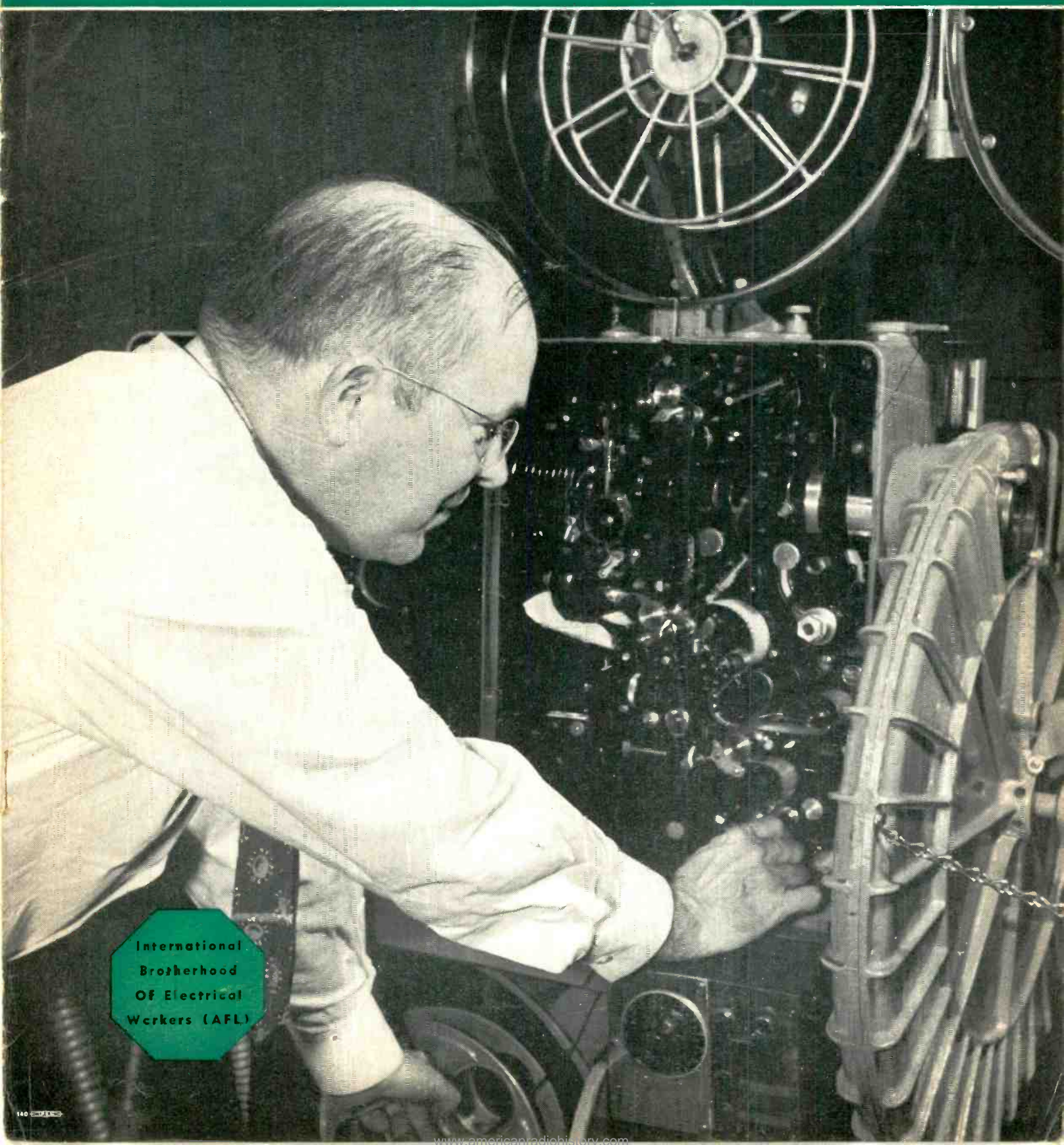


RADIO, TV and RECORDING

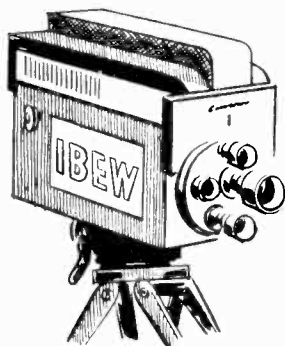


MARCH, 1953

TECHNICIAN-ENGINEER



International
Brotherhood
Of Electrical
Workers (AFL)



Three busy days planned for
your local union representatives
at the national conclave

Second Annual Progress Meeting Scheduled for Kansas City in June

HERE'S the news your local union has been waiting for: plans for the second nationwide Radio-TV and Recording Division confab.

The Second Annual Progress meeting will be held at the Hotel Bellerive, at Armour Street and Warwick Boulevard in Kansas City, Mo., June 18, 19 and 20.

The necessary blanks for registration and hotel reservations will go out to all local unions shortly, and more details of the meeting will be forthcoming.

For the time being, your International office is busily working up the agenda and arranging facilities for local union representatives who will attend.

Last year, the first annual meeting was held in Memphis, Tenn., during the first week of June. There were eight business sessions altogether lasting a total of 27 hours. Thirty-five local unions were represented by 46 delegates. In addition, 11 International representatives participated.

Delegates worked overtime to formulate plans for the year. The agenda included discussions of welfare plans, training schools, legal problems, and much more.

Pencils were busy all during the conference, and page after page of notes were turned out. One local union representative brought a tape recorder along and was able to offer a taped report of the Memphis meeting to his local—Local 1178, Shreveport, La.

In addition to the International representatives, several other speakers participated in the eight sessions. Among them were International IBEW Secretary J.

Scott Milne, IBEW General Counsel Louis Sherman, and the officer in charge of the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board.

This year's agenda will have many problems to discuss which are already evident:

Taft-Hartley may undergo important changes prior to the June meeting, and these changes may require new legal and administrative planning.

The matter of revising operator rules is still unsettled by the FCC. Many local unions are affected by the elimination of transmitter engineers and other rules affected by revision.

The Wage Board falling by the wayside means that new methods of bargaining and contractual relations must be studied.

Your local union representative must come prepared to dig deep into these and many more matters.

The International Office would appreciate being advised of your local's intent to participate in the meeting and the number of delegates to be sent. As was true last year, there is no limit to the number of representatives your local may send, and no credentials other than a working card will be required for admission to the sessions.

Reservations should be made as soon as possible, with requests being addressed directly to the Hotel Bellerive reservations clerk, with duplicate copies going to the International Office and the local union.

RADIO, TV and RECORDING
TECHNICIAN-ENGINEER

VOLUME 2

17

NUMBER 3

Published monthly by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, 1200 Fifteenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C., for the men and women employed in the recording, radio and television industries.

D. W. TRACY, *President*

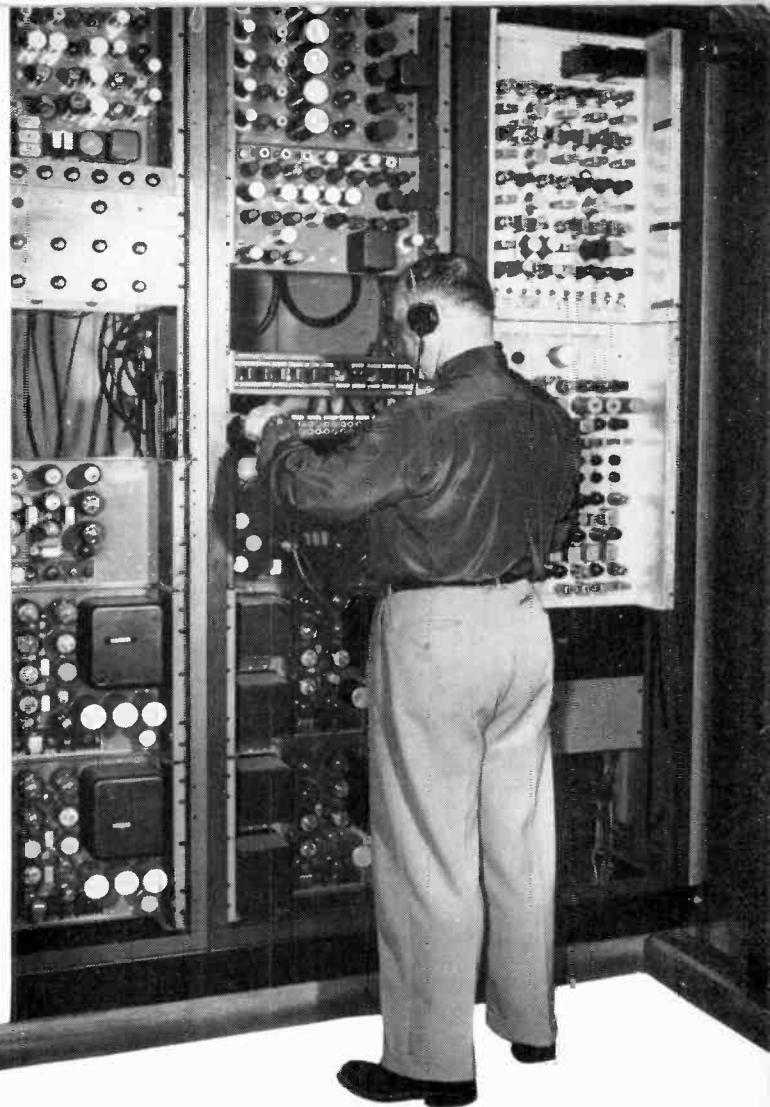
J. SCOTT MILNE, *Secretary*

Entered February 20, 1952 as second-class matter at Washington, D. C., under Act of August 24, 1912.

PRINTED ON UNION MADE PAPER

IBEW Petition Results In Stay Of Rules Changes

**FCC Postpones Indefinitely its
Report and Order of February
4, Which Dealt with Operator
Licenses and Remote Controls**



ON FEBRUARY 4, the Federal Communications Commission, which had spent months in analyzing the wheeling and dealing of the ABC television network and Paramount Picture before okeying their merger, tossed off an industry-shaking decision regarding operator rules as though nothing more need be said . . . as though the decision did not affect hundreds of jobs, or national defense, as well.

Although the decision turned hard-earned first-class operator licenses into so much second-class paper, oral argument regarding the matter was denied by a majority of the Commission. As a subsequent IBEW complaint pointed out, "the Commission . . . denied the affected parties a full hearing."

The National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, a management group, had petitioned for the rule changes many months ago. By cutting first class operator requirements, station owners hoped to save themselves quite a bit of salary money. Many also saw the rule changes as a means of breaking the effectiveness of labor union organization within their stations by eliminating many first-class union operators. Other arguments were voiced by NARTB spokesmen,

but it all boiled down to a desire to save some cash and cut down what they considered needless overhead.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers immediately jumped to the defense of the first-class operators and against other rule changes. Sound IBEW rebuttal was voiced in a formal printed statement to the Commission (a copy of this statement may be found in the August, 1952, issue of the *TECHNICIAN-ENGINEER*).

Hundreds of letters from technicians and engineers, from station managers, program director, civic leaders, poured into the FCC regarding this important matter.

In spite of the evident industry concern, both pro and con, the FCC action was completely unheralded and took many by surprise. The operator rules were revised, effective 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*, and that was that.

IBEW headquarters in Washington quickly prepared a petition on behalf of the membership asking "a stay of effective date of Commission's Report and Order, amending Parts 3 and 13 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations."

This was followed by a Petition for Reconsideration

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.

FCC 53-256
86791

In the Matter of)

)
Amendment of Part 3 and Part 13 of)
the Rules and Regulations with)
respect to the license requirements)
of operators of certain Standard)
and FM Broadcasting Stations and)
for the remote control operations)
of such stations)

DOCKET NO. 10214

O R D E R

At a session of the Federal Communications Commission held at its offices in Washington, D. C., on the 4th day of March, 1953;

The Commission has before it a petition filed March 3, 1953, by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, for stay of the effective date of the Commission's Report and Order of February 4, 1953, amending Parts 3 and 13 of its Rules and Regulations effective March 6, 1953. The petitioner alleges that the issues involved in the above-captioned matter are of great importance to the industry, to the technical employees of the industry, and to the nation as a whole. It asserts that it intends to file a petition for reconsideration of the Commission's action by March 6, 1953, and that, if the Report and Order is allowed to go into effect before the Commission can consider and reach a judgment upon this petition, the consequent disruption of present operating relations will make difficult any effectuation of any subsequent Commission action reversing or modifying the Report and Order. It alleges, therefore, that the effective date of the Order should be stayed.

Upon consideration of the questions raised by the petition, the Commission is of the opinion that the public interest would be served by staying the effective date of the above-captioned order. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, This 4th day of March 1953, that the effective date for amending Parts 3 and 13 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations with respect to the license requirements for operators of certain standard and FM broadcast stations and for the remote control of such stations as set forth in the Commission's Report and Order of February 4, 1953, is hereby stayed until further order of the Commission.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

T. J. Slowie
Secretary

Released: March 5, 1953

of the whole matter, filed within the 30-day period from the publication of the Commission's Report and Order in the *Federal Register*. To substantiate both actions the IBEW legal counsellors cited previous cases.

In filing its first petition, the IBEW said, "The issues involved in the Report and Order of the Commission are so important to the industry, to the technical employees in the industry and to the nation as a whole that manifest justice would require that the Report and Order be stayed until the IBEW shall have had an opportunity to submit its Petition for Reconsideration to the Commission and until the Commission shall have had an opportunity to act on that petition."

The petition pointed out that "not only does the economic security of many radio technicians hinge on the decision of the Commission, but also the national security would be affected if, as the IBEW contends, the smooth functioning of the CONELRAD operation and similar operations in the public interest would be adversely affected."

"No substantial considerations have been asserted by the Petitioner, NARTB, showing that there is an immediate public need for the relaxation of regulations provided in the proposed rules of the Commission with respect to license requirements of operations and for the remote control operation of the Standard and FM broadcasting stations involved in the case," stated the petition.

THE Commission has accepted the reasonableness of the objection of the opponents of the rules to the provision that the first-class operator "shall not be required to be in the full-time employ of the broadcast station but shall be on call and reasonably available to fulfill his specified duties." The Commission has accepted the contention that this provision is non-administrable and, in answer to the argument, has modified the Association's original proposal so that each station is required to have "in its regular full-time employment" a first-class operator.

This being the case, your IBEW contends that the Commission has not gone far enough, for if it admits the necessity for one first-class operator, it admits that the work to be performed requires trained specialists—requires first-class operators.

Many safety services operators hold third-class radio-

telephone operator licenses, but are prohibited from making adjustments to equipment in taxicab, fire and police radio systems. Yet these operators "following adequate instruction" would be eligible to operate transmitters in the broadcast services. By the Commission's order they are prohibited from making adjustments "which may cause improper operation"—how are they to know what is improper operation and what is not? They actually will have so little knowledge of specifics that they will, albeit innocently, be responsible for the improper operation which the Commission intends to prohibit.

OUR legal counsel reminded the commissioners of all of these points in the petition for a stay of date.

The petition, prepared and submitted by International Representative Albert O. Hardy and Louis Sherman and Philip R. Collins, attorneys for the IBEW, went into details on the matter of civil defense:

"The Commission fails to make a necessary finding that the employment of only one first-class operator will not be detrimental to national defense. The Commission makes this finding based on an unwarranted premise that the other operators employed by the station (who are not first-class operators) can perform all the operations necessary for the CONELRAD system, because they will be trained by the first-class operator. But, after setting forth this statement that the other technicians will be trained by the first-class operator, the Commission promulgates no rules for regulations specifying the training that shall be given or indicating how assurance shall be had that this training is being maintained. . . ."

The Brotherhood hit at the experimentation work by the Commission prior to the rule changes. The Commission's conclusions regarding remote control operations were reported to have been based upon *three* months experimentation with *one* radio control of an AM station and *seven* involving FM station. It was respectfully submitted that "this is not the kind or quantity of scientific data which warrants the elimination of hearings and oral arguments."

Other points were discussed, as your IBEW submitted its demand for a reconsideration of facts in the form of Docket No. 10214.

Petition to FCC Decries "Second Class" Broadcasting

ON MARCH 6, the International Brotherhood attorneys in Washington filed with the FCC a petition for reconsideration of its order published in the *Federal Register*, February 4, amending Parts 3 and 13 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations (the Standards of Good Engineering Practice Concerning Standard Broad-

cast Stations and the Standards of Good Engineering Practice Concerning FM Broadcasting Stations).

In formal terms, the petition requested that the amendments changing operator rules be rescinded or that a hearing and oral argument be ordered "at which full opportunity shall be given for the expression of

opposing views" by the parties interested in the matter.

In the original consideration of the matter, the FCC had a split vote. Two commissioners dissented from the determination to dispense with oral argument, and one commissioner did not participate in the Commission action. Because of these facts, the denial of an oral presentation was achieved by a slim majority.

The Commission in its list of questions set forth in its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (an initial action in such Commission undertakings), invited statements of expectation and anticipation of the results of the proposed amendment in the regulations. Consequently, your IBEW attorneys pointed out, the issue is not whether predictions have been offered by those concerned, but rather whether there are factual bases upon which such predictions of rule-changing consequences can be evaluated.

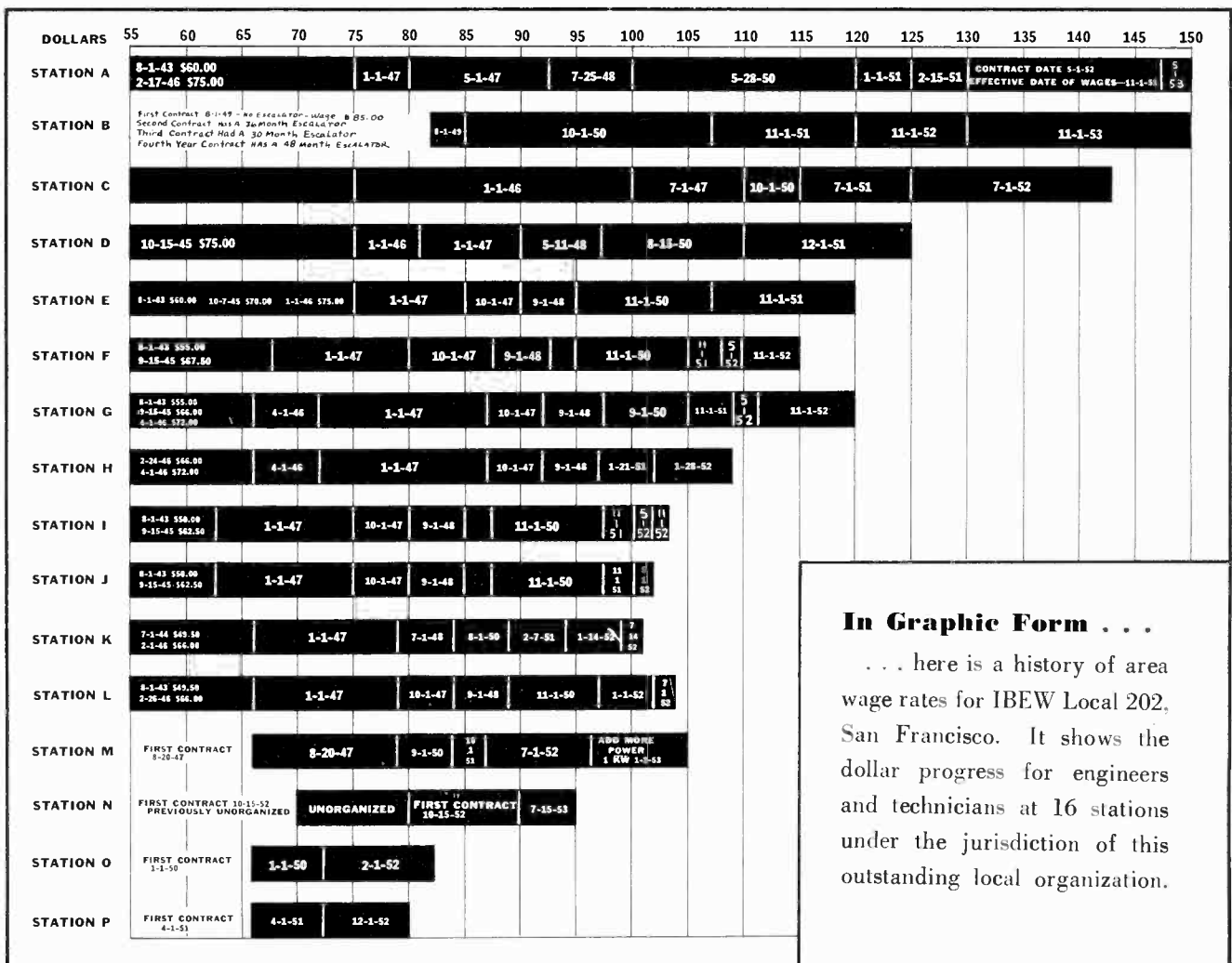
"The problem of the unattended transmitter station is . . . deserving of more consideration," the petition stated. "The Commission's report points out that there is such a problem but does not suggest how it will be met under the amendments. The discussion in the report

relates to such matters as improvement of transmitter equipment, performance of repair work by chief engineers, operation of electronic devices by non-technical personnel and wartime experience with low grade operators. These considerations relate to the matter of the utilization of low grade personnel at the transmitter but do not relate to the matter of unattended transmitter stations operated by remote control . . ."

Later, in the petition, it is said: "The amendments are not in the public interest because they will make the radio communication service less rapid and efficient."

The petition pointed out the dangers of having a lone first class operator, if emergencies should develop or if the operator became ill.

In concluding the IBEW appeal, the counsellors stated, "It is respectfully submitted that the Commission has transferred the burden of proof to the wrong party. The current regulations have been effective for a number of years. The party asserting the need for revision should have the burden of proof to show that the revision will advance the public interest."



In Graphic Form . . .

. . . here is a history of area wage rates for IBEW Local 202, San Francisco. It shows the dollar progress for engineers and technicians at 16 stations under the jurisdiction of this outstanding local organization.

**Decision adverse to IBEW emphasizes something
local union officers have been trying to get
across to some members for years . . .**

Arbitrator Says He Does Not Possess The Qualifications of a Psychiatrist

A RECENT decision by an arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association, while adverse in the particular case, is notable in that it reinforces the arguments of those who have in the past emphasized the responsibility of employes in broadcasting. There is no need to dwell upon the advisability of reporting to work on time and the necessity for the professional appearance of persons employed in places where contact with the public is usual and ordinary. A few quotes from the arbitrator's decision clearly illustrates these points.

"The immediate circumstance precipitating the grievant's discharge was his late arrival for duty on the morning of _____. The employer states he was fifteen minutes late. As the technician operating the control board in the master control room on the opening trick as of the day of his late arrival it was his duty to report at 5:30 a. m., turn on and check the instruments, check with the station transmitter and perform related tasks so that the station would be prepared to begin its broadcast schedule at 6:00 a. m.

"The grievant has been working in the occupation since 1942 and was in the employ of the present employer for more than four years. The evidence shows that during the past three years the employer had repeatedly remonstrated with him for being tardy in reporting for work, improper attire, technicians on the control board are required to wear a shirt, tie and jacket, since visitors are permitted and are encouraged to observe the master control room operations, occasionally inattention to duty and what the employer terms a generally poor attitude towards his work.

"ON ONE previous occasion he was two hours and 13 minutes late for his shift with the result that the station lost 46 minutes of broadcast time. He frequently arrived for the opening trick on Sunday mornings unshaven and shabbily dressed, but would return 15 or 20 minutes late from his one-hour breakfast period neatly dressed. Several other types of charges are made by the employer (some of which the grievant denies) that need not be presented in detail here. These allegations include switching of vacation time and lunch time with other employes without obtaining the required advance approval of the employer, reading comic books

while on duty (contrary to company rules) and violating various other company regulations.

"Not possessing the qualifications of a psychiatrist I am unable to probe the mental processes of the individuals involved but, even assuming an element of personal animosity, the very tangible evidence shows numerous infractions of company rules and occasional neglect of duty contained in incontrovertible evidence submitted in this proceeding. The most generous considerations of the union's counter-claims and its denial of particular employer allegations leaves a hard core of damaging incidents which the grievant himself concedes. I can only conclude that the grievant flaunted company rules in the face of numerous warnings and that the rules themselves are reasonable. His conduct, viewed as a whole, demonstrates a lack of responsibility far beneath that which is to be expected of an employe in the position he held. In my judgment his discharge was not improper."

Without Advice of Counsel

A House committee was just getting down to its investigating business in Washington a few days ago. Rep. S. K. McConnell, Jr., of Pennsylvania had just told television newsreel men that he'd limit picture-taking to three minutes.

As though in reply, a heavy 8-foot TV lamp went reeling down with a crash upon Rep. C. J. Kersten of Wisconsin, a committee member. Kersten emerged smiling from a jumble of wires, his hair messed up but otherwise unhurt.

Transit-casts End in St. Louis

Radio Station KXOK-FM, St. Louis, Mo., is going off the air March 31, according to reports, after more than four years of feeding music and ads to transit patrons (city bus riders and the like).

Insufficient revenue is reported the reason. KXOK is the last of seven FM stations which have operated in St. Louis.

But, whatever the reason, members of the Washington, D. C., Transit Riders Assn. and similar groups which object to "captive audiences," hailed the demise of the station as a victory for freedom of hearing.



*'The Taft-Hartley Act . . .
does not merit or enjoy the respect
of American trade unions . . .'*

The AFL Recommends

Beneath TV camera lights, AFL President George Meany delivers evidence against Taft-Hartley to the House Labor Committee.

GEORGE MEANY, AFL president, hammered away at the Taft-Hartley Act for six hours when he appeared before the House Education and Labor Committee early this month. The 22 Congressmen who matched wits with Meany praised him for a forceful testimony.

Meany said flatly, "The Taft-Hartley Act, now on the books, does not merit nor enjoy the respect of American trade unions—and that's putting it mildly."

He then listed the AFL's proposals for change in the existing law. The most important ones include:

UNION SECURITY.—Restoration of the full union shop as a step toward "enduring industrial peace." This would mean repeal of the T-H ban on the closed shop. Meany said a "closed union" should not be permitted to have a closed shop.

RESPONSIBILITY.—Fortify union responsibility for keeping out Communists and other undesirables by dropping the requirement that, under the union shop, unions can obtain discharge of an employee only for non-payment of dues and initiation fees.

STATE LAWS.—Discard the present provision making state laws superior to the federal law in any state where anti-union security provisions are stiffer than under Taft-Hartley. This is the only field, Meany said, where Congress has placed state laws above the federal statutes.

BOYCOTTS.—Narrow the present restriction against boycotts by outlawing only those whose principal object is illegal. Permit picketing of an employer dealing with another firm which has refused to recognize or bargain with a union.

INJUNCTIONS.—Eliminate all ex-parte injunctions issued before trial of the facts. Authorize NLRB to speed hearing of any case in which it believes damage is threatened by illegal actions.

DAMAGE SUITS.—Drop the provision in Section 301 permitting filing of suits in federal courts by employers against unions for damages involving breach of contract. Such damage suits should take the same course as any other type—in state courts.

WELFARE FUNDS.—Kill present limitations on types and administration of welfare funds.

POLITICS.—Unions should be permitted to make political expenditures from union funds, but not contributions to candidates. The latter restriction does not apply to political funds derived from voluntary contributions.

ADMINISTRATION.—Give NLRB more funds for hiring additional personnel necessary to speed up disposition of cases and avoid long delays.

SIZE OF BOARD.—The NLRB should not be "packed" with additional members for political patronage purposes.

NLRB COUNSEL.—The general counsel of the NLRB should not have independent authority but serve under the board, as is the case in all other federal agencies.

AFFIDAVITS.—The non-Communist affidavit, now required of union officials, should be eliminated because it is an insult to loyal trade unionists and has not done a bit of good in getting rid of Communist union leaders.

UNION BUSTING.—Kill the provision which denies

Continued on page 10

*'We are only makers
of mosaic and not painters
on a broad canvas.'*

The NLRB Reports

Paul Herzog, Chairman of the NLRB, asked Congress to do away with the non-Communist oath required by the Taft-Hartley Law.



THE freedom of American employers and labor organizations, dealing with approximately equal strength, to make their own collective bargains with a minimum of government intervention still seems to us the best road to industrial stability, Paul Herzog, the Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, told the House Committee on Education and Labor, February 24.

Paraphrasing the theme of Mr. Herzog's full statement to the Committee, as that body began consideration of Taft-Hartley changes, we might translate: "We've gone through more than 78,000 cases involving labor practices and 50,000 petitions for union shop elections during the past six years, and, believe us, it's been rough. We hope that Congress will find no reason to enlarge our role in labor-management relations."

The NLRB's third accounting of its trusteeship since the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947 (Taft-Hartley) came into being, as delivered by Chairman Herzog, was a guarded, yet outspoken, report.

It suggested three major changes in Taft-Hartley:

State and Federal Jurisdiction—"We believe that it would be in the national interest if the NLRB were freed from the statutory chains which now make it all but impossible for us to cede jurisdiction over local controversies to State Labor Boards."

Non-Communist Oath—"On the basis of five and one half years' experience, but particularly upon that of the past year, the Board has now concluded that the non-Communist affidavit provision contained in Section 9(h) of the Act has outlived its usefulness."

Herzog recommended that some outside tribunal such as the Subversives Activities Control Board handle the job of investigating Communist leadership in labor organizations. He suggested that, once the Subversives Activities Control Board or some other outside tribunal made a final decision regarding Communist-taint, the NLRB should then accept its findings and refuse its own services and all legally enforceable bargaining rights to any union found to be Communist-dominated.

Clarification of Law—"We have to decide cases with the tools that lie at hand; in some instances we would welcome sharper ones," was Mr. Herzog's introduction to a series of suggestions for changes in the wording of the law.

"Ambiguities in the present law have sometimes given the Board members too much freedom to choose between conflicting policies," said the Board Chairman. "We are here, then, to ask what Congressional policy is, not to propose what it should be. We would not legislate any more than you would have us do so."

The NLRB spokesman then cited a few examples.

● "We ask first that Congress give us further guidance on one aspect of that unwelcome amendment, enacted in 1951, which relieved the Board of the burden of conducting referenda to authorize union-shop agreements. The amendment preserved that part of the original 1947 statute which provided for deauthorization elections. Last year a question arose whether the Board should entertain a deauthorization petition in the middle of a contract term and, if so, how soon after the election a vote to rescind the union-shop au-

thority of an incumbent union should take effect. Neither the statutory language nor its legislative history offered us much help in deciding the question, but, once a case was before us, we had to decide it. The Board made its decision, by a three to two vote, in the A & P case about four months ago."

● "The sections of the present Act—8(b) (4) (D) and 10(k)—which deal with so-called jurisdictional disputes also give too much discretion to your administrators. . . . Was Congress concerned only with the traditional 'jurisdictional dispute', the simple boundary-line dispute over the allocation by an employer of a particular work-task which arises between two unions, each representing different groups of his employees? Or was Congress also aiming here at controversies arising out of the demand for an outside union, representing no employees, that an employer assign particular work to its members, rather than to the members of another union or to non-union employees who are already on the job?"

● "Section 8(d), which defines the obligation to bargain, contains several provisions whose intent remains far from clear . . ."

The section provides that the obligation to bargain "shall not be construed as requiring either party to discuss or agree to any modification of the terms and conditions contained in a contract for a fixed period, if such modification is to become effective before such terms and conditions can be reopened under the provisions of the contract." The Board has held that, unless the other party has waived the matter, this provision does not relieve a party to a contract of the obligation to negotiate in mid-term on some bargainable matter which was not, to use the statutory words, "contained in" the earlier written agreement.

Of course, if the subject matter was covered in the contract itself, Section 8(d) makes it clear that there is no obligation upon either party to negotiate to modify it before expiration.

But suppose the issue, while neither mentioned nor

waived in the written agreement, was consciously explored by both parties before its execution? May one of the parties insist upon reviving the issue during the life of the contract? Or, asked the NLRB chairman, does the proposal's very omission from the original agreement, following discussion, make that omission a part of the contemporaneous bargain made by the parties, although it was not literally contained in the contract?

Another aspect of Section 8(d) has also given the Board trouble. The section required 60-day notice before expiration of a contract without resort to strike or lockout, to provide an opportunity for negotiation and conciliation. The last sentence of the Section, while

imposing no penalties on employers for violation of the 60-day cooling-off period, reads as follows for employees:

"Any employee who engages in a strike within the 60-day period specified in this sub-section shall lose his status as an employee of the employer engaged in the particular labor dispute, for the purposes of Sections 8, 9, and 10 of this Act, as amended, but such loss of status for such employee shall terminate if and when he is reemployed by such employer." Did Congress mean this literally, so that the Board should impose the severe penalty of

loss of employee status on those who strike during the last 60 days of a contract, even though the strike was caused, not by an economic dispute, but by the employer's unfair labor practices?

Several other examples of confused wording and authority were cited. Herzog concluded his statement with: "Your administrators end as they began, not contending for or against any particular national policy. We are here only to report on what the Board has done and to offer technical assistance, bit by bit, as the President and the Congress may request it. Although, perforce, we are only makers of mosaic and not painters on a broad canvas, the members of the National Labor Relations Board would, to that limited extent, also play a role in designing whatever the Congress finds will fit the needs of our fellow-countrymen."



The AFL Recommends

Continued from page 6

strikers in an economic dispute the right to vote in an NLRB election and, at the same time, deny this right to strike-breakers.

FOREMEN.—Re-define T-H provisions to permit supervisory employees who are not actually top foremen to join unions in accordance with established trade practices.

NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—Drop injunctions in dealing with such disputes, give priority of consideration to the mediation and conciliation of such disputes and place strongest emphasis on voluntary arbitration of any points on which employer and union fail to agree. More precise definitions would eliminate many disputes previously placed in this category.

MEDIATION SERVICE.—Should be returned to Labor Department, at least for "housekeeping" purposes.

For 'telethon' service . . .

Plaque Presented To IBEW Local 45

The City of Hope, a non-profit hospital located in Southern California and financially aided by many civic organizations, presented a plaque to IBEW Local 45 at the local union's regular membership meeting, January 20. The plaque was an expression of thanks from the hospital for the free engineering services offered by members of Local 45 during a "telethon" held during the latter part of 1952 to raise funds.

Organized labor has taken a leading part in the support of the City of Hope, and members of almost all unions have benefited from the services of the hospital.

The City of Hope was started in 1913. It is now a 400-bed hospital,

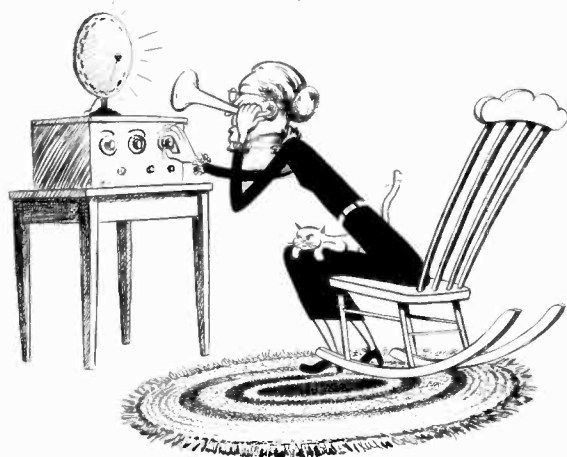


● Participants in the ceremony: Books Graham, Engineer at CBS; A. J. Cunningham, President of Local Union 45; Mort Brandler, Assistant Administrator of the City of Hope; and Stephen Weiss, member of Local 45 at KLAC-TV.

covering 75 acres at Duarte, Calif. The hospital has a research institute which works in conjunction with the University of California at Los An-

geles on various cancer research projects. Diagnosis, care, and treatment of patients admitted to the hospital is always on an all-free basis.

Speak A Little Louder, Son!



Technicians at radio station KNCM, Moberly, Mo., developed a hobby of collecting unusual letters from listeners. Their prize is a postcard addressed to Si Walling, a station announcer. It was written by an elderly lady in the listening audience who asked Si to please speak louder on his program, because the battery on her radio was very weak.

Part Time Job or Just a Hobby?

A man was approached by an insurance salesman, who inquired as to whether he was insured against fire.

"Yes, fully," replied the prospective customer.

"Burglary?"

"Yeah."

"Well, are you insured against floods?"

"Floods?" said the man, showing interest at last. "How do you start a flood?"

A TV Script Discussion

Producer: "I want you to write me a story that begins with an earthquake caused by an atomic bomb and then builds up to a climax."

Keep Calm! Things Will Pick Up!

Two ladies were waiting at a bus stop. One was a smart, attractive girl—the other was . . . well, not attractive, and of debatable age.

"What!" exclaimed the older, "Smoke in public! Why, I'd rather just kiss the first man who comes along the street!"

"So would I," retorted the younger, "but have a cigarette while you're waiting."

LABOR DEPARTMENT passes 40-year mark



The Labor Department Building in Washington, constructed during the New Deal era, as seen from atop the Washington Monument.

Having weathered World War I mobilization, the Big Depression, the Blue Eagle, nationwide strikes, and the Wagner Act, Secretary Durkin's agency stands ready to serve the Nation under a revised Taft-Hartley Law

PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, on his last day in office—March 4, 1913—signed the Act of Congress which created the U. S. Department of Labor. Then he set aside his pen and left it to the Democrats and Woodrow Wilson to make something out of it.

Forty years later, the man to try to make the most out of it, so to speak, was his son, Robert A. Taft, a sharp-voiced U. S. Senator and co-author of the infamous Taft-Hartley Law. Mr. Republican's determination to run the federal government by the rules of a reactionary civics book has placed the Labor Department on the hook many times.

Between the eras of the two Tafts, however, Uncle Sam and the two major political parties have produced the world's most solidly-established agency for serving the working man.

Commemorating its 40th birthday, this month, the Department of Labor has behind it a progressive history which has weathered prosperity and depression, all the

while building and rebuilding its administrative and service force to serve the whims of a changing Congress.

Today, the Department has almost 8,000 employes, including 65 in the territories and possessions and 51 in foreign countries.

As any labor leader will tell you, each of its major divisions serves at least one vital function toward the betterment of labor-management relations.

• *The Bureau of Employment Security* determines manpower needs through visits to approximately 200,000 employers, referring to the managers registered job seekers of the nation's 63-million work force. To accomplish this, the bureau maintains 13 regional offices.

• *The Bureau of Apprenticeship* promotes and services apprenticeship training through 6,700 local committees of 20,000 management and 20,000 labor representatives. This Bureau maintains 12 major and 185 branch field offices.

• *Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions* send out trained supervisory inspectors and investigators to make sure that labor and management are complying

SECRETARIES OF LABOR . . . William Wilson, First Labor Secretary (1913-21), not shown.



James J. Davis
1921-30



William N. Doak
1930-33



Frances Perkins
1933-45



Lewis Schwellenbach
1945-48



Maurice J. Tobin
1948-53



Martin P. Durkin
1953-

with the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Contracts Act. Eleven regional offices are maintained, 56 field offices, and 80 field stations.

• *The Bureau of Labor Statistics* tabulates, analyzes, publishes data from 200,000 major employers on employment, wages, industrial accidents, cost of living, wholesale prices, etc. Maintaining five regional offices, this bureau serves a valuable function by supplying statistics for contract bargaining upon request.

• *The Bureau of Labor Standards* has to administer the union registration problems created by Taft-Hartley, it fosters employment for the physically handicapped, it promotes industrial health and safety practices.

• *The Women's Bureau* is, of course, concerned with the nation's growing army of working women. It is concerned with policies, information and advice on matters affecting distaff employment.

• *The Office of Solicitor* supplies experienced attorneys throughout the nation to enforce labor laws administratively and in court.

The federal government first got into the labor field back in 1884, when Congress officially recognized its major class of citizens by creating a Bureau of Labor in the Department of the Interior. For more than a decade this bureau concerned itself mostly with costs of living and working conditions in statistical and theoretical terms. It made periodic reports to the Congress and the President to support legislation.

In 1903, Congress created the Department of Commerce and Labor. Organized labor, lead by the fighting spirit of Samuel Gompers, had all the while, been advocating a full cabinet-rank department for Labor, but conservatives in Congress had strongly opposed all such measures.

It was a major victory for organized labor, and especially the American Federation of Labor, when the Department of Labor was finally established in 1913.

Expenditures of Major Departments, Last Year

Defense Department	\$38,935,658,599.99
Treasury Department	6,673,760,156.70*
Federal Security Agency	1,680,978,330.17†
Agriculture Department	1,511,916,469.01
Commerce Department	977,643,719.17
Post Office Department	740,000,000.00
Interior Department	585,061,679.04
State Department	259,625,401.75
Labor Department	252,524,210.83
Justice Department	198,302,000.88

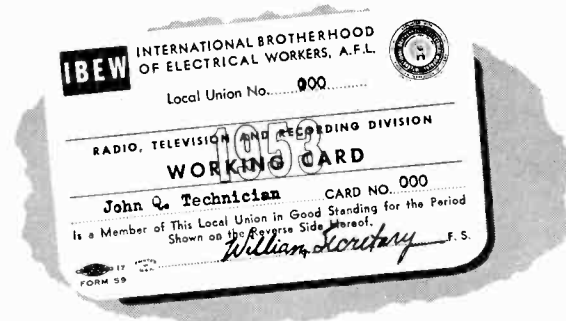
* Most of this—\$5,859,263,436.62—was interest paid on the public debt.

† Still an independent agency, on the verge of becoming a cabinet-rank department.

• Financially speaking, the Department of Labor ranks way down the ladder of Federal agencies, surpassing only the Attorney General's crew in annual expenditures.

WHY I CARRY A

Union Card



On the practical side, my union card guarantees me a decent living wage, better working conditions, and time to enjoy my home and family. It shows to whom it may concern that my rights to these things are supported by other broadcasting and recording engineers, who seek equal rights and privileges.

But in addition to the practical values, my union card carries me into the thoughts, sympathies, and fellowships of thousands of other technicians facing similar tasks each work day. My card entitles me to the great fund of knowledge and experience which forms the sum total of our Brotherhood. It gives me confidence in the future, come prosperity or depression.

It promotes the brotherhood of all members through honest work, fair bargaining, "live and let live," and a just reward for all. It stands for self-support and mutual advancement . . . in brief, unending progress.

In addition, it gives me social contacts with men and women of mutual interests, permits me time for cultural pursuits and spiritual thinking.

I have chosen my life work. My union membership makes this life work complete.

Technical NOTES

Patent for Transoceanic TV

A method for hopping the oceans with television signals was patented last month by Clarence W. Hansell of Port Jefferson, N. Y., and Donald S. Bond of Princeton, N. J.

Their patented plan, already assigned to RCA, envisions a flying chain of commercial airliners, cargo planes, and other aircraft relaying line-of-sight signals from one continent to another, using electronic directional devices.

The system is based on a transoceanic aircraft schedule that would keep planes flying 24 hours a day over the seas. Each plane would trail its predecessor by 250 or 300 miles, and all would fly about 10,000 or 15,000 feet high.

Electronic devices can be pointed directly at the plane ahead so that good reception is assured. Called a "service channel," these devices also permit verbal communication between planes.

Television signals leaving England for America would be transmitted first from a land-based station, presumably in London. A chain of planes would pick up the signal and transmit it to New York City for immediate telecasting.

The patent also provides for a similar set of flying relay stations to carry a TV program from America to England.

To Solve Tube Problems

The Tube Department of RCA Victor has urged manufacturers of electronic equipment to work more closely with tube makers to avoid equipment failures stemming from circuits requiring electron tubes selected within close limits.

"When a tube meets the tube manufacturer's specifications, yet fails to function in equipment designed around a few tubes of the same type, the fault can easily be one of equipment design or choice of tube type," said M. J. Carroll, equipment sales manager of the RCA Tube Department.

Answers to the problem were offered:

- equipment designers should work closely with tube engineers in the earliest stages of equipment design;

- before equipment designs are finalized and production is begun, the designer should explore all tube-operation possibilities with the tube-maker's engineers to assure the best choice of available tube types;

- when it has been determined that available types will not give satisfactory performance, the problem should be discussed with the tube maker, who may be able to recommend workable circuit modifications or the design of a new tube type to meet the requirements of the particular equipment involved.

Putty Plugs Microwave Leaks

A putty has been developed to plug radio leaks in horns of directional microwave antennas of the type used to beam television programs across the country.

Based on Thiokol, a rubbery substance, the putty seals cracks between strips of metal forming the antenna horn. The tiny cracks act as antennas themselves, allowing some of the microwave energy to escape in the wrong direction. When that happens, the escaping microwave program may be picked up by antennas on the same tower receiving a different program, causing interference.

The putty "plugs" the cracks against radio leakage by forming a conducting path across the joints so that no line of electric force bridging an air gap in the joint can send off radio waves. The putty, first announced by *Bell Laboratories Record*, has many other useful characteristics.

Tube Requirements Analysis

RCA begins a new service to customers this spring . . . one which should be helpful to many broadcasters and to RCA sales. What the company is offering is a "personalized" analysis of each customer's long-range requirements of power and receiving tubes. Properly used, it will indicate the proper reserve inventory of key tube types, expose overstocks of infrequently used types, and systemize the placement of renewal order far enough in advance to assure uninterrupted operation of equipment. The analysis will chart yearly tube consumption by type, record changes in the number of sockets, and assure reserve inventories.

New Magnetic Tape Announced

A new magnetic tape, trademarked "Scotch No. 120 High Output," has been announced by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. of St. Paul. The tape is said to produce at least 8 db more output at a given distortion level than any other magnetic tape over the entire range of the audio spectrum.

Recording engineers, using the tape, can either increase their output level without increasing distortion or reduce distortion at present output levels. The tape will have special value in high quality recordings, such as the recording of symphonic and other types of music, the company reported.

UHF with Chlorophyll Added

While broadcasting engineers generally are elated over results of ultra high frequency operations to date, they're reserving judgment until the trees begin to sprout leaves this spring, according to *Broadcasting-Telecasting Magazine*. It seems that military and civil-

ian experiments in the uhf range have revealed a baffling condition wherein signals wouldn't penetrate foliage, virtually blacking out reception in heavily wooded areas.

Recording-Ideas Contest

Technicians who do their share of recordings around the station will be interested in a current contest sponsored by a New York company. The contest offers more than \$1,000 in prizes for the best 14 articles on the use of tape and disc recordings to improve operational efficiency, quality and economy in a radio, TV or recording studio. It is sponsored by Audio Devices, Inc., manufacturers of Audiodiscs and Audiotape.

Information on special gadgets or techniques developed to meet specific recording needs will be particularly welcome, the announcements said, adding that photographs or drawings should be used, if possible, to illustrate the articles. First prize is \$250.

There also are three \$100 prizes and ten \$50 awards, and \$25 will go to any other entrant whose article is published in an Audio Devices publication. Entries must be postmarked not later than midnight May 1, and should be addressed to Sound Recording Contest Audio Devices, 444 Madison Avenue, New York 22. Material becomes the property of Audio Devices and entries will not be returned.

Achtung! All der Splicing Men!

A catalog of more than 4,000 German motion pictures over which the U. S. Attorney General has jurisdiction was recently published by the Office of Alien Property of the Justice Department.

They are being licensed to broadcasters on a royalty basis for television, and they are also available for theater exhibition.

The listings are all in German, so program directors will have to haul out the German dictionaries.

New Slide Projector for TV

A new video dual slide projector with a single lens and accessories has been introduced by General Electric. GE says its new projector simplifies the use of special effects. The narrow light beam of the one lens enables the unit to operate with one or two projectors grouped around a single film camera.

Technical Errata

In the February issue we published a history of the recording industry by Athan Cosmas in which we stated "... variable pitch recording has increased playing time to 32½ inches. . . ." Any readers who have visualized yard-wide record platters, please change that 32½ to minutes. Playing time has increased to 32½ minutes, thanks to variable pitch recording.

One Moment Please



As WPTW, Piqua, Ohio, was airing the winter's first report of bad driving conditions, a motorist, who was tuned to the program while passing the station, lost control of his car, which skidded into a utility pole. Result: A power transformer was knocked out, putting WPTW off the air more than an hour.—*Broadcasting-Telecasting Magazine*.

Station Breaks



20-Year Vets in St. Louis

Having seen the news item in last month's issue reporting the ceremonies attended upon presentation of 20-year pins at CBS, Los Angeles, Local Union 1217 hastens to report that a similar ceremony has been held recently in St. Louis, Mo. Mr. Gene Wilkey, General Manager of KMOX, presented 20-year pins and \$100 savings bonds to past president R. W. Stetson, T. A. Church, KMOX transmitter supervisor, transmitter engineer S. M. Foster and W. E. Mansfield, Recording Secretary of L. U. 1217 and Studio Supervisor. Two other employees of KMOX were likewise honored, the auditor, Mr. Robert F. DeVoe, and his secretary, Miss Mary Tendone.

Local 1217 Signs UHF Station

Local Union 1217 reports a signed agreement with WTVI, Belleville, Ill., a new UHF station presently under construction. WTVI anticipates beginning of operations on or about May 1, 1953. The agreement is substantially the same as the standard form agreement in effect at the St. Louis, Mo., stations. Local Union 1217 reports that further organizational work is going forward and that additional similar agreements are currently receiving their attention.

Man 'Out of Line'

The attention of our membership is suggested to be directed to an article appearing in the March 1953 issue of the "Proceedings of the I. R. E.," page 324, entitled "Multiple Television and Frequency Modulation Transmitting Antenna Installation on the Empire State Building." The paper is so complete as to details that the facetious comment can be made, with respect to one item, to the effect that a man standing on top of the tower could reasonably be expected to be "out of line" by 6.5 degrees once in every 37 years.

IRE National Convention

The 1953 IRE National Convention will be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and Grand Central Palace March 23-26, in New York City. Many of our members report their intention to attend the convention, and we trust that there will be opportunity for note comparisons and good fellowship afforded.

Would Incorporate Conelrad

The FCC has initiated rule making to incorporate in Part 3 of its Rules and Regulations Governing Radio Broadcast Services that part of the CONELRAD (Control of Electromagnetic Radiation) Plan which pertains to the conduct of broadcast stations during an alert.

As announced December 2, 1952, the plan would enable cooperating AM broadcast stations to remain on the air immediately before and during an air attack under conditions which would minimize the use of radio signals as a navigational aid to hostile aircraft. No engineering method has yet been found to enable FM and TV stations to continue broadcasting in such an emergency.

Comments may be filed on or before March 24, 1953.

Nipponese Call Letters

In Tokyo, Japanese technicians are jubilant, as Japan's first television station goes on the air. Only one thing dimmed the enthusiasm of the inaugural broadcast: Among the engineers were a few who spoke and understood English; but, try as they did, they couldn't persuade the broadcasting company that Japan's first TV station should not have the call letters JOAK.

Signing Off

Using a transistor in his transmitter, a radio "ham" recently communicated with another amateur 25 miles away; this is believed to be the first use of a transistor in VHF radio transmission.

An experimental television system produces a video picture by causing the picture tube's electron beam to sweep across the screen at changing speeds—slowly for highlights and rapidly for shadows.

Here is a fact that should be of interest to those in Color-TV research: Some persons, if properly trained in color perception, can distinguish with unaided eyes as many as 500,000 colors of various hues, densities, purities, and brightnesses.

Technician-Engineer