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The Association  
of  
College and University  
Broadcasting Stations

SPECIAL BULLETIN  
Release Date February 6, 1932

TO MEMBERS  
of

THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BROADCASTING STATIONS  
(and a special request mailing list in addition to members)

YOU ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT THE CRITICISM OFTEN HEARD, "COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STATIONS CANNOT BE HEARD WELL" IS LARGELY TRUE. AS BRACKETT OF SOUTH DAKOTA AND DOZENS OF OTHERS STATE, HOWEVER, THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT UNDER THE PRESENT LAWS THE FEDERAL RADIO COMMISSION CANNOT BE MADE TO GIVE EDUCATIONAL STATIONS A FAIR CHANCE TO USE THE POWER THAT MANY OF THEM ARE DESIROUS OF USING OR ARE EVEN NOW READY TO USE.

NEED PROOF ON THIS POINT? HERE GOES:

"THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HAS A FINE WESTERN ELECTRIC TRANSMITTER PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT OF WNAX OF YANKTON, BUT IT IS ALLOWED TO OPERATE IT AT ONLY HALF POWER DURING THE DAY TIME AND ONE FOURTH POWER AT NIGHT, WHILE CERTAIN SINGLE COMMERCIAL STATIONS IN CHICAGO ARE BEING ALLOWED TO USE 200 TIMES AS MUCH."

"THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HAS A TRANSMITTER SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BUT CAN USE ONLY HALF POWER, WHILE COMMERCIAL STATIONS IN IOWA ARE RECENTLY VOTED IMMENSE INCREASES IN POWER."

"THE NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN FIGHTING FOR AN INCREASE FROM 500 WATTS TO 1000 WATTS AND CANNOT GET IT, WHILE KFAB IN THE SAME CITY IS VOTED BY THE COMMISSION AN INCREASE FROM 5000 TO 25000."

"THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN BOTH WISH TO INCREASE THE POWER OF THEIR STATIONS, BUT NEITHER CAN GET PERMISSION TO DO SO WHILE COMMERCIAL STATIONS ALL ABOUT THEM ARE BEING GRANTED UNLIMITED INCREASES."

"THE AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON COULD TAKE CARE OF EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING UNDER THE PRESENT LAW, BUT THEY ARE NOT DOING SO AND THEY WILL NOT WITHOUT AMENDMENTS OR NEW LAWS THAT WILL COMPEL A FAIR TREATMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL STATIONS."

In a recent communication from Dr. B. B. Brackett, Director of Radio Station KUSD, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, we are supplied with the following information which I am sure will prove of interest to the entire membership: The South Dakota Society of Engineers and Architects at Mitchell, South Dakota, on January 7, 1932, passed the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, It appears to this Society in annual convention assembled that colleges, universities and other educational broadcasting stations have not in the past and are not now receiving fair and just treatment by the Federal Radio Commission, be it  
RESOLVED, That we declare ourselves positively in favor of the Fess amendment to the Radio act of 1927 to the end that 'Not less than 15 per centum, reckoned with due weight to all factors determining effective service, of the radio broadcasting facilities which are or may become subject to the control of and to allocation by the Federal Radio Commission, shall be reserved for educational broadcasting exclusively and allocating when and if applications are made therefore, to educational agencies of the Federal or State Governments and to educational institutions charatered by the United States or by the respective States or Territories."

THE QUESTION IS: WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR STATE? HAVE ANY SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS BEEN PASSED BY ORGANIZED BODIES RELATIVE TO THE PRESENT UNPLEASANT SITUATION FACING EDUCATIONAL STATIONS?

In the same letter Dr. Brackett sends a copy of a resolution adopted in November, 1931, by the South Dakota Education Association in its annual convention. The following is the essential part:

"That the South Dakota Education Association endorses the Fess bill protecting the radio rights of college and university radio stations and recommends its passage at the next session of Congress."

We need more action of this kind. It behooves each of us to stimulate organized groups to endorse resolutions recognizing the present serious situation. Your suggestions and advice in regard to this problem are solicited.

FROM R. D. MICHAEL, DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA: "Replying to your rush bulletins of recent date, I am sorry to say that we have not received any questionnaire from the Radio Commission. If we do, I can assure you that we will let the Radio Commission know that although we are broadcasting over a commercial station, we pack our time full to the gills with educational information. Our greatest wish is that we had more time and money to extend our work along this line.

"Right now I am conducting a questionnaire survey over our radio audience, and the replies I have received are more than gratifying. I had no idea that our educational material, limited as it is to certain specific fields, was in so much demand.

"Of course our situation here at Blacksburg is one in which the Federal Radio Commission is little interested; but I can assure you that everyone interested in radio work here on the campus is much in sympathy with the fight that educational broadcasters are putting up. We only wish that we were in a better position to help further the cause."

FROM DEAN H. M. CROTHERS, DIVISION OF ENGINEERING, SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS, BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA: "I have your Rush Bulletin concerning the inquiry received from the Federal Radio Commission. I had already returned these inquiries, and I had indicated no time on chain programs, no time on local commercial and 100% on education for Station KFDY."

FROM MR. H. B. McCARTY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, STATION WHA, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON: "Thank you for your rush bulletin on the questionnaire from the Federal Radio Commission.

"Our reply had been sent in and I recall, a liberal interpretation given to the term 'Educational Broadcasting.' You are doing a splendid job of keeping us informed, and as the Federal Radio Commission ought to say to all of us - 'more power to you.'

"Many thanks for the copies of the WBAO dramatization. The script reads like a good one and I will write you more fully when we have given it a trial. We have nothing similar that would be suitable for release to association stations, but we have hopes of developing some worth while written material this semester."

FROM MR. J. C. JENSEN, DIRECTOR AND ENGINEER, STATION WCAJ, NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA: "Your special rush bulletin from Dr. Harding has been received. Dr. Harding has put the case very pointedly when he states that it is the policy of the Federal Radio Commission 'to cut off the arms, legs, and head of educational stations, and then allow them to die a natural death.' They have not yet severed our head, but that stage of the operation may come when the appeal of WOW is heard on next Monday. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of our brief in the WOW case. It may be that Dr. Harding, Dr. Culver, and some of the other stations that are having trouble similar to ours at the present time can use some of the arguments contained in it. If so you can pass it on. I have already sent one to Higgy.

"The question is, what are we going to do about it? To what extent are we backing up Armstrong Perry and others in his group in the fight they are making? Are we making contacts with our Senators and urging them to support the Fess Bill? If we are not active in this point, why not? It seems to me that we are coasting along until we go over the precipice before we begin to call for help. A determined cooperative effort on the part of all members of our Association would probably compel the passage of the Fess Bill and put an end to one phase of our troubles. Isn't it possible, even now, to 'start something' that will bring results? You may count on me to the limit.

"Regarding the questionnaire, I wired you as follows: 'Question fifteen of license applications requires statement of time allotted to various kinds of service. Interpretation suggested in your bulletin in direct conflict with affidavit in license applications. Suggest instead explanatory paragraph in questionnaire showing educational value of civic, agricultural and musical programs.'

"With us it works out a little differently than with the State University Station which broadcasts no church programs. Out of a total of 12 1/4 hours per week on the air, we show 6 hours and 47 minutes of programs that are purely educational, with an additional 1 1/2 hours of musical programs by Nebraska Wesleyan and neighboring colleges, making a total of 8 hours and 25 minutes. This with 2 1/2 hours of religious broadcasts leaves very little time for entertainment and civic features. I have explained all items rather fully in the questionnaire, and have attempted to make it as effective as possible."

NOTE: PLEASE PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF MR. JENSEN'S LETTER QUOTED ABOVE. THIS IS NOT THE ONLY LETTER RECEIVED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS ASKING THE SAME QUESTIONS. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT! ALL OF YOU KNOW OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON.

FROM MR. DANIEL E. NOBLE, CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, STORRS, CONNECTICUT: "We were pleased to receive copies of the radio play, 'An Ohio Enoch Arden.' I feel that an arrangement for the distribution of mimeographed copies of plays is an excellent means of providing satisfactory copy for college stations. We plan to use the play we have received, and at a later date, we shall write you about its reception.

"May I suggest that a definite sum be contributed by each station receiving the mimeographed plays to cover the cost of mimeographing. I have no idea of the proper amount that should be charged, but, perhaps if each station would contribute \$5.00, the fund would be adequate to carry on the work at the present."

FROM MR. CARL MENZER, DIRECTOR OF RADIO STATION WSUI, STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, IOWA CITY, IOWA: "This will answer your letter of the 25th. I am very sorry that I have not prepared the paper on recording equipment as yet. I have been so busy with our WSUI schedule, our new television station and the usual trouble with the Federal Radio Commission that I have not had time to work on it.

"Regarding the equipment, its cost complete would be in the neighborhood of \$500.00. This includes a new unit complete with microphone for recording continuous programs on either metal or celluloid and will record the full audio range required for music. It will of course be equipped with two recording lathes which are necessary for continuous reproduction. If only speech is required, and that on wax cylinders, such as are used in dictaphone recording, I have equipment which will cost a great deal less and will be entirely satisfactory.

"The above prices are approximate and are based on the production of a single unit. If any amplifying material is available as well as microphone pick-ups, the cost of recording lathes only will probably not amount to more than \$150.00 or \$200.00."

NOTE: This is a portion of a letter dealing with equipment for recording of radio programs. All educational stations could use equipment sponsored on circuit. I am wondering how many stations would be interested in contributing to a fund to have equipment of this type purchased for the Association in order that programs might be recorded to send out over circuit of member stations. Please give reactions relative to the proposition. Mr. Menzer has promised to supply this office with an article he is writing at the present time dealing with the problem of recording. This will be sent out as a special bulletin to member stations as soon as it is received.

SPECIAL NOTE: Will you please supply Mr. O. M. Eittrheim of Radio Station KWLC, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, with the information requested in the letter below. Please give this immediate attention in order that he may learn of the experiences of other station officials relative to G. O. 116. His letter reads as follows: "Can you give us any information in regard to what the stations of your Association are doing in the matter of installing apparatus to comply with the provision of G. O. 116 requiring a frequency monitor?"

"We had planned to build one at KWLC, but it seems from the latest bulletin of the Commission regarding the basis on which such apparatus would be approved or disapproved, that we are obliged to purchase a commercial unit. Any data you can supply will be appreciated."

FROM MR. H. UMBERGER, CHAIRMAN, RADIO COMMITTEE, ASSOCIATION OF LAND GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, KANSAS STATE COLLEGE, MANHATTAN, KANSAS: "I notice your special rush bulletin, 'The Question is Shall Educational Institutions Sell Time Commercially?'"

"Our institution has not to my knowledge been approached by commercial interests in an endeavor to get our station to divert time to commercial broadcasting. I am very much interested in the letter of Director A. M. Harding of the University of Arkansas to Dean Paul L. Vogt of the University of Oklahoma. This is, in my mind, a most definite influence exerted by the Federal Radio Commission to give preference to commercial broadcasting.

"I imagine that this instance will become rather embarrassing to the Federal Radio Commission in endeavoring to answer question 12 submitted by Senate Resolution No. 129, to the Federal Radio Commission which asks: (12) In what cases has the Commission given licenses to commercial stations for facilities applied for by educational institutions?

"This is certainly most timely information and it is of very particular interest at this time. If you have not already done so, I wish you would send your special rush bulletin and copy of Director Harding's letter to Dean Vogt, to Dr. Joy Morgan, Chairman, National Committee on Education by Radio at 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington D. C."

Please note the two letters I received this morning, one from Mr. J. C. Jensen, Nebraska Wesleyan, and the other from Mr. Carl Menzer, University of Iowa. Both submit propositions of great interest. Kindly note them carefully and send reactions relative to both letters.

FROM MR. J. C. JENSEN: "I have been intending to write you for some time regarding the practicability of a 'technical exchange.' What are the college stations going to do about General Order No. 116? Are we all going to spend from \$700 to \$2000 with one of the big commercial companies to meet this order, or can we pool our common interests and devise apparatus which will meet the requirement and save us a lot of money?

"The power unit giving 100% modulation which we added to our transmitter last summer cost less than one-half as much when built in our own shop as the lowest figures we received from commercial firms, and it is doing its work admirably, and is certainly better constructed than some commercial jobs I have seen. Who has a good circuit for a microphone amplifier using the new tubes? What tubes are being used as modulators and what results have been obtained? What is the best amplifier for use in connection with a condenser microphone? These are some of the questions that all of us are interested in. Why not send out a request for answer to these questions and have our Association bear the expense of mimeographing the replies and sending the copies to all members?"

NOTE: Many of us have discussed the possibility of a technical exchange for months. There is no reason why such an exchange cannot be made a success. IT MEANS A VAST SAVING TO YOUR STATION. WE NEED YOUR HELP. KINDLY GIVE US FIFTEEN MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSITION SUBMITTED BY MR. JENSEN.

FROM MR. CARL MENZER: "This refers to your special bulletin of January 29th. As you perhaps know station WSUI has received orders to confine its broadcasting periods to one of four plans submitted by the Commission. Such a schedule would disrupt our semester's work and we therefore objected to such an order. We have succeeded in obtaining a continuance of our schedule until March 1st, the expiration date of our present license, and meanwhile expect to do everything possible to obtain permission to continue on that schedule.

"I am wondering whether the Association could bring any pressure to bear which would relieve the situation which I understand is true in the case of other broadcasting stations as well as our own."

NOTE: Is your station facing the same situation as the University of Iowa station, WSUI? The suggestion above from Mr. Menzer should stimulate discussion on your part as to what the Association can do to relieve the situation that confronts Iowa State and other institutions at the present.

Yours very truly,

*T. M. Beard*

T. M. Beard, Executive Secretary  
for Association