

# SYNCHRONIZED TESTS ENDING; REPORT ASKED

Washington. May 16th has been set as the date when the Federal Radio Commission desires to have in its hands reports of participating stations on the results of synchronization and simultaneous operation. With synchronization there is a control station for keeping the two waves synchronous, whereas with simultaneous operation the stations depend on matched crystals and do not make any further effort at identity of frequency of transmission.

The subject is regarded by the Commission as of vast importance, because if synchronization or simultaneous operation or both prove successful they open the way to reduction of interference and expense, and increase of the service area.

## Permits Continued

Two notable instances of synchronization are those of WBAL, Baltimore, Md., with WJZ, New York, on 760 kc. and WTIC, Hartford, Conn., with WEAJ, New York, on 660 kc. Permission to continue synchronization to June 1st was granted recently by the Commission for both these experiments.

WHO, Des Moines, Ia., and WOC, Davenport, Ia., have been conducting simultaneous operation for about a year. Both stations are owned by the same company. Other cases of simultaneous operation are being continued, so that a full report may be received on the set date.

Commission engineers so far have not been fully satisfied with results, as they observed them, but as improvements were expected by the participating stations, the reports to be rendered are expected to clear up the differences.

## May Reduce Waves Used

The stations themselves have been interested in getting rid of any troubles that developed, as the stations have a strong interest in attaining economical operation such as synchronization or simultaneous operation or both promise. The Commission's interest is primarily an administrative one, as there are more than 600 broadcasting stations now on the air, and overcrowding is admitted. The experiments give promise of a solution, if they are successful, in that the number of frequencies used may be materially reduced.

Where synchronization or simultaneous operation obtains the same program is sent out by the participating stations.

Stations report that so much progress has been made that it is to be expected that their reports will be favorable. Freedom from interference, particularly absence of a circuit tone due to failure of identity of frequency, has been achieved, it is said, although there remain several difficulties, some of them serious.

## Other Examples

WBZ, Springfield, Mass., and WBZA, Boston, Mass., are using simultaneous operation with matched crystals. Other stations that had similar experience were WHEC-WABO, Rochester, N. Y.; WOKO, Albany, N. Y.; WHP, Harrisburg, Pa.; and WFEA, Manchester, N. H. These stations likewise were authorized to continue their tests.

Only a year ago there was sharp difference of opinion whether simultaneous operation was at all practical. WGY, Schenectady, N. Y., and RGO, Oakland, Calif., were the first to try it.

# Read 'Em and Weep

Some of the new tubes ought to stand up. They have six pins.

\* \* \*

Midget sets started a world-wide vogue. Look at the one-pound babies!

\* \* \*

Radio Manufacturers Association, Inc., warns about overdone claims by some manufacturers of short-wave devices. One of the investigators on the Association's staff must have failed to get Europe one night.

\* \* \*

Knowing how to pad a superheterodyne and calibrate an oscillator, all the service man needs now is a job.

\* \* \*

A 300 per cent. music fee increase to stations is threatened. The Senate wants to tax stations \$670,000 a year. The Senators are also thinking of excise-taxing radio products 5 per cent. Seeing as nobody has any money, all hands are optimistic except the intended victims, which makes us suspect somebody has been hoarding while the fluid in the red ink bottles ran low.

\* \* \*

All hands get rich when Congress takes away from them what they haven't got.

\* \* \*

The only thing the stations have left is the right to charge advertising sponsors whatever those firms don't like.

\* \* \*

If salesmen could sell a share of television stock to every board, commission, committee and exchange that has warned against the purchase of such stock, business would be good with the accused and warnings welcome.

\* \* \*

Yet what is so rare as a day in jail?

\* \* \*

The trouble with television seems to be that the man on the street wants to see some action for his money, besides disappearance.

\* \* \*

Short waves are coming in from Europe at a rate that suggests violation of the Immigration Law. Once a guy imports his first wave from Europe he can't tell enough people about it—to satisfy the manufacturers.

\* \* \*

Cut the frequency in half and the effectiveness of a broadcast transmitter is multiplied five times. How about cutting the sales talks in half?

\* \* \*

Five new tubes before we've learnt the connections for the preceding dozen!

\* \* \*

One new tube a month is the goal. Then the 13-month year!

# Amateurs Exceed 25,000, New Record

Washington.

There are more than 25,000 amateur radio operators in the United States, the largest single group of radio license holders, and, if applications are granted at the present rate the total by the end of the year will exceed 30,000. The present figure is a new record.

The number of women holding such licenses is in excess of 1,000, but the rate of increase is faster than normally. All told, applications from all amateur sources are received at the Federal Radio Commission at a rate of about 1,000 a week in Winter and 400 a week in Summer.

# TRADE WILLING TO ACCEPT TAX IF CUT TO 3%

Washington.

A protest against the proposed 5 per cent. excise tax on radio sets and accessories was lodged with the Senate Finance Committee by the radio industry. Frank D. Scott, counsel to Radio Manufacturers Association, Inc., was the spokesman at a committee hearing. He said that since 1928 about half the radio manufacturers had gone out of business and that fewer than 150 remain, and besides employment during that period had shrunk 80 per cent.

Paul Klugh, of the Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago, doubted whether the industry could survive a tax, and protested against the discrimination that singled out radio as if it were a luxury for tax imposition. He feared sales would be reduced 20 per cent.

## Told that Disaster Threatens

Disaster as well as discrimination would result from the House bill, the Committee was told. Reduction at least to 3%, on the same basis as the proposed automobile tax, was urged and the Senators were told that a general sales tax, or a general manufacturers' tax, exempting food, clothing, medicine, etc., would be distinctly preferable and fairer than the proposed discriminatory tax of the House bill. It was urged that the House tax proposal is an undeserved penalty on a few industries.

James M. Skinner, president of the Philadelphia Storage Battery Company, dealt with the broad aspects of the proposed tax and declared that the 5% tax would seriously cripple, if not destroy, the radio industry. Mr. Skinner stated the industry had been "seriously sick for over two years and would be sicker before it got better." He predicted that no radio manufacturing company in the country would show a profit in 1932 and that the serious conditions were real and not fancied.

## Cites Radio's Importance

Emphasis was placed by Mr. Klugh on the importance of practical uses of radio in the nation's life and homes. Radio gives service to the farmers on weather, stock, and produce quotations, Mr. Klugh pointed out, together with information to airplanes, both passenger and mail. Information by radio to the police departments in nearly every large city in the protection of life and property was also stressed by Mr. Klugh. He declared that radio was quite as much a necessity of modern American life as the automobile.

Senator Reed of Pennsylvania requested data on the probable results of a general tax as compared with the proposed special excise tax. The Treasury experts estimate receipts of around \$11,000,000 from a 5% tax. Mr. Scott told the committee that a 5% excise tax on radio would produce only about \$3,500,000, a 3% excise tax approximately \$2,700,000.

Mr. Scott also pointed out to the committee that many radio manufacturers also made electric refrigerators, which would be included in the tax of 5% under the House bill. He also added that the radio industry in its operations is largely confined to home domestic markets, as foreign markets are being closed either by tariff walls or restricted importation quotas.