

Limit on Number of Stations Planned by U.S.

See What the Waves Bring In



Class B Stations in Worse Tangle Than Ever, Due to Interference—New Channels Useless as Solution, Commerce Department Finds, as Applicants Swamp Bureau as Soon as New Waves Are Established.

WASHINGTON.

AN extremely critical stage in the allocation of wavelengths to class B broadcasting stations has been reached and developments may have a great effect on the public. Hope has been almost abandoned by the Radio Bureau of the Department of Commerce that any reallocation plan for class B stations can be put into effect. Almost to the point where experiments with the reduction of separation between the wavelengths of stations were believed successful, the Radio Bureau has almost finally decided that the plan will not be put into general effect.

Complaints from radio supervisors, broadcasting stations and fans in all sections of the country of interference is responsible for the practical abandonment of the general allocation plan.

24 Stations Shifted

The wavelengths of nearly two dozen class B stations have already been changed. In cases where there are no complaints of interference the changes may become permanent. In other cases, additional changes will be made so that interference will not result.

The trouble, say officials of the Department of Commerce, is that there are too many broadcasting stations for the number of available channels.

"There is no use in trying to create new channels," said one authority. "Just as soon as one new channel is created, two new stations spring up. **We have reached a point where the only remedy seems to be the limitation of stations.**"

"I believe that if we could announce tomorrow that there would soon be available 100 new wavelengths for class B stations that inside of 48 hours we would hear of 200 new stations which would like to come on the air.

Many Ready to Start

"I believe there are quite a number of large companies right now which contemplate the erection of stations just as soon as there is room on the air for them."

Under the present law the Secretary of Commerce has not the authority to refuse a license to any station which meets the few requirements. Practically the only thing the Department of Commerce can do about it is to regulate the time each station may operate.

If the general reallocation plan is finally abandoned, as seems likely, the reduction between some stations will be made when interference will not result. This will accommodate a few of the new stations which will want to come on the air shortly.

The other new stations will be compelled to divide time three ways with stations already established.

DISCARDED LICENSES MUST BE SENT BACK TO RADIO BUREAU

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by the Radio Bureau that whenever radio stations are dismantled, their licenses must be forwarded to the Department of Commerce.

N. Y. Police Use Selective Call

A NEW installation, tried for the first time at the New York City Municipal Radio Broadcasting Station, WNYC, is expected to prove a valuable adjunct to the work of the police.

Engineers of the Western Electric Company successfully demonstrated a selective call to a single police station, followed by police instructions exclusively to that precinct. It also was demonstrated that the receiving set under test would not respond when other stations were called unless a borough call or a general call was issued.

How It Works

The system consists of the broadcast calling attachment for the transmitter and the receiving equipment. The transmitting equipment includes a vacuum tube oscillator and a master selector key, capable of calling single stations, groups of stations or all stations at one time. The receiving equipment, to be located at about 200 police stations, booths and administrative offices in the five boroughs, has no exposed dials, but is tuned from within the cabinet, after which the cabinet is locked. This will prevent the receiving set being used for other than official business.

The make-up of the receiving set was worked out by Thomas W. Rochester, electrical engineer of the Department of Plant and Structures, and Michael R. Brennan, Superintendent of Police Telegraph.

Saves Time, Says Mills

William Wirt Mills, Commissioner of Plant and Structures, commenting upon the utility of the installation, said: "The saving in time and benefits to be derived from broadcasting such matters as major

accidents, thefts of automobiles, etc., will be far reaching. In the case of catastrophes, bulletins may be broadcast, including the lists of the dead and the disposition of the injured. This will prevent the jamming of the regular police telephone system due to the great number of inquiries after such accidents. The public may listen on their own receivers or go to the nearest police station and receive bulletins or obtain information relative to the injured, thus leaving the regular telephone system open for the transaction of routine work.

Message from U.S.S. Utah, with Pershing Aboard, Heard 4,600 Miles

WASHINGTON.

A TEST message sent by the Utah when south of Llanquihue, Chile, was picked up by the Rochester, in New York Harbor. The Utah was using a wavelength of around 2,500 meters. The distance was 4,600 miles. General Pershing is aboard the Utah.

SEVEN STATIONS CERTIFIED FOR FREQUENCY STANDARD

WASHINGTON.

SEVEN broadcasting stations whose transmitting waves were measured during December by the Bureau of Standards were found to maintain a sufficiently constant frequency to be useful as frequency standards. These stations were WCAP, Washington; WRC, Washington; KDKA, Pittsburgh; WBZ, Springfield, Mass.; WGY, Schenectady, N. Y.; WSB, Atlanta, and WWJ, Detroit, Mich.