

Radio and the Government

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**NOON-HOUR BROADCAST NETWORK OF THE
NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY
AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

UNCLE SAM personally, along with the rank and file of parents generally, is face to face with the modern problem of "flaming youth." What to do with a child which—old beyond its years—defies all the traditions as to what a youngster should be or do, presents Uncle with a problem in paternal regulation and discipline which, literally, bids fair to keep him awake nights.

This youngster, none other than Young Radio, arrived at a husky maturity in a few years which normally would have brought him at most to adolescence, has, admittedly, outstripped the family provision for his development. As a result, he's bursting out of bounds both mentally and physically, and one of the really important jobs facing the national family council, which in this case is Congress, is to plan for his future regulation and disciplining on a grown-up basis.

As an infant, Radio was rather unceremoniously turned over to the Department of Commerce for whatever nursing and care seemed necessary. His walls and squawks, however, soon grew so vociferous that special tutelage and direction seemed necessary. So the child was transferred to the authority of a special Commission, instructed to guide his behavior. Limitations, however, on Commission authority, and uncertainty as to how Congress would regard strict disciplinary measures, have resulted in a situation that presages a further Congressional family council on his future control.

Preparatory to this, the recent special session of the Senate, just prior to its adjournment, adopted a resolution directing the Radio Commission to transmit to that body a detailed analysis of the entire radio broadcasting set-up in effect today. Senator Sackett, of Kentucky, who introduced the resolution, said it was designed to provide Congress with full information as to existing radio conditions in order that proper consideration might be given legislation to meet newly revealed needs.

Present plans for future radio control provide for the ultimate transfer of regulation to a Communications Commission, with power over radio, telegraph, telephone, and electric transmission, similar to that now exercised over railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission. A bill providing for this commission has been introduced by Senator Couzens, of Michigan, and an effort will be made to advance its status in the present session of Congress. There are indications that it has administration support and that, ultimately, some such set-up will be accomplished.

In the meantime, however, it is through the Radio Commission that Congress must continue to deal with the problems of radio. In its consideration of conditions to be met, the problem of rural radio promises to play an increasingly important part. Under this heading comes both the sort of programs that are available to folks on the farms throughout the country and the degree of satisfaction with which these programs can be received in farm homes.

In an attempt to equalize broadcasting facilities and to insure an even distribution of stations and programs, the Commission late in 1928 put into effect a reallocation of power and wavelengths for all stations. It also reserved as "cleared channels" forty wave-lengths which were assigned to single stations equipped to provide national broadcasts. These "cleared channels" were assigned equally among the five zones into which the country has been divided for purposes of radio administration.

The status of these "cleared channels" is one which seems certain to occupy much of the time of both Congress and the Commission. Are they good or bad? Have they helped or hindered the development of real radio service to the country?

On these questions there is a wide divergence of opinion. A proposal to increase the number of "cleared channels" to fifty, supported by two members of the Commission, is countered by a proposal to reduce their number to twenty, supported likewise by two Commissioners.

The public's real preference on this question has not been made sufficiently definite to convince a majority of the Commission either way. In this situation an expression from listeners, particularly listeners on the farms and isolated sections, would be of real help to the Commission. Letters on this subject should be ad-

ressed to the Radio Commission, Washington, D. C.

In the absence of a clearly expressed public preference, political pressure or expediency may force further "experimenting" that will longer delay the real solution of this problem.

Radio engineers, not handicapped by the political and personal pull-and-haul that beset members of the Commission, lean toward an increase in the number of cleared channels, if necessary even at the complete sacrifice of certain existing stations.

William D. Terrell, chief of the radio division of the Department of Commerce, and liaison officer between that department and the Radio Commission, declares that the cleared channel has filled a very definite need and believes the number might properly be increased.

"I support cleared channels," Terrell declares, "because they make possible the distribution of programs without conflict for the listener. The farmer and the remote listener is more in need of radio service than any other class, and should be accorded it. The Commission might well have set aside 50 instead of 40 cleared channels."

Capt. Guy Hill, chief engineer for the Commission, declares that radio's chief trouble today is too many stations. Diplomatically avoiding unofficial discussion of the cleared channel question while it is pending before the Commission, he does not hesitate to condemn the wholesale issuance of licenses that has resulted in the operation today, within the United States, of more than 600 radio stations.

"Under the reallocation," he explains, "the assignments of 94 per cent of the 600-odd stations on the air were shuffled. To make possible improved reception for distant listeners, notably the farmers, the Commission set aside 40 cleared channels for the exclusive use of high powered stations. Thirty-four channels were designed for regional service, ranging in power from 250 to 1000 watts. The remaining 16 channels were designated for 'local' stations, ranging in power up to 250 watts.

"It is very difficult, however, to improve conditions when the broadcast band is crammed full with stations. Fewer stations would make possible much better reception."

Thanks to improved equipment, however, rather than to Commission edicts, Capt. Hill says, there is, nevertheless, a steady improvement in the quality of reception enjoyed by the listeners.

"Reception is improving," he declares. "Better equipment, making possible higher percentages of modulation by stations and higher power on cleared channels all have made for improvement."

"Particularly on the receiving end, manufacturers are turning out improved and higher grade sets which permit of sharper tuning and a greater fidelity of reception."

Typical of this improved reception, especially for farm listeners, is the recent adaptation of the screen grid principle to sets designed for farm homes. This has been accomplished by A. Atwater Kent, of Philadelphia, who, incidentally, is the largest manufacturer of radio receiving sets in the world. Kent, it appears, had been particularly impressed by the dependence of farmers and residents in small towns on radio and the necessity of providing them with the most efficient receivers possible.

The screen grid tube, making possible higher amplification, greater selectivity and range, was originally developed for use only with sets drawing their power from electric lighting circuits. Kent, however, set himself to the job of perfecting a screen grid set for farms, where such current is not available. The result is a seven-tube, screen-grid receiver, operating an electrodynamic speaker solely from battery current, which in range, volume, selectivity and tone puts the most isolated farm home on a parity with the city residence in quality of reception.

The future of chain broadcasting, as it bears on the problem of providing the best programs for the country as a whole, is another question on which there is diversity of opinion both in the Commission and in Congress. How to retain for the country generally the opportunity to hear the greatest artists and entertainers—usually available only in metropolitan centers—without curtailing the freedom and scope allowed local stations is an ever-present problem.

The chain, however, appears certain to remain

with us. The government itself depends on chain-hookups to carry its broadcasts, and especially in its programs designed to reach farm homes does it find the chain broadcast valuable. The daily noon-hour broadcast of the Department of Agriculture, for instance, is carried across the continent, and from the Lakes to the Gulf, by a hookup of thirty-two stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

The utilization of this chain hookup is described by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde as one of the "outstanding developments" of the past year in connection with the Department's radio service to farmers.

"The inauguration of broadcasts through one of the great commercial chain-broadcasting systems," he recently reported to the President, "was chief among the outstanding developments of the past year in the agricultural radio service. Previously the department's radio programs had been supplied to broadcasting stations in manuscript."

"In October, 1928, when the National Broadcasting Company placed at the Department's disposal a network of stations for a 15-minute broadcast daily, it became possible for members of the Department to broadcast material in person. Approximately 200 members of the Department and 18 guest speakers have appeared before the microphone in these programs and much valuable information on farming and home-making has been broadcast."

Despite all the problems resulting from the mushroom growth of this huskiest of our national infants, Uncle Sam is confident the youth will soon steady down into an orderly as well as a powerful citizen. The pains that have beset him have been largely growing-pains. His intractability has been only that of adolescence.

A little more parental discipline—perhaps a bit of "laying on the rod" by Congress—and Radio will fall into step. Its biggest errors to date—like that of most "flaming youth"—have been made merely in the effort to find itself.

New Jersey Highway Commission to Construct 2½ Mile Viaduct

TRENTON.—Work to be carried forward during the approaching summer by the New Jersey State Highway Commission to complete the super-highway, or Holland Tunnel thoroughfare, between Newark and Jersey City will give that state the longest high level viaduct in the world constructed for the use of traffic only.

To join the completed sections of the super-highway in Jersey City and Newark a viaduct two and one-half miles long will be built across the Kearny peninsula and bridges with an under-clearance of 135 feet will be thrown across the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers.

As a measure of relief from the congestion which now exists on the Lincoln Highway across the Hackensack River the Highway Commission plans to build the new Hackensack span first and will have a fixed bridge which will not delay automobiles through future turnings of a draw span. By means of ramps to the local streets of Jersey City and Kearny motorists will be permitted to use the Hackensack Bridge even before the remainder of the viaduct has been finished. Bids for the Hackensack span are to be received within the next few weeks, and the entire improvement between Jersey City and Newark is scheduled for completion by the end of 1932.

By blasting an avenue through the tough rock on the heights of Jersey City the Highway Board has opened up a subsurface roadway that is entirely free of street intersections and railroad grade crossings in Jersey City. In Newark the super-highway consists of a viaduct over all railroads and cross streets. This arrangement permits of a run of thirteen miles between Jersey City and Elizabeth over a boulevard of the most modern type. The roadway has a width of fifty feet, to permit of four lines of moving vehicles and one lane for disabled machines.

The section of the super-highway through Elizabeth now is being constructed, and a viaduct over Elizabeth Avenue in that municipality is scheduled for completion by next July. When it is thrown open traffic from the Holland Tunnel will have a roadway over a practically new alignment from Jersey City to both Camden and Trenton.



Needless Pain!

The man who wouldn't drive his motorcar half a mile when it's out of order, will often drive his brain all day with a head that's throbbing.

Such punishment isn't very good for one's nerves! It's unwise, and it's unnecessary. A tablet or two of Bayer Aspirin will relieve a headache every time. So, remember this accepted antidote for pain, and spare yourself a lot of needless suffering. Read the proven directions and you'll discover many valuable uses for these tablets. For headaches; to check colds. To ease a sore throat and reduce the infection. For relieving neuralgic, neuritic, rheumatic pain.

People used to wonder if Bayer Aspirin was harmful. The doctors



answered that question years ago. It is not. Some folks still wonder if it really does relieve pain. That's settled! For millions of men and women have found it does. To cure the cause of any pain you must consult your doctor; but you may always turn to Bayer Aspirin for immediate relief.

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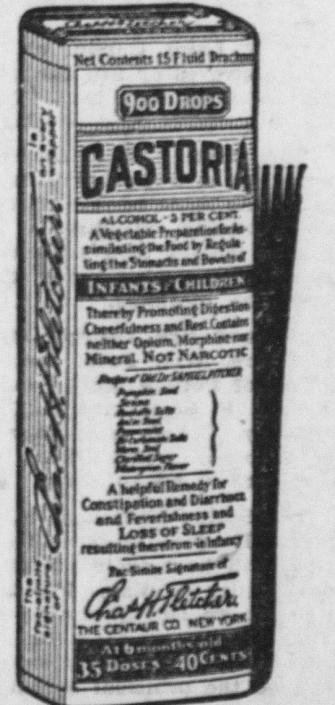
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If men were compelled to bury their faults the undertakers would have to work overtime.

When BABIES are upset

Baby ills and ailments seem twice as serious at night. A sudden cry may mean colic. Or a sudden attack of diarrhea—a condition it is always important to check quickly. How would you meet this emergency—tonight? Have you a bottle of Castoria ready? There is nothing that can take the place of this harmless but effective remedy for children; nothing that acts quite the same, or has quite the same comforting effect on them.

For the protection of your wee one—for your own peace of mind—keep this old, reliable prepara-



tion always on hand. But don't keep it just for emergencies; let it be an everyday aid. Its gentle influence will ease and soothe the infant who cannot sleep. Its mild regulation will help an older child whose tongue is coated because of sluggish bowels. All druggists have Castoria; the genuine bears Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the wrapper.

Twelve Years Mayor and Going Strong!

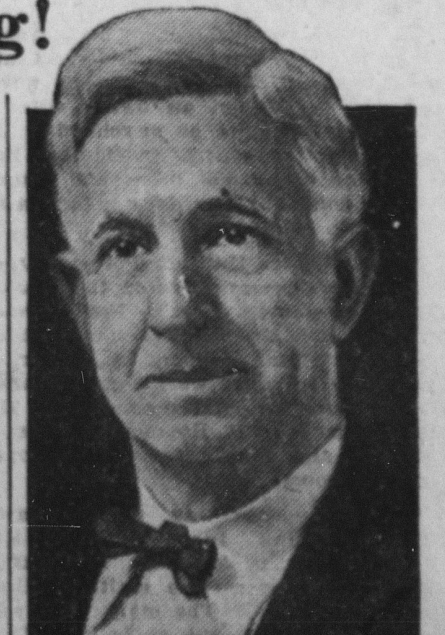
WHEN a man who has been mayor of a big city for twelve years finds out how to live, his words are worth listening to. Ex-Mayor E. N. Kirby of Abilene, Texas, discovered the simple way to health about ten years ago (he is now 64.)

"I am now a new man, and as active as a boy," says Mr. Kirby. "I feel fine all the time and rarely have an ache or a pain, although for twenty-five years I suffered with rheumatism, and sometimes was unable to stand or walk. I would not give up my simple health discovery—no, not for five thousand dollars in gold!" That discovery was Nujol!

That's the wonderful thing about Nujol. Although it is not a medicine and contains absolutely no drugs, its harmless internal lubrication seems to make people feel better and look on the brighter side of life, whether they are old or young.

Of course you can understand why this is so: we all of us have natural poisons in our bodies that make us feel headachy, sick and low in our minds. Nujol, which is as tasteless and colorless as pure water, helps to absorb these and carry them away, easily, regularly as clock work.

Instead of drugging and irritating your body with pills, cathartics, laxatives, and other habit-forming drugs, give your body the internal lubrication which it needs, just as



Hon. E. N. Kirby, for twelve years Mayor of Abilene, Texas, who has discovered secret of success.

much as any other machine. After a few days you will be surprised at the difference in the way you feel. You can get Nujol in a sealed package in any drug store. Nujol may change your whole outlook on life. Get a bottle today and give yourself a chance to be well!