

# Should the Name APCO Be Changed?

CALIFORNIA EXPRESSES VIEW

One of the thoughts our outgoing President left with us at the Los Angeles Conference was the need for an appropriate name which would embrace all of our members in the Public-Safety services, but still permit our organization to expand its membership, for in numbers there is strength.

It is our personal opinions that APCO should expand, clean up its by-laws, rules and policies in order that all Communications Officers and Engineers of tax-supported agencies such as Fire Departments, Forestry Services, Electrical Bureaus, etc., could feel as though they rightfully belong in APCO. Actually, many of our Police Communications systems are engineered and maintained by Electrical Bureaus and these engineers, while not Police Officers, have the worries as to installations and maintenance, license applications, etc., even though a Police Communications man may have charge of the actual control rooms.

Our President of APCO, Mr. N. Arthur Sowle, points out that he has been giving the subject considerable thought and he believes that after 14 years of advertising "APCO" — the symbol of our organization — it would be logical to consider that any change of name should embrace the tax-supported agencies of the Public Safety Services, still retaining the symbol "APCO."

We in California are proud of "APCO." Those four letters mean something to Public-Safety agencies in this State. It is the symbol of cooperation and coordination between all of the agencies in this group and with our Federal Government. We feel sure that all the personnel in the Public Safety Service division of FCC recognize APCO as an organization with whom they can expect maximum support. The most humble CAF-3 civil service clerk in FCC preparing a "CP," recognizes that

clearance from an "APCO" chapter and feels free to prepare the papers for the boss to sign. Therefore, we cannot afford to lose that symbol "APCO."

The very existence of our organization depends on membership, and everyone should consider that while the Police agencies have the majority of licensed stations in the Public Safety Services, the minority groups such as Fire, Forestry, Division of Highways, etc., if combined would crawl right up there with us on the list. We in California accept any tax-supported agency in the Public Safety Services as being eligible to membership in our chapters, and accept their dues. Should their supervisors ever demand reasons as to why they belong to APCO and attend meetings at public expense, we know

it would be much better to be able to explain that APCO is an organization of Public Safety Communications Officers, than to try to explain that while APCO means Police Communications Officers, actually the other fellow falls in the same category and should belong, for he is engaged in operating a Police system or working with them in Emergencies or Public Safety Services.

As Presidents of our respective chapters, we strongly suggest that all Chapters of APCO consider that we change our name to mean "ASSOCIATED PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS," and that our "APCO BULLETIN" retain its present identification, which for the past fourteen years has grown to be one of the most interesting publications devoted to the interests of the Public Safety Communications systems.

RAY MEYERS, *President*,  
Northern California Police

Communications Officers Ass'n  
GLENN LEWIS, *President*,  
California Police Radio Ass'n

*The Bulletin invites comments, pro and con, on this subject of changing our organizational name. The question will find its way to the Conference floor during the National meeting.*

*Express your thoughts now and save valuable time during the Houston meeting.—Editor.*

## Book Review

### FM Transmission and Reception

By JOHN F. RIDER  
And SEYMOUR D. USLAN  
Published by John F. Rider  
Publishers, Inc., New York  
409 pages — \$2.70

This book appears to meet a long-felt need of many Public Safety Communication men, who have recently changed their systems over to FM, or are in the process of changing from AM to FM.

The book is divided into two main parts under the headings, FM Transmission, and FM Reception. The first part starts with a good description of FM fundamentals comparing it with amplitude modulation and phase modulation, then goes through the essentials

of FM transmitters, and into a description and discussion of characteristics, of a number of the most widely used commercial FM transmitters. The last chapter of this section deals with the different types of antennae used in FM work, and propagation of the FM signal.

The second part of the book, on FM reception, is an excellent manual for the average maintenance man who has not had previous training on this type of equipment. The chapter on FM receivers discusses the similarities and differences between AM and FM receivers, and goes into each stage of the FM receiver very thoroughly. The chapters on alignment and servicing of FM receivers will be very welcome to many service men, as well as the one describing all types of receiving antennae.

The book is completed with an appendix covering vectors, powers of ten, a reactance tube chart, I.F. response curves and the FréModyne circuit.

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