

DISTINCTIVE CALLS FOR F.M.

TO provide distinctive calls for F.M. (Frequency Modulation) broadcast stations, the Federal Communications Commission has adopted a new system of call letters with interposed numbers for this now commercially recognized broadcast service.

The new call letters will combine letters and figures in a system designed to show the radio listener not only whether the station is East or West of the Mississippi, but also where to look for it on the tuning dial.

In accordance with the international prefixes of "K" and "W" assigned to U.S. stations (also "N" for Navy and Coast Guard), the new F.M. call letters will start with "K" if West of the Mississippi, "W" if East. This has been standard broadcast procedure for many years.

The 2nd and 3rd characters, however, will be *numerals*, indicating on which of the 40 channels in the F.M. broadcast band the

station operates. At the end of the call sign is another letter or letters which may be either arbitrarily assigned, or indicate in some abbreviated form the city or area in which the station is located.

Simplifying this description somewhat are the following examples given by the F.C.C.:

W41B might indicate a station operating on a channel of 44.1 megacycles in Boston, whereas K43SF could be another station on 44.3 megacycles in San Francisco. (The numerals are obtained by taking the last 2 numbers of the assigned frequency. All educational, non-commercial stations will use the letter "E" on the end.)

The system is adapted from the method used by Chile to designate standard broadcast transmitters, at the same time itemizing vital data about the station. Calls will not exceed 5 characters.