

REVISED CODE PROPOSED BY RADIO BOARD

Washington.

Secrecy regarding a proposed new code for the Federal Radio Commission was dispelled when the details were made public by the Commission simultaneous with transmission to Congress of proposed legislation.

The Board proposes:

Station license limitation to one year, instead of three years.

A strong anti-lottery law.

Right to suspend station licenses for 30 days as a milder preventive measure than cancellation.

1600-1700 kc band for television instead of 2850-2950 kc band, sound track on 1550 kc.

Station License Time Limit

Concerning the license time limitation the Board asks the following be enacted: "No license granted for the operation of a radio station shall be for a longer term than one year, and any license granted may be revoked as hereinafter provided. Upon the expiration of any license, upon application therefor, a renewal of such license may be granted from time to time for a term not to exceed one year, but action of the Commission with reference to the granting of such application shall be limited to and governed by the same considerations and practice which affect the granting of original applications."

Anti-Lottery Provision

In the provision against lotteries the following is the language:

"No person shall broadcast by means of any radio broadcast station for which a license is required by law of the United States, any information concerning any lottery, gift enterprise, or similar scheme, offering prizes dependent in whole or in part upon lot or chance, or any information concerning any ticket, certificate or instrument representing any chance, share or interest in or dependent upon the event of any lottery, gift enterprise or similar scheme offering prizes dependent in whole or in part upon lot or chance, or any list of prizes or information concerning any list of prizes awarded by means of any such scheme, and any person so doing, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

New Rule for Records

Phonograph records, call letter announcements, and quota distribution also are covered.

Regulations relating to announcements of transcription and phonograph broadcasts, now General Order 78, will specify only that language describing such production be "clear."

"A mechanical reproduction shall be announced as such just before it is broadcast, except when its use is merely inci-

Hoover Spoke 29 Times, Record

Washington.

Five hundred and fifteen broadcasting hours were utilized by the United States Government over the networks of the National Broadcasting Company during 1931. M. H. Aylesworth, President of the Company, reported.

The report disclosed that 329 government officials spoke over the radio, making a total of 720 addresses. Virtually every day during 1931 some activity of the Federal Government was discussed over the network.

President Hoover, the report showed, spoke 29 times, which is the greatest number of times any President has been heard over the radio in one year; Vice-President Curtis made three radio speeches; the Chief Justice, Charles Evans Hughes, spoke five times.

Every member of the cabinet faced the microphone at least once during the year.

dental, as for an identification or background. The exact form of announcement is not prescribed, but the language shall be clear and in terms commonly used and understood. The following are examples of statements sufficient for the purpose:

"(a) 'This is a mechanical reproduction.'

"(b) 'This is a player-piano record.'"

Call Letter Announcements

Call letter announcements, now required every 15 minutes under General Order 8, may be announced at least every 30 minutes:

"Each license of a broadcast station shall announce the call letters and location as frequently as practicable during the hours of operation, and in any event before or after each program being broadcast. In no event shall more than 30 minutes elapse between such announcements, and in so far as practicable these announcements shall be made on the hour and half hour. These requirements are waived when such announcements would interrupt a single consecutive speech; and in such cases the announcement of the call letters and location shall be made as soon as possible."

Quota Under Radio Law

General Order 102, concerning quota distribution, was revised so where no interference might result, slight deviation from the rigid mathematical formula determining quota will be permitted.

The second part of the new regulations concerns practices and procedure before the Commission. Parties to proceedings before the Commission may appear personally or through attorneys, so long as the persons who appear conform to ethical standards of legal conduct.

When such action is considered by the Commission to be in public interest, properly filed applications may be granted without hearing, on a conditional 20-day basis. If any party is aggrieved, a hearing may be called for upon application filed with the Commission within 20 days after the decision. Such applications must contain a statement of the applicant's in-

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terest in the decision, and a sworn objection to facts presented in the Commission's decision.

The "broadcast day," now specified as 12 hours, under General Order 105, for unlimited time stations, is amended to include half-time stations, and other classes of stations, pointing out that every station must operate at least two-thirds of the total time allotted to it for a broadcast day, with the exception of Sunday. Violation of this rule will lead to time reduction of the violating station.

The frequency of 1,550 kilocycles, just above the broadcast limit, is designated as the visual broadcast sound-track. This will enable ordinary sound-receivers to pick up sound accompaniments to television broadcasts, without addition of any shortwave unit. The sound-track was formerly designated as 1,604 kilocycles.

Television Revision

Replacing the 2,850-2,950 kilocycle experimental television band, the Commission specifies the band between 1,600 and 1,700 kilocycles, formerly assigned to aviation. This affects only one of four bands, the others (intact) being 2,000-2,100, 2,100-2,200, and 2,750 to 2,850. W9XR, Chicago; W1XAV, Boston; W2XCP are on 2,850-2,950. The ultra frequencies are not affected.

The Commission deleted General Order 56, regarding visual broadcasting regulations, and substituted the following provisions in the regulations:

"The licensee of an experimental visual broadcast station shall not permit the transmission of programs involving advertising features. This regulation, however, shall not be construed to prevent the transmission of a visual broadcast program simultaneously with a regular broadcast station program having commercial aspects, provided that commercial announcements, either oral or visual, shall not be made on the visual broadcast frequency. In all such simultaneous transmissions from a broadcast station in the band 550 to 1,500 kilocycles and from a visual broadcast station in the band assigned to visual broadcasting, the regular broadcast station shall make the regular commercial announcement only on the broadcast frequency.

Language Specified

"Both stations shall make the announcements of call letters for both the broadcast station and the visual broadcast station on their respective frequencies; provided that when commercial announcements are made on the broadcast frequency, and the use of the visual broadcast frequency is referred to, the following form of announcement only shall be used:

"This program is being broadcast by television over station _____ on the frequency of kilocycles. These visual broadcast transmissions are experimental."

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