.

**NEWS AND VIEWS:** Cowles' application for an experimental facsimile station in Washington, has newspaper fraternity scratching its head over possibilities of a facsimile newspaper delivered into homes via uhf radio. Reason Washington was chosen is because Comdr. T. A. M. Craven, Cowles' radio chief, has headquarters here .... Preoccupation with OPA matters precluded RMA board taking any action respecting dial markings for FM sets at meeting in Chicago Wednesday. Board accepted results of RMA survey favoring channel as against frequency designations (Vol. 2, No. 4) without comment .... Federal's new FM modulator-oscillator unit, now in production, is said to surpass FCC engineering standards for low noise reception level. Company reports it is building 170 FM transmitter units for delivery beginning in March .... Rumors about RKO-Television Corp.'s absorption by parent company's Pathe subsidiary were quashed by the upping of Ralph B. Austrian, exec v.p., to president. He was elected Thursday to succeed Frederic Ullman Jr. who, though he remains a director of the TV company, will concentrate on his duties as president of RKO-Pathe Inc. .... Worthington C. Lent, Washington consulting engineer, has taken in LaVerne M. Poast as partner, and his firm is now known as Lent & Poast. Latter was formerly with Jansky & Bailey, during war had been doing direction-finding research with Bureau of Standards and Army .... Though feeling prevails in some quarters that networks are lukewarm toward too early emergence of FM, American Broadcasting Co. hierarchy is already laying long-range plans for an FM network .... Denmark has sent one of its top radio executives over to study American TV equipment and techniques -- Frederik Heegaard, who is at New York's Hotel Commodore.

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February 9, 1946

**WHERE THERE'S SMOKE:** By now you've doubtless heard or read the Washington dispatches forecasting FCC Chairman Porter's shift to OPA Administrator in place of Chester Bowles. President Truman may have announced the story by the time you read this; meanwhile, the principals at this writing naturally remain silent. If the long-rumored change for Porter does eventuate, Vice Chairman Paul A. Walker (Oklahoma) becomes acting chairman until Mr. Truman picks a permanent one. Best guess is that, unless he names a man from industry who knows the field as well as Porter does, he may choose Walker whose specialty is public utilities; or else Commissioner Jett, engineering expert who probably wouldn't want job but would be highly acceptable to radio; or Commissioner Denny, only 34, formerly chief counsel whose youth, vigor and technical grasp especially commend him. But the ways of politics, as in previous Administrations, may make it a purely political selection of a total stranger to radio.

**ARE HEARINGS NECESSARY?** It's probable that FM hearings won't be necessary where supply of channels equals or exceeds applications on file, though there's a school of thought within FCC favoring hearings so as not to preclude future applicants. Situation was pointed up recently with withdrawals bringing number of applicants in Boston and in Providence-Pawtucket areas in line with available channels. Already on file with FCC is petition from combined Providence-Pawtucket applicants asking hearing be dropped and CPs granted without hearing, inasmuch as there are now exactly 6 applicants for the area's 6 channels.

Boston hearing, only one definitely scheduled thus far, with Commissioner Durr assigned to sit on it there March 11, may be dropped on FCC's own motion; or else applicants may get together and move to that end. Originally, Boston area's 9 available channels (WBZ-FM is on 10th) were sought by 11 applicants (Supplement No. 14A). But recent withdrawal of E. Anthony & Sons, plus recent acquisition of control of WHDH by Boston Herald-Traveler, which would indicate newspaper will drop its separate application, brings total down to 9.

Four more hearings ordered by FCC this week -- in cities where demand exceeds supply -- indicated anew tentative nature of allocation plan (Supplement No. 21). Hearing ordered for Washington lists 13 applicants for 11 available channels, though allocation lists 12 channels for capital area. Where deleted channel has gone to, FCC declines to divulge. Other cities where hearings will be held, at dates yet to be set, and number of applicants compared with channel availabilities: Pittsburgh, 9 for 6 (already operating are KDKA-FM and WMOT); New York-Northeastern New Jersey area, 24 for 9 (already authorized are 11 stations, as listed in Supplement No. 4); Dayton-Springfield, 6 for 5.

**MORE TV HEARINGS ORDERED:** As TV industry awaits FCC proposed decision on winners of Washington's 4 channels, expected momentarily as result of first TV hearing recently conducted by Chairman Porter (Vol. 2, No. 4), Commission this week ordered 11 more TV hearings, but did not fix dates. All are for the cities in which applications exceed supply of allocated channels. Washington result is being eagerly

awaited since it will show trend of Commission's thinking with respect to who shall get TV franchises in major centers. After "proposed decision," 20 days must elapse before oral arguments, then comes final decision, then 20 days more for appeals.

Cities in which hearings will be held, and number of applications as against number of available channels: New York-Northeastern New Jersey, 13 for 4 (already operating are WNBT, WCBW, WABD); Los Angeles, 13 for 7; Philadelphia, 9 for 3 (already operating is WPTZ); Detroit, 6 for 5; San Francisco-Oakland, 7 for 6; Pittsburgh, 5 for 4; Cleveland, 6 for 5; Baltimore, 4 for 3; Providence, 2 for 1; Harrisburg, 2 for 1; Lancaster, 2 for 1 Community channel. In case of Baltimore, hearing may be called off in view of Tower Realty Co.'s withdrawal of its application this week, indicating intention to wait for uhf color.

Significant is inclusion of Don Lee among Los Angeles applicants. Though it holds a CP for commercial TV, granted before war, FCC has decided to include it among the 13 seeking new facilities. Inquiry reveals Commission policy is to regard present CP holders (Don Lee, Zenith in Chicago, Milwaukee Journal) as new applicants if demand for channels exceeds supply, grant them without hearing only if not. Same procedure was followed in case of NBC's request for reinstatement of its pre-war Washington CP.

For data on applicants, see our TV Directory, Supplement No. 18 Part III. Added since directory was published are Hearst (Examiner) for San Francisco, Dorothy S. Thackrey (New York Post) for Los Angeles and San Francisco. Withdrawn since directory was published: Metropolitan Television for New York; Bamberger for Philadelphia; E. Anthony & Sons for Providence; Tower Realty Co., for Baltimore.

**CPs FOR CONDITIONALS:** Still due, and due soon, are CPs for holders of conditional grants for FM stations. But in working on applications preparatory to issuing the coveted CPs, FCC engineers have found that some of the proposed equipment makes inadequate use of channels. Also, in some other cases, proposed service area is inconsistent with allocation plan. In order to straighten this out, FCC this week reported that it will hold informal engineering conferences with grantees, and applicants, where necessary. Where no difficulty exists, Commission will issue a CP without conference.

Also this week, first sale involving a conditional FM grant arose. Monroe B. England, licensee of AM station WBRK and holder of conditional FM grant for a Metropolitan station in Pittsfield, Mass., asked FCC to grant voluntary assignment of both license and conditional to Western Massachusetts Broadcasting Co. Sale price is reported \$150,000. Usual 60-day advertising for other bids is agreed upon. Deal is compounded by fact Western Massachusetts Broadcasting Co., owned by Berkshire Evening Eagle, is itself a recent recipient of a conditional FM grant (Community), which it will drop if sale is effectuated.

**SEEK 50 KW NEAR CAPITAL:** Originally an applicant for a 50 kw FM at Olney, Md. (Supplement No. 14A), FM Development Corp. (Maj. Armstrong, C. M. Jansky Jr., Stuart L. Bailey) has amended application to specify a 50 kw Rural at Twin Oaks, site of country home of their counsel Horace Lohnes near Vienna, Va., 18 miles out of Washington. New transmitter location would afford good Washington coverage on present band, but would not add Baltimore coverage also as originally contemplated. Site would place station in Area II where applicants, leading proponents of high power FM, would avoid limitation in power inherent in Olney site. Applicant thus becomes one of 13 in Washington area scheduled for hearing (see story in this issue).

**WE TAKE YOU NOW TO WASHINGTON:** After one false start, Washington-New York TV gets under way Feb. 12 with Lincoln Day activities in Nation's capital. Marking opening of coaxial link between the two cities, first program will be joint affair of NBC, CBS, DuMont. DuMont's experimental TV station W3XWT will transmit program in

Washington; all will broadcast in New York City, plus GE's WRGB, via radio relay, in Schenectady.

Program opens at noon at Capitol building with scene of dome, surrounding areas, interviews on Capitol steps with Senators Wheeler, White, McKellar; Reps. Rayburn, Lea; FCC Chairman Porter. At 12:15 p.m., AT&T film story of coaxial cable goes on air with FCC Commissioner Jett as possible post-film speaker. Ceremonies at Lincoln Memorial begin at 12:30, highlighted by wreath-laying by Gen. Eisenhower.

**GERTZ TV FLOPS AT OPENING:** Still struggling at week's end to show good video, Gertz Dept. Store TV demonstration bodes no good for TV, even though the Jamaica, N.Y. store was crowded as a result of publicity. TV screens presented nothing but vague, blurred outlines, especially at press demonstration Feb. 4. Store officials and William B. Still, operator of experimental TV station W2XJT, who built and installed equipment, hoped that new week would crown efforts with success. Break-down of apparatus at preview disappointed viewers as well as participants. Audio system worked, but video refused to respond to harried efforts of technicians. Onlookers were able to watch operations only through glass partitions built into one wall of studio.

**MORE VIPs SEEKING FM:** Add to applicants for new FM stations: Capt. Harry F. Guggenheim, USNR, scion of mining family and owner of Nassau-Suffolk County Newsday, for Bridgeport, Conn. (to cover rich Long Island area); Midwest Broadcasting Co., headed by Milwaukee's Postmaster John Fleissner, for Milwaukee; the Milwaukee Journal, licensee of WTMJ-FM, for Wausau, Wis. Also applying for Wausau is Morgan Murphy-Walter Bridges group, operating Duluth's FM station WDUL.

These are among the score or more newly filed FM applications since publication of our Supplement No. 14E, and we will report on all of them fully next week in Supplement No. 14F. Illustrating opportunities in FM for small business groups is new application from 4 young Rahall brothers of Beckley, W. Va. All GIs, in various stages of discharge, they are planning deep and eager plunge into broadcasting -- AMs and FMs in Allentown and Norristown, Pa., AM in Beckley.

**NBC FILM PLANS FOR TV:** NBC's big film plans for TV, trumpeted in Hollywood and New York, are reliably reported to call for a 1946 expenditure of \$60,000, for which the network hopes to make 12 shorts. Hal Bock, newly named NBC television chief in Hollywood, will try to get them made on West Coast. Network is continuing to make own newsreels, however.

NBC this week also announced it was not considering signing up with any one motion picture producer but "would play the field," setting at rest rumors stemming from TV v.p. John F. Royal's visit to Hollywood. Both Royal and O. B. Hanson, NBC chief engineer, indicated it would take about a year after the network receives its Los Angeles license before it could go on the air. Cost of the transmitter, to be located on Mt. Wilson, was estimated at \$750,000.

**'FORTUNE' ON TV:** A psychiatric diagnosis of the U.S. television industry: "Advancing schizophrenia, induced by protracted frustration and characterized by alternating guilt and persecution complexes." Thus, Fortune Magazine for February. The Fortune article tells the story of American TV from the late 20's up to the current CBS campaign for uhf color. Gist is if industry doesn't resolve basic technical disagreement, TV might turn into biggest and costliest flop in our industrial history. On whole, article is favorable to CBS stand on uhf color TV.

Fortune says: CBS plans to petition FCC in spring to allow commercial telecasting in 480-920 mc band....by fall, plans to offer uhf, color licenses to all set manufacturers at royalties of 25¢ to \$1 per set.

**TO VOTE ON LEA BILL:** Showdown vote on HR 5117, Lea Bill dealing with Petrillo and his hold on broadcasting, is now calendared for Thursday in House. Bill seems to have good chance to pass, even Rep. Marcantonio, who voted against reporting bill out of committee, saying he has had no support from either AFM or AFL. Only reaction to bill, he admits, was one letter signed by 20 New York musicians, asking that he buck passage. On Friday, Marcantonio issued minority report, taking issue with sweeping character of bill. He especially objected to phrase "and other means" in description of coercive practices, said it could be used to prohibit speech in favor of strike or used against attempt to induce employer to hire more personnel in order to lighten load on workers.

**DUPONT KEEN ON TV:** When commercial sponsors really take to television, you can expect DuPont to be a leading advertiser of its industrial products. Itself a major contributor to the TV art with plastic gadgets making possible large-screen images, DuPont, through its agency BBD&O, is experimenting seriously with visual broadcasting. Last week it telecast, via WNBT, a full-hour preview of "Cavalcade of America" before an audience of advertising executives, liked it so well it repeated Sunday night, Feb. 3. To insure audience, program was attractively advertised in Sunday newspapers in form of big old-fashioned theatrical handbill.

**LABOR'S FM BUSINESS:** Reader's Digest for February, in article on "Labor Is Big Business," cites union applications for FM not only to support this thesis but also to make the point that "many labor leaders see FM as the answer to efforts to restrict labor broadcasts over the big networks." Examples given are UAW's 6 applications for FMs in as many cities, the 4 of Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union (Sidney Hillman), the 4 of International Ladies Garment Workers Union (David Dubinsky). Next Monday, ILGWU's radio affiliate, Unity Broadcasting Corp., will file for 2 more -- in St. Louis, Los Angeles, according to Washington counsel, Marcus Cohn.

**GE'S BALLOON ANTENNA:** First it was Westinghouse with its Stratovision system of "spraying" and relaying TV and FM from and to 6-mile high planes. Then last week Army revealed how it had "shot the moon" with radar, crediting the veteran engineer Lt. Col. Jack DeWitt and others with carrying to fruition experiments conducted long ago by the venerable Dr. A. Hoyt Taylor for the Navy and by Maj. Edwin H. Armstrong. Now comes the news that GE has begun experiments looking to the use of captive balloons to widen range of TV and FM by raising antennas skyward. First GE tests took place recently under GE's Dr. W. R. G. Baker, more are planned.

**NEWS AND VIEWS:** The rich Denver Post, hitherto aloof to radio, may get into swim via FM now that it has a new editor and publisher, Palmer ("Ep") Hoyt, who as publisher of Portland Oregonian has always shown keen appreciation of importance of the medium as newspaper adjunct; city has 10 channels allocated to it, only 2 applicants....Television may be used at Westminster College, Fulton, Mo., when Winston Churchill speaks there March 5. Balaban & Katz's WBKB, Chicago, is negotiating to pick up the former Prime Minister and possibly President Truman when they appear there, using station's portable equipment to give overflow crowds look in....Holder of a CP for FM since before the war, WAAT, Newark, reports its FM station (WAAW), using GE equipment thruout, will be on the air by June.... John Lord Booth's WLOU, Detroit, is shifting this month to 96.5 mc, 20 kw....No more news commentators on WQXR-WQXQ; instead, the New York Times-John V. L. Hogan stations after April 5 will use forum formula entirely on controversial issues.... Newly appointed director of CBS Television Plans Division is Leonard Hole, who will be responsible for planning and developing network's future TV uhf color stations and network....Ziff-Davis Publishing Co. (Radio News) has filed suit to enjoin Fred Kugel's Television Magazine from using that title, claims it has been publishing magazine under same title since 1938, registered it in 1943....Paul Hollister, CBS v.p., has resigned to become N.Y. studio representative of RKO-Radio Pictures.

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February 16, 1946

**FM APPLICATIONS TOTAL 774:** With 36 new applications, minus 5 dismissed or withdrawn, total FM applications as of this date number 774. The new 36 (Supplement No. 14F herewith) include a larger than usual proportion of newcomers to broadcasting -- 24, of which 7 have newspaper affiliations. Among the newcomers, Theodore Granik, attorney and conductor of Mutual's "American Forum of the Air," seeks a Washington, D. C., grant, and the San Francisco Chronicle asks for an outlet there. Approximately 30% of all 774 applicants are new to radio, including a sprinkling of veterans. Newspapers still make up lion's share of applicants not already in AM.

**DECISIONS HELD UP:** Chairman Porter's peregrinations to White House and OPA this week were so frequent and of such importance (see story on this page) that he had to renege on his promise to announce decision on which of the 6 applicants win Washington's 4 TV channels (Vol. 2, No. 4). Draft of 16-page decision has been written tentatively but not yet agreed upon by commissioners. Decision should be out early next week, after Wednesday regular meeting at latest. Meanwhile, after months of zoning hearings, District of Columbia commissioners Thursday finally consented to allow Bamberger (WOR) to erect 300-ft. tower for its hoped-for capital TV station, for which it has already spent some \$50,000 for choice Cathedral Heights acreage.

With Commissioner Jett busy on the NARBA conference, and Denny, Walker and Wills out of town on hearings, the Commission was also unable to issue its opinion on why it turned down Zenith-GE petition to widen FM band. Both documents should be out sometime next week.

**DENNY FOR PORTER:** Thanks to Paul Porter's maneuvering to go on "leave of absence" from his FCC chairmanship to become OPA Administrator, the regulation of broadcasting, for the time being at least, is spared again from the political influences that once bedevilled it. For it was Porter's idea, which he "sold" to President Truman, that Commissioner Charles R. Denny Jr. should be made acting chairman -- an excellent merit appointment without the slightest trace of political payoff. Porter's formal resignation will come after the Senate confirms him in his new job, which is a foregone certainty.

Up from the ranks, Denny just 4 years ago this month joined the Commission as assistant general counsel, 8 months later became general counsel, then last March was named by President Roosevelt as commissioner. Since boyhood he has been a resident of voteless District of Columbia. Not yet 34 (his next birthday is April 11), he is a graduate of Amherst '33, Harvard Law School '36.

Not only is Denny regarded as one of the brainiest, hardest working and most capable men ever to sit on the Commission, but his remarkable grasp of technical problems is such that he can discuss intelligently even the most abstruse engineering matters, as evidenced at recent hearings on FM and TV. He taught himself the science of radio. His home is a maze of wireless gadgets with which he likes to

tinker. The news of his appointment reached him Thursday while he was "riding circuit" on radio cases in Georgia.

Porter actually didn't want the Bowles job, with all its headaches, for his heart was in radio, especially in the intriguing subjects of FM and TV which he has taken a prime part in advancing. In talking with him, one suspects he harbors a hope the FCC post may be kept open for him; but it is hard to believe politics will permit such a \$10,000 job to remain vacant very long. If Denny retains the chairmanship, as against a new political appointee, Porter will at least have the satisfaction of seeing his policies carried forward by a colleague with whom he has always worked in close harmony.

Already a movement is on foot to persuade President Truman to place Denny's old chief, Col. Telford Taylor, former FCC general counsel, now a prosecutor in the Nuremburg trials, on the Commission. There is talk, too, that the President may reward Leonard Reinsch, his radio mentor, whom he likes, with an FCC berth. Reinsch served as Porter's radio aide when the latter handled publicity for the 1944 Roosevelt campaign, is now back with the Cox radio-newspaper interests but is seeking an AM station of his own in Cincinnati, up for hearing in Washington this Monday.

**TV SCORES FROM WASHINGTON:** If television could offer nothing more than news events as they occur, it justifies its immediate emergence -- and you don't need color in newsreels.

That was the reaction of many who saw the inaugural Washington-New York coaxial telecast of Lincoln Day ceremonies last Tuesday. Consensus of TV enthusiasts was that this was tiptop stuff, that if TV continues to put on programs like this there's no stopping the art.

When press photographers surrounded Gen. Eisenhower at Lincoln Memorial and asked him to repeat his wreath-laying, and when an accompanying brass band noticeably adjusted his pace to get in step with his chief, viewers had a hearty chuckle. In back of their minds was this thought: We couldn't have seen that in a newsreel.

Such "uncut" versions of a news event emphasize anew the potency and immediacy of TV. Ceremony taking place in Washington was watched not only on the few receivers there but, thanks to AT&T's new coaxial cable, by spectators in New York, 225 miles away. New York reception was just about as good as a local broadcast, though handkerchief-size screens did not do justice to crowds. Projection models offered better images, though they suffered some from loss of illumination.

Especially noteworthy was efficacy of RCA's Image Orthicon for low light levels during shooting of interior scenes at the Memorial. NBC's camera work was good: long shots of Marine Band, of spectators clutching hats against blustery wind, of massed flags snapping in gusty weather, of closeups of Gen. "Ike" and the Lincoln statue. Occasional distortion was marked in film from DuMont's Washington studio, and overcast was apparent in CBS pickup of Congressional leaders and FCC Chairman Porter. Overheard also during exercises were instructions to cameramen and comments from spectators.

One couldn't help but reflect that the show would have been more vivid in color, yet who has ever seen Technicolor in newsreels? And this compared very well with any theater newsreel, was better in fact because it was full-length and unedited. CBS, incidentally, was the only one of New York's 3 telecasters that did not transmit program there, interpreting Mayor O'Dwyer's shutdown of non-essential services due to fuel shortage as reason for keeping WCBW off the air. WGRB, Schemm, carried the affair via shortwave relay.

Event signaled joint utilization of coaxial on an experimental basis without cost to telecasters. Schedule calls for NBC to use it for Washington pickups Mondays and Saturdays, CBS Tuesdays and Fridays, DuMont Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**FIELD DAY FOR LAWYERS:** Defendants have been given extension until March 9 to file answers to Dept. of Justice anti-trust suit against alleged TV patent cartel (Vol. 1, Nos. 16 and 17, Vol. 2, No. 1), with some of New York's plushiest law firms engaged for defense. But consent decree is still very much in the wind, though defendants are not all of one mind about what to do. Paramount has offered to "get out of the way" 1) if Scophony will buy back its stock, for which it paid \$8,500 plus another \$20,000 cash advance, or 2) if Scophony will give Paramount a paid-up license. Other alternative is dedication of patents to public, which would mean end of Scophony here, biggest benefactor from publicity surrounding the suit.

Array of counsel for the defendants lines up thus: for Arthur Levey and Scophony Corp. of America -- Joseph Ollier and Hays, St. John, Abramson & Schulman; for Paramount, Paul Raibourn and Television Productions Inc. -- Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett; for Earl G. Hines and General Precision Equipment Corp. (20th Century-Fox) -- Mudge, Stern, William & Tucker; for Scophony Ltd. of England -- special appearance by Edwin Foster Blair.

For Government, case is in hands of Joseph Borkin, co-author in 1938 with Frank C. Waldrop (now editor of Washington Times-Herald) of the book "Television: A Struggle for Power," whose chapter on "The Somnolent Cinema" refers to the movie moguls and their attitude toward TV in none too flattering terms.... "an unwilling fat boy trying to assume the angular position of the ostrich with head in sand."

**EVERYBODY RIDES:** Current Miller-Petrillo negotiations moved another step forward this week with the setting of April 8, in New York, as date for first meeting between committees representing NAB and AFM. NAB committee numbers 26 and includes representatives of networks, regional chains, affiliates, clear channel stations, independent stations, FM stations, plus NAB Employee-Employer Relations Committee and President Miller's assistants. AFM committee will number 14, including all officers and executive board. Subcommittees, to whittle down this convention-size membership, will probably be picked to carry on negotiations.

Meanwhile, Lea Bill is due to come to vote next week, press of other business keeping it from scheduled House consideration last Thursday. Passage seems to be assured. Rep. Lea has picked up support from all over country, especially small broadcasters, and Rep. Marcantonio is still battling against it with slight, if any, backing (see Vol. 2, No. 6).

**THIRTEEN FOR PHILLY:** One of our engineering friends called up the other day and pointed out a flagrant error in the FM allocation plan. It seems FCC engineers listed Channel Nos. 264 and 266 for both Philadelphia and Wilmington, Del., only 20 miles apart.

A check at the Commission straightened the matter out. It was an error all right, and Philadelphia should not have been given those two channels. They belong rightfully to Wilmington.

So, we suggest you correct your allocation plan (Supplement No. 21) and delete Channels 264 and 266 from Philadelphia. That now gives the Quaker City 13 Metropolitan channels and not 15 as originally specified.

**GOLDWYN CONFIRMS TV PLANS:** Louella Parsons broke the story in her Hollywood column the other day, so Sam Goldwyn, the producer, then confirmed the fact that he has completed a study of TV, has worked out a plan with GE engineers to build a station (presumably in Hollywood), spend \$350,000 on plant and a like amount annually for operation. When Don Lee's W6XAO converts to its new Channel No. 3 on March 4, he will test a show with the 6 Goldwyn girls he is sending to New York in latter March where he proposes to book them also on TV.

**FIRST LABOR CONDITIONALS:** Among the 19 conditional FM grants this week (bringing total to 323) were the first to labor unions -- CIO's United Automobile Workers, for Detroit; Sidney Hillman's clothing workers (Amalgamated Broadcasting System Inc.), for Rochester; David Dubinsky's Unity Broadcasting Corp. of Tenn. (ILGWU), for Chattanooga. All got Metropolitan. State Radio Council (Wisconsin) was granted 2 CPs for non-commercial, educational FM stations -- at Madison and Deerfield. These are the first 2 stations in projected 7-station State-owned network blanketing Wisconsin with main studios on the campus of the U of Wisconsin.

One additional applicant for Washington's 11 channels brings number of contestants to 14. Date for Washington hearing was set for March 11.

**MCDONALD LAUDS COLOR TV:** All out for color TV went Zenith Radio's Comdr. Gene McDonald last week after viewing a CBS demonstration (Vol. 2, No. 5), and he promised that his own Chicago experimental W9XZC will take the air sometime before April 15 on the uhf 500 mc band. He called the CBS show "phenomenal, out of this world." Even second-rate movies in color are made boxoffice successes, he said, arguing against black-and-white, and magazine advertisers are more than willing to pay premium for color. His own firm, he said, won't produce TV sets until color is ready because he thinks that would be an "imposition on the public." There is no great future for TV except on the uhf, he added.

**TELEVISION NOTES:** Irwin Rosse, Promoter Mike Jacobs' radioman, assures us that all reports on televising Louis-Conn fight are mere conjecture at this time. There have been no negotiations yet, but Paul Raibourn, Paramount TV head, has had preliminary discussions with Gen. Kilpatrick, Madison Square Garden president, about showing fight at Paramount Theater in New York City .... CBS is continuing uhf color TV demonstrations until end of month, with showings largely to manufacturers, agencies, broadcasters, then will show them irregularly until live pickups are ready in May; an interested spectator last Tuesday was Secretary of State Byrnes .... DuMont announces its technicians will reconvert all its TV receivers in the hands of the public to the new frequencies for a flat fee, making extra charge only if other work is necessary .... Philco's new temporary TV studio at 17th and Sansom Sts., Philadelphia, is being readied for use about March 8 when WPTZ expects to resume after its changeover to Channel No. 3 (60-66 mc) .... Balaban & Katz TV station WBKB, Chicago, moves to its new channel next month; it goes off the air March 1, returns on Channel No. 4 (66-72 mc) on March 18 .... Hoyland Bettinger, former manager of GE's WRGB, has deal with Harpers for publication of his book, tentatively titled "TV Programming in Practice and Principle."

**NEWS AND VIEWS:** FM and TV operating problems are prominent on agenda of Broadcast Engineering Conference, resuming after 3-year lapse with sessions week of March 18-23 on Ohio State U campus .... Milwaukee Journal has asked FCC that its WTMJ-FM be classified Rural, requests CP for new equipment, antenna change, increase in service area from 8,500 to 16,287 sq. mi. .... Pushing mobile FM, Bell Labs plans vehicular radiotelephone service first in St. Louis, 30 other cities by end of year .... Jack Poppele, job-gathering engineering v.p. of WOR and president of TBA, has been elected to the board of Veteran Wireless Operator's Assn.; he was a shipboard "sparks" in 1917 .... John Lord Booth, scion of the noted Michigan newspaper family, operator of FM station WLOU and AM station WJLB, Detroit, is filing shortly for FMs, in addition to the AMS already applied for, in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Flint. .... RadiOhio Inc. (Wolfe family), one-time eager beavers in the Ohio FM field, are cutting down. Licensee of WELD, pioneer Columbus FM, RadiOhio had applications in for Marion, Portsmouth, Zanesville, Springfield, but has withdrawn all four. Counsel Horace Lohnes gives reasons -- costly, unsettled problems of frequency stability in new FM band .... First FM application to be filed from State of Vermont is that of Brattleboro Reformer (see Supplement No. 14F).

MARTIN CODEL'S

AUTHORITATIVE NEWS SERVICE  
OF THE  
VISUAL BROADCASTING AND  
FREQUENCY MODULATION  
ARTS AND INDUSTRY

# Television Digest

and FM Reports

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**READY TO SPEND \$293,000:** They do things in a big way down in Texas; hence the FM application of the San Antonio Express, new to radio, which states it proposes to spend \$293,000 on plant (\$125,000-\$150,000 for buildings, \$75,000 for transmitter, \$50,000 for antenna and supporting structure), plus \$20,000 per month on operation. Also an applicant for AM, the Frank G. Huntress newspaper would use the same buildings and some of plant for AM if it succeeds in getting that also. Its willingness to spend that much money on FM alone if necessary, however, rivals the record proposed \$225,000-\$250,000 which San Antonio's WOAI has stated it will spend on FM (see Supplement No. 14B).

Another newspaper newcomer for FM is the Gary (Ind.) Post-Tribune. An additional applicant from the Boston area is Plymouth County Broadcasting Co., for Brockton, headed by Edmund J. Campbell, attorney, and Willis R. Davies, cafe owner. Applying for Woonsocket, R.I., is Joseph M. Viana, music store owner.

Still another new applicant is the newly formed WHOW Inc., ninth to ask for an FM in Baltimore where it also seeks an AM. It is headed by Ben Strouse, manager of Washington's WWDC and son-in-law of Joseph Katz, the Baltimore adman. Each owns 25% of the stock, as do also Ross H. Beville, WWDC chief engineer, and G. Bennett Larson, manager of WPEN and WPEN-FM, Philadelphia.

**TV SETS DRIBBLING OUT:** You can't buy any of the 10,000 pre-war TV sets from their owners for love or money, and the big makers haven't yet put their promised new lines on the market. Yet, without fanfare and without advertising, Macy's in New York has been selling direct-viewing receivers by Andrea and Emerson since last November. A spokesman for the world's largest department store indicated that about 3 a day have been marketed in this quiet manner.

Andrea sets, also offered through a few other dealers, include a 5-inch tube table model at \$134.50; a 12-inch, including 3-band radio (no FM) at \$499.50; a 12-inch console combination with automatic record changer and radio (no FM) at \$699.50. They were said to have been made before the war, or from surplus pre-war parts. Emerson model has a 10-inch tube with AM and phonograph without changer at \$485. Installation runs \$25 to \$50. Changeover to new TV frequencies of NBC and CBS, which go off the air March 1 to adjust to new channels, is guaranteed for about \$25 more. NBC's WNBT plans to return April 5.

**SALE DEALS APPROVED:** There were no rival bidders for Lit Bros. WFIL and WFIL-FM, Philadelphia, so FCC this week authorized record \$1,900,000 sale to Philadelphia Inquirer, first deal consummated under its new 60-day "notice of sale" procedure. Commissioner Durr dissented. Newspaper presumably will now drop its independent application for a new Philadelphia FM, leaving 6 applicants in field (Supplements 14A-14F inclusive). Also approved this week was \$280,312 sale of KMTR, Los Angeles, to Dorothy Thackrey (New York Post), also an applicant for both FM and TV in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles.

**CHECKREIN ON PETRILLO:** There are still some hurdles to leap before the Lea Bill, passed by the House Thursday by the overwhelming vote of 222 to 43, becomes law. The Senate has to agree to its substitution for the already enacted but milder Vandenberg Bill, which seems certain if the measure goes to the Interstate Commerce Committee (Wheeler, chairman) rather than to the Labor Committee. The conference bill must be enacted by both houses, the President must sign -- and then you can expect an AFM court test on constitutionality.

All this will take some more time and then only can FM -- and radio as a whole -- be freed of the Petrillo shackles. FMers, naturally, are eagerly awaiting the signal that will end his ban on duplication of AM musical programs.

You'll find the debate in the Feb. 21 Congressional Record good reading. Only the rabid pro-labor Congressmen fought the bill. Some moderate elements wanted to water down the penalties on the plea they were too broad and might be interpreted to prevent labor's right to strike, but they made no impression.

Petrillo is reaping the harvest of his go-to-hell attitude toward Congress as well as the industry. The debate showed how he left himself wide open to every charge leveled against his AFM: tribute amounting to \$20,000,000 a year; union laws that permit him, like a dictator, to annul, amend or promulgate his own rules; his edicts against broadcasts of non-commercial music programs and of music broadcasts from abroad. As much as anything, the AFM ban on military and other non-professional orchestras in civic ceremonies, his untenable Interlochen proscription, cited again and again by legislators, contributed to the easy passage of the bill.

**FACSIMILE LICENSEES:** Though interest in facsimile is beginning to stir among broadcasters and newspaper interests, little evidence of it has reached FCC in way of new applications. Cowles Co.'s request for developmental facsimile on 107.7 mc in Washington is the only recent one. FCC Rules (Supplement No. 7, Sec. 3.266) permit FM broadcasters, upon application, to transmit simplex facsimile after aural hours; multiplex (simultaneously with aural) under certain conditions.

All facsimile today is non-commercial, experimental. Notable among facsimile pushers are Capt. W. G. H. Finch, licensee of FM station WGHF and experimental W2XBF, New York City; John V. L. Hogan, president of Facsimile Inc. and of the New York Times' WQXR and WQXQ, licensee of experimental W2XR.

Three licensees for facsimile per se have been operating experimentally for 5-6 years in the 25 mc band: RadiOhio Inc., Columbus (W8XUM); WOKO Inc., Albany (W3XWE); Louisville Courier-Journal (W9XWT). Eleven developmental stations specify A-4 (facsimile) or special for facsimile emissions in their licenses or CPs (Supplement No. 5). FCC has placed commercial facsimile in the 470-480 band, and has also designated 106-108 in Area II for facsimile. But, should need for more commercial FM channels arise, 106-108 will be used for that purpose.

**BARRAGE OF TV PUBLICITY:** Not to be outdone by the ever promotion-minded CBS in the matter of TV publicity, NBC is firing its own barrage of material designed to "sell" television now. Just issued is 64-page, pocket-size, cartoon-illustrated glossary of the workaday language of TV titled "Television Talk," which you can obtain from NBC's New York headquarters. It defines such terms as "inky" and "woof" in addition to some 250 less slangy words and phrases which, if you read them through, really tell the story of TV -- an excellent job. Then, to publicize Washington-New York coaxial telecasts (Vol. 2, No. 7), NBC's WNBT bought big display space in New York newspapers urging set owners to invite their friends in "to enjoy this historical broadcast." And time availability on WNBT is also being currently advertised in the trade press to attract sponsors. On its part, CBS used the trade press with big spreads to quote New York radio editors' comments, mostly enthusiastic, on its color TV demonstrations (Vol. 2, No. 5). CBS was host this week to its affiliates, who are being enlisted to back its color TV campaign.

**DEVIATIONS FROM FM PLAN:** One of the Washington Metropolitan FM channels, about which mention was made last week when the FCC announced that 14 applicants were vying for 11 available channels, has gone conditionally to Richard Field Lewis Jr. in Winchester, Va. This became known when the FCC made public this week some of the deviations from its allocation plan. The FCC also reported that one of the Atlantic City Metropolitan channels came from Philadelphia (see Vol. 2, No. 5), and that Hagerstown, Md. got a Metropolitan channel from York, Pa. The exact channels thus shifted from original plan (Supplement No. 21) have not yet been designated.

The FCC report reiterated the tentative nature of the FM allocation plan and stated that it provides the necessary flexibility for getting FM under way satisfactorily. More readjustments will continue to be made from time to time.

That this is the case, was seen in the conditional Metropolitan grant to Capital Broadcasting Co. for Annapolis, Md. -- one of 7 issued this week as shown in Supplement No. 30 herewith which now lists 330 conditionals. Annapolis is not down in the allocation plan for a Metropolitan. The other 6 conditional grants, all Metropolitan, went to Baltimore, Md. There are still 3 applicants for the remaining 3 channels allotted Baltimore -- Hearst Radio, Atlas Broadcasting, and WHOW Inc., the last newly filed this week.

Applicants added for designated (but not yet scheduled) hearings, also announced this week, include Radio Station WJOB, for Chicago; Central Illinois Radio Corp., for Peoria; Bieberbach Broadcasting Corp., for Waltham, Mass. (Boston); Skyland Broadcasting Corp., for Dayton. A CP for a non-commercial, educational station was granted Oklahoma A&M College, at Stillwater, Okla.

**TV FIRST NIGHTS:** One immediate effect of the NBC-Radio Dramatists Guild tieup, announced recently, was given expression by Burton Rascoe, New York World-Telegram theater critic. The deal whereby NBC will produce and televise original plays, to be viewed by theatrical producers on home receivers, he says, "will, to a great extent, eliminate out-of-town tryouts." What this means to the theater has Broadway abuzz.

There are details to be worked out. Still to be answered are such questions as whether a play producer will take over play and TV cast with it, Equity rules on rehearsal pay, etc. Favoring the idea are the fillip it will give untried playwrights whose brainchildren may now see the light of electronic day; the increased ability of producers to judge the commercial value of a play which heretofore they have had to judge solely by script reading. To be called "Broadway Preview," the Guild's WNBT program will be produced by the network, which assumes all production costs and supplies cast.

Other TV program notes: Balaban & Katz's WBKB, Chicago, put on motor driving safety show Feb. 12, featuring Evanston (Ind.) police "drunk-o-meter"; reaction was reported most favorable .... CBS "See What You Know," telequiz show, got off to good start over WCBW, New York, Feb. 13, with Bennett Cerf doing the Clifton Fadiman .... WCBW viewers also saw dancer Katherine Dunham do unique Haitian religious dances Feb. 15 .... First audition by Hollywood studio representatives of original story by TV was presented Feb. 17 when NBC's WNBT televised "Laughter in Paris," by Richard McDonagh, manager of network's script division .... Veteran actor J. C. Nugent plays lead in own comedy, "Knockout," scheduled for Feb. 24 over WNBT.

**M-G-M's KMGM FOR FM IN L.A.:** Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer reports it recently began the construction of its Los Angeles FM station, will start operation by May 1. Holder of a CP since before the war, station was assigned call letters KTLO but has requested and expects KMGM, now being used in marine service. M-G-M's radio affairs are handled by Herbert Pettey. Loew's Inc., parent company, is licensee thru subsidiaries of AM station WHN, New York, FM station WHNF, New York, and an applicant for FM in Chicago and Washington, TV in Los Angeles.

**TV-FM RULINGS THIS WEEK:** Confirmed as OPA Administrator Thursday, without any Senate opposition, Paul A. Porter wound up his FCC chores this week end, was prepared to hand over to Acting Chairman Charles R. Denny Jr. Monday. Meanwhile, the short week (which included the Washington Birthday holiday) again held up both the decision on Washington's TV applications and the opinion on the rejection of the Zenith-GE petition to widen the FM band. Porter conducted the TV hearing, in which 6 applicants seek 4 available TV channels, so his vote presumably has been recorded but decision requires full Commission action and should be forthcoming next week.

**STRATOVISION PROVING OUT:** Westinghouse reported this week that first stratovision flight tests -- over Wilmington, Philadelphia, New York City, New Haven -- show that usable TV and FM signals can be transmitted over a distance of 240 miles from a 25,000-foot altitude with 250 watts of power. First airborne station, a twin-engined medium bomber obtained from war surplus and refitted by Glenn L. Martin and Westinghouse engineers, used 3 frequencies between 100 and 550 mc. Plans call for tests up to 2,000 mc.

**MORE TV FRANCHISES:** Newest applicant for TV (in Toledo) is George B. Storer's Fort Industry Co., which Lee B. Wailes, recently-resigned manager of Westinghouse stations, joins shortly in an executive capacity. Company proposes \$189,000 initial outlay, plans TV applications for other cities later, presumably where its AMS are located. It also now has full house of FM applications on file: Toledo, Atlanta, Miami, Wheeling, Lima, Zanesville.

Farnsworth Television & Radio Co., this week secured reinstatement of its lapsed CP for experimental TV station W9XFT, Fort Wayne. Also granted this week was a CP to Los Angeles Times for an experimental TV in Pasadena, visual power 1 kw, aural 5 kw and channel to be assigned.

**MOTHER TV AND CHICKS:** Our London correspondent reports that British TV plans are slowly but surely getting under way, with current project for reviving pre-war Alexandra Palace transmitter to serve London and to act as "mother" station for 6 other transmitters which will serve some 75% of Britain's population. These presumably will be linked by coaxial with Alexandra Palace, which resumed experimental signals (a tuning note and a black cross on a white ground) in mid-February. Discussions are also under way with the "cinema trades," says our report, whereby public in non-reception areas may get service through looking-in posts probably at local theatres. Maurice Gorham, in charge of the "Light Programme" since its inception, has been appointed BBC officer in charge of TV when it resumes. Meanwhile, London dispatches report Britain's 10,000,000 radio set license fees, which support the BBC, have been doubled from 10 shillings to £1 (\$4), and that when regular TV service starts in on May 1 TV set licenses will be twice that, or \$8.

**NEWS AND VIEWS:** Newly formed Lafayette Television & Motion Picture Studios Inc., headquartering for time being in N.Y. offices of Jaffe & McNulty, 400 Madison Ave., announces it has acquired Brooklyn Elks clubhouse, is spending \$500,000 to convert it into "largest motion picture and television studios in the East"; officers are Henry Pederson, president; Philip Konof, v.p.; Hyman Goldman, treasurer .... Working under Paul Mowrey, head of the Television division of ABC's Program Dept., Richard B. Rawls, former studio operations manager of CBS, has been named manager of ABC's television operations handling administrative duties .... Latest book due in bookshops Feb. 27 from prolific and authoritative pen of Orrin E. Dunlap, ex-New York Times, now RCA information chief: Radar: What Radar Is and How It Works (Harper & Brothers, \$2.50) .... Capt. C. W. Horn, wartime special assistant to the chief of Naval Communications, ex-general engineer and research-development director of NBC, was mustered out last week, leaves Washington in about a month to realize his long-cherished ambition to go into business in Mexico.