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DIAL 580

**CKEY**

## Wheeler

(Continued from page 15)

Mr. Porter has not yet formally stated he won't return to the FCC, but such an expression is expected momentarily.

Senator Wheeler's profession is law. He has two sons in practice—one in Washington and the other in San Francisco. He may hang out his shingle again. It will be in Montana, if he plans to mend his political fences. He also has other interests, including the Grand Hotel in downtown Butte, which brings him a tidy return. His son, John C., owns one-third interest in KFPY Spokane, acquired about a year ago. Sen. Wheeler himself borrowed the money, in the neighborhood of \$100,000, for the purchase of that interest.

Sen. Wheeler's close personal friend, confidant and political adviser has been Ed Craney, directing head of the Z-Bar Network in Montana, which includes KGIR Butte, KPFA Helena and KRBM Bozeman, and part owner and directing head of KFPY and KXL Portland.

### Clear Channel Opponent

An ardent opponent of clear channels and power in excess of 50,000 w, Sen. Wheeler was the author of the resolution adopted in 1938 declaring it as the "sense of the Senate" that the FCC should not authorize power in excess of 50,000 w. He has urged a breakdown of clear channels and has been a sharp critic of networks and stations on grounds of failure to provide equal and equivalent time for the discussion of public issues. He also has chastised the networks for "soap operas" and purported over-commercialism.

The Wheeler defeat may have a bearing upon the outcome of the Clear Channel hearings currently in progress before the FCC. Senator Wheeler admittedly has been the strongest single legislative force in the advocacy of breakdowns. Even though the issue will be decided before Senator Wheeler retires from the Committee chairmanship with the end of this session, his influence—always a factor in the past in FCC consideration of such matters—is largely neutralized.

Sen. Wheeler conceded his defeat Wednesday noon, when Judge Erickson, CIO-supported former State Supreme Court Justice, held a lead of nearly 4,000 votes with more than half of the state's precincts in. The 65-year-old Wheeler has served continuously in the Senate since 1922. In 1940 he was elected by "the largest vote ever given any candidate for office in Montana," says his biography in the *Congressional Directory*. Judge Erickson's Republican opponent in November will be State Senator Zales N. Ecton. Political observers feel Mr. Ecton may have a good

## CP's Granted for Three New Commercial Video Stations

CONSTRUCTION permits for three new commercial television stations were awarded by the FCC last week to three metropolitan newspaper interests—*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Scripps-Howard Radio Inc., and The Chronicle Publishing Co., San Francisco.

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, division of Triangle Publications Inc., is parent corporation of WFIL Philadelphia and WFIL-FM. Scripps-Howard, grantee for Cleveland, is affiliated with ownership of the *Cleveland Press* and other newspapers. Chronicle Publishing Co. publishes the *San Francisco Chronicle* and has a pending FM application before the FCC.

*Philadelphia Inquirer* station was granted use of channel 6, 82-66 mc; power 18.1 kw visual, 9.3 kw aural, with antenna height 500 feet. Grant is contingent upon (1) CAA approval and (2) that *Inquirer* install frequency monitor having accuracy of .001% or better as soon as available.

President of *Inquirer* is W. H. Annenberg. Joseph First is vice president and secretary and S. C. Annenberg is treasurer. R. A. Swanson and T. C. Colgan are assistant secretary and assistant treasurer, respectively.

Cleveland grant to Scripps-Howard Radio Inc., subsidiary of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, was for channel 5, 76-82 mc; power 40 kw visual, 37.4 kw aural; and antenna height of 540 feet. Scripps-Howard grant is also subject to CAA approval and installation of frequency monitor.

### FM Pending

Scripps-Howard is licensee of WNOX Knoxville, and WCPO Cincinnati. FM applications for Indianapolis and Cleveland are pending before the Commission. An AM application for Cleveland also is pending. E. W. Scripps Co., parent organization of Scripps-Howard, controls the Memphis Publishing Co., licensee of WMC Memphis.

Officers of Scripps-Howard Radio Inc. are: Karl Bickel, chairman of the board; Jack R. Howard, president; James C. Hanrahan, R. B. Westergaard and Mortimer C. Watters, vice presidents; H. E. Neave, secretary-treasurer; Joseph R. Fawcett, assistant secretary-

treasurer; Paul Patterson, controller and general counsel. Directors are Messrs. Bickel, Howard, Hanrahan, Westergaard and Watters.

Application states that Mr. Hanrahan, who has been directing Scripps-Howard Radio Washington's office, will become general manager of operations in Cleveland. Joseph B. Epperson, Scripps-Howard Radio chief engineer who was with the Army Signal Corps in radar work during the war, also moves to Cleveland to supervise technical operations.

Chronicle Publishing Co. was authorized to operate on channel 11, 198-204 mc; power 18.24 kw visual, 19.2 kw aural; antenna, 2281 feet. Chronicle grant was subject to similar conditions as *Inquirer* and Scripps-Howard.

Chronicle Publishing Co., applicant for a San Francisco FM station, is headed by George T. Cameron. Nion R. Tucker is vice president; E. L. Labadie, secretary-treasurer; and L. S. Denny is assistant secretary-treasurer.

FCC meantime announced approval of assignment of license of WPTZ Philadelphia and relays W10XAF W10XAE and W10XAD from Philco Products Inc. to Philco Television Broadcasting Corp. in order to segregate television activity from other phases of the organization.

## Capt. Beltz Is Sworn As Regular Navy Officer

CAPT. WILLIS H. (BILL) BELTZ, who has been on leave from RCA Victor as west coast manager of engineering products division since the war began, last Monday was sworn in as an officer in the regular Navy, in lieu of reserve status. He is now electronics officer of the Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, and the Fourth Naval District.



Capt. Beltz A reservist since 1925, Capt.

Beltz was called to active duty just five years before acceptance of the permanent appointment—on July 15, 1941. He has been on duty in the Bureau of Ships, in charge of shore radio, and also served in the South and Southwest Pacific. He was assigned to Philadelphia in June 1944.

When called to active duty, Capt. Beltz was a reserve Lieutenant Commander. He was promoted to Captain in November 1944, with his commission dating back to June 1943. So far as is known, he is the only senior reserve officer from radio to accept permanent appointment postwar.

chance for election, since many Republicans who voted for Sen. Wheeler probably would switch back to their own party. Montana, however, is normally a Democratic state.

Sen. Wheeler's defeat was all the more crushing because he had something more than the implied endorsement of President Truman, who both in a letter and at a news conference was critical of the attacks made upon Sen. Wheeler by the Erickson forces.