

RADIO BOARD ASKS ADVICE OF CITIZENS

Calls for "Man With a 2-Cent Stamp" to Suggest Solutions of Broadcast Problems.

LIMITED TO SESSION TOPICS

New York Area Chief Prepares for License Renewals, but Is Not Ready to Indicate Extent.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The "man with a two-cent stamp" will have his innings in court before the new Federal Radio Commission when it comes to the presentation of views on what should be done Federally to regulate the "chaos out of the ether" in the present broadcasting situation.

Orestes H. Caldwell, the member of the commission representing the zone which embraces New York and other Eastern States, said today that the commission wanted suggestions from every source for the improvement of the broadcasting situation, and would be glad to hear in writing from those who cannot afford to come to Washington for the hearings the commission will conduct next week.

"In an effort to adopt policies concerning the broadcasting situation which, when put into effect, will render the most valuable service to the listening public," Mr. Caldwell said today, "the commission cordially welcomes the views of all persons who would like to lay their ideas before it.

"That is the central idea back of the series of public hearings to be held here from March 28 through April 1, as previously announced. But we also know that many persons entertaining sound views and strong convictions, with helpful suggestions, have not the time nor money to spare to make the trip to Washington so as to give the commission the benefit of their experience.

Limits Discussion to Agenda.

"In order that every person may have an audience, the commission has decided to issue a broad invitation to the thoughtful public to submit suggestions tending to improve broad-

casting and the general radio situation.

"The man with a two-cent stamp, in other words, is to have the same standing and will be given the same courteous consideration by the commission as the man who is able to appear in person and present his views.

"To facilitate matters we suggest that those who mail their proposals confine themselves to the main topics to be discussed at the public hearing. They are the widening of the broadcasting band, limitation of power, reducing frequency, separation, simultaneous broadcast with same frequency, time division, consolidation of broadcasting service and limiting number of stations.

"We wish to urge our friends to confine their remarks to the topics proposed and not to present at this time individual claims or complaints, which will be considered in due course. Our first step is to work out broad policies, and suggestions along that line are invited."

Prepare for License Renewals Here.

None of the broadcasting stations in the metropolitan area has applied for renewal of license under the new radio law, according to Arthur Batcheller, Federal Radio Supervisor of this district.

"New application and renewal forms are being made up by the Radio Commission," said Mr. Batcheller, "and when these are received they will be forwarded to all stations, which must fill them out in triplicate and return them to us.

"We in turn will send them to the commission in Washington. What action will then be taken I do not know. However, I think that a study will be made from the standpoint of engineering, priority rights, merit of service and 'public necessity.'

"In accordance with an order issued by the Department of Commerce, all operators' licenses have been extended and we have given up examining applicants until the new forms are received."

When asked how many stations he would recommend for the New York district Mr. Batcheller said that, although there are too many on the air at present and he had decided the number which could operate without congesting the ether, he did not wish to make it public at this time.

Radio Men Plan to Cooperate.

Talking Machine and Radio Men, Inc., an association of radio dealers, jobbers and manufacturers in the metropolitan district, will cooperate with the Federal Radio Commission to effect a conclusion of the broadcast tangle that will be satisfactory to radio listeners in this district, accord-

ing to a statement just made by Irwin Kurtz, President of the association.

To accomplish this, Mr. Kurtz asks the following question: "What stations should be eliminated, and what other regulations should be enacted by the Radio Commission to rectify the present unsatisfactory condition?"

Mr. Kurtz announced several prizes for answers that are nearest the solution finally decided upon by the Radio Commission. Letters must reach him at 141 Broadway before May 1.

In reply to criticism directed against the broadcasting of light music on Sundays by Station WMCA, Hotel McAlpin, Donald Flamm, the President of the station, announced yesterday that until popular opinion should dictate that he should do otherwise he would continue the present policy of alternating light music and jazz with religious music on his Sabbath radio programs.

He said he felt justified in giving the audience light music in part, as he thought they desired it, but he added that if the public so wished he would turn over the whole program to religious music.