

# Wave Clean-up Promised

## Good Reception to be Restored Nov. 11th, Says Caldwell; Attacks Stations Stirring Up Protests

By Orestes H. Caldwell

Federal Radio Commissioner, Representing the First Zone

**S**HALL the radio broadcasting situation be cleaned up now and for all time and good radio reception be restored to our millions of listeners? Or shall radio be allowed to slip back to the confusion of interference and heterodyne which have beset the broadcasting waves for the past two years?

That is the issue before the radio listeners of the United States during the next thirty days. For on November 11th the public will have within its grasp a radio set-up with reduced number of stations, for which the people, Congress and radio folk generally have patiently waited all these many months.

So far as the Federal Radio Commission is concerned, the reallocation—exactly as ordered by Congress, but embodying sound radio principles—will go through as announced, on the morning of November 11th. There will be no turning back or postponement by the Commission. There will be no compromise of the public's or listener's interests by their radio representatives at Washington.

The Commission is determined to stand firmly on its order, affecting big and little broadcasters alike, and to bring back to the American people good radio reception, equitably apportioned throughout the nation as required by law.

Yet from now on till November 11th it is likely that public sympathy will be appealed to by some few selfish broadcasters and that the aid of groups of listeners themselves will be sought by specious arguments that this or that station is to have its service unduly cut.

On such selfish appeals listeners, in their own interest, are urged to withhold their judgment, and certainly their participation. For investigation will show that the allocation assignments, as made, are generally fair and equitable to all—and have been arranged solely so to secure the fullest possible service to all listeners in each State and section.

If minor injustices have crept in, as

between the hours or position of this station and that station, simple and direct methods are provided by the law for getting quickly at the facts, by having testimony on all sides presented before the body of five Commissioners, so that following such public hearing each situation can be adjusted fairly in the best public interest.

### More on Low Waves

Of course there will be time-sharing and time reductions for individual stations. Of course some stations will find themselves with lower wavelengths than before. And of course there will be some power cuts.

All of these will follow in any rearrangement of 600 stations, by which only 315 will hereafter be permitted on the air simultaneously—as good radio requires.

And obviously, also, if we are going to utilize all our 90 channels fully, the efficient (if less-popular) high frequencies will have to carry their share, and some stations will thus be "moved down." But the stations so shifted will have the future compensation of "getting out" with their programs to larger audiences than ever before.

Only by reducing the number of stations that are simultaneously broadcasting on our 90 channels can radio be reclaimed from the heterodynes that have continued since the 1926 breakdown of the law. Every radio fan and every radio listener knows this.

And after trying every other expedient the Radio Commission has finally, as a body, recognized this fact, and now upon sound engineering principles has erected the reallocation ordered for November 11th.

Broadcasters big and little are asked to co-operate in the public interest and to accept their new positions and portions, in the inevitable solution of the problem.

To the credit of the broadcasters as a

whole be it said that they generally recognize the scientific necessity, and the unpleasant duty imposed on the Commission, and all but very few have willingly accepted the sacrifices entailed. Some few (ignoring the remedies provided by the the Commission and the law) have undertaken to enlist their local publics against the whole orderly change which is designed to bring improved radio to millions.

The issue is clean-cut. On the one side stand these few who insist on preserving their excess or present share of the radio facilities; in the face of the public interest in other communities and the need for a general reduction. Some would even attack the whole radio structure, if in the general confusion and disaster they could hold onto their present schedules, though radio and the public suffer.

On the other side are the interests of the public, the far-seeing broadcasters, the radio industry, and the real friends of radio. This is the position on which the Federal Radio Commission stands resolute—with full powers from Congress and with convictions burned deep into the souls of its members who have withstood the ordeals of a year or more of Commission service.

### Sees Public Aroused

This is the side of good radio reception for 120,000,000 of our population; good radio to every home on the continent, nightly programs of inspiration, information and entertainment to every farm and city listener, every remote mountain, prairie and island dwelling. The broadcasting reallocation is effective November 11th as announced.

And an aroused public opinion, backed by an army of interested listeners, will deal in its own way with any selfish minority which seeks to upset or delay the new orderly arrangement which will restore the full miracle of radio to 120,000,000 people.

## Byrd Ship at Equator Hears Soprano in N. Y.

Sylvia Miller, young lyric soprano of Major Edward Bowes' Capitol "Family" of the air, received a radiogram from the SS. City of New York, by R. W. Konter, present with Commander Byrd on his South Polar expedition. It reads:

We are in the Pacific about to cross the Equator bound for Samoa. Thrilled when I heard your voice over WGY tonight.

R. W. KONTER.

Mr. Konter is known as Commander Byrd's "right hand man" and has accompanied him on several expeditions, including the one to the Arctic in 1926.

### WGBS FOUR YEARS OLD

Four years ago Gimbel Bros., New York City, opened WGBS. The station's fourth birthday was celebrated with song, humor and instrumental music.

Flora Le Breton, of "Present Arms," was one of the celebrants.

## Young Is Appointed An N.B.C. Announcer

John Shaw Young, formerly of WBZ and WBZA, operated by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in Springfield and Boston, has joined the staff of announcers of the National Broadcasting Company.

Young is the first of the NBC announcers to come direct from college to broadcasting. He is also one of the two announcers who are not singers. The other is Edward Thorgerson, a pianist. The new announcer, who is a native of Springfield, received his education at Yale University, where he studied playwriting under Professor George P. Baker after he had finished his undergraduate work. He was graduated in 1927.

### "FAUST" ON MONDAY

The grand opera "Faust" will be given by the National Broadcasting Company over its chain Monday, October 29, at 10:30 p. m.

## WCGU Appeals from Its New Assignment

Washington. An application for modification of the station license assigned to WCGU, at Coney Island, N. Y., was filed with the Federal Radio Commission by Charles G. Unger, president of the United States Broadcasting Corporation, operator of the station.

The application will be considered along with 16 others already filed with the Commission.

The application requested change in the frequency, power, and hours of operation assigned the station under the new allocation of broadcasting facilities to become effective November 11th. The terms of the present license call for operation on 1,370 kilocycles with 500 watts of power. The modification requested is 920 kilocycles with 1,000 watts of power. The hours of operation specified in the reallocation are 32 hours weekly, and the modification requested is to 12 hours per day.