

CPRA and Northern California

JOINT MEETING IN SANTA CRUZ

Once a year the two California Chapters meet in joint session and this year the meeting was held at the Casa Del Rey Hotel in Santa Cruz, May 1st and 2nd, with Walter Keller as host. The group was welcomed by Mayor Beasley.

Bob Miller, President CPRA and John Atkinson, President NC-APCO, each conducted his respective chapter meetings in that sequence and in the presence of the other chapter, and then matters of joint interest were taken up. Neither chapter had any frequency assignment requests but a joint resolution was passed, recommending to the Federal Communications Commission for consideration, the block assignment of the 450 megacycle Public Safety channels, in accordance with the system published on page 10 of the March issue of the *APCO Bulletin*. In connection with this problem, CPRA had previously considered the formulation of a Public Safety Allocations Committee for Southern California, and requested thoughts on this matter from the FCC. In their reply the Commission stated that such a committee, carrying official representation from each of the five services would be desirable but that any single local committee tending to lessen the individual identity of each of the services, could not function on a practical status. This is due to the fact that each local committee of each service is responsible to and dependent on, its own respective individual national committee.

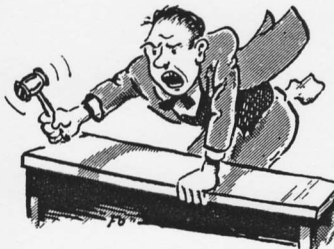
Art Sowle, Reno, Nevada, received formal permission to act as Frequency Allocation Chairman for both CPRA and NC-APCO in connection with frequency requests from agencies throughout the State of Nevada.

Captain Brower McMurphy reported on a test linkage between the San Francisco Bay inter-system and the San Joaquin Valley inter-system and stated that such a tie on a permanent basis looked feasible but would require some

additional engineering in connection with the exact equipment to be selected and the possible frequency available for such service. As a solution to part of the problem, McMurphy suggested that the use of 450 mc be considered.

The problem of dealing with FCC Docket 10444 calling for the elimination of certain channels in the two to three megacycle band from Police Service was then discussed on a joint basis. Bill Whiting of Bakersfield reviewed the

APCO Meetings



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The following known dates are printed for your convenience:

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June 29, 30, 1953

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Detroit, Michigan

Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel

August 25, 26, 27, 28, 1953

general history of these channels and also read in brief the document in question. Bill announced that an extended deadline of May 15th had been granted as the closing time for written protests. During a general discussion concerning this docket, the following points were emphasized and these points were later compiled into joint resolution form and adopted by the members as a formal protest to the FCC.

1. That Police Radio Services involve the protection of life and property and therefore constitute a "public interest and benefit" of the highest order.

2. That the majority of Police Radio Systems now remaining in the 2 mc band were situated there because these channels afford the most economical and reliable coverage of large areas involving rugged terrain.

3. That the shifting of such systems to higher frequencies would require the installation of multiple mountain-top transmitter arrangements and that such multiple mountain-top arrangements would be less reliable, would require additional control frequencies, and would be highly vulnerable to sabotage. Such multiple transmitter systems would also be very costly, and would therefore increase the tax burden upon the citizens depending upon these communications.

4. That the re-allocation of the frequencies in question was not related in any way to international agreement and is therefore wholly within the jurisdiction of the FCC.

5. That the Mobile Marine Service could probably obtain additional available air time on their present existing frequencies by improving their operating procedures.

6. That the majority of Police agencies now employing the 2 mc frequencies in question, have never indicated that they would "voluntarily vacate such frequencies" unless suitable substitute channels were made available.

7. That all of the existing Police frequencies are already extremely crowded and the elimination of any Police channels, regardless of the band, would create even greater confusion in the remaining overcrowded channels.

The resolution carrying this protest will also be submitted to the California Police Officers Association and the International Chiefs of Police as a guide for similar resolutions if those bodies decide to protest Docket 10444.

Frank Roach, representing State Civil Defense, discussed the problem of the immediate gathering of radiation data and the transmission of such data to a central point in case of an attack. Many

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JOINT CALIFORNIA

(Continued)

of the members agreed that the making of these measurements and the transmission of these results could be handled by Police Departments, but it was generally agreed that the request for such service should go directly from Civil Defense offices to the Police Chiefs and that specific points of communication in each locality should be first selected by the Civil Defense Office. It was also pointed out that in some cases, additional radio equipment would be needed, which equipment should be furnished by the Civil Defense offices, along with the necessary radiation detection apparatus.

A resolution was passed asking that funds be appropriated to the FCC and earmarked for use by them in restoring the "loose leaf binder full page replacement" system of issuing copies of their Rules and Regulations. This resolution was directed to the Chairman of each of the three following Congressional committees: The House Appropriations Committee, The House Inter-State and Commerce Committee, and The Senate Inter-State and Commerce Committee (address of each Chairman is Washington 25, D. C.). It is also intended that this resolution be brought up at the coming National APCO Conference and it was pointed out that all cities and towns throughout the nation could participate in his program by sending similar requests to each of the Con-

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gressional Committees named above. The resolution emphasized the fact that the present method of issuing FCC Rules and Regulations and amendments is extremely costly to the nation, since each individual licensee must spend a considerable number of man hours effort

keeping such copies up to date and readable. Also, each time a license application is incorrectly filed, due to the incoherent make-up of amended copies of the Rules and Regulations, many man hours of effort are lost, both by the applicant and the FCC and undesirable delays occur in license issuing. The resolution also stated that practically all licensees would be willing to pay a fixed or annual fee for receiving selected Parts of the FCC Rules and Regulations, if they were issued in loose leaf form and were amended by the full page replacement system as was done in past years.

The Frequency Allocation Chairman for each chapter was directed to investigate the general use of the radio spectrum and to submit at an early meeting of their respective chapters, a proposal for petitioning the FCC for additional spectrum space for the Police Services. Again, it is intended that this action be sufficiently developed in the near future that it can be submitted for approval and action at the 1953 National APCO Conference.

A general discussion was held on the aspect of government ownership of Public Safety Communications Systems, as compared with the providing of such services by privately owned communications companies. In general, it was agreed that the service provided by private companies would be subject to detrimental effects of strikes, and play "second fiddle" to the higher maintenance priority of more valuable circuits such as those of broadcast network services and toll lines. It was also felt that a well operated municipally owned system could be shown to be more economical than any comparable service furnished by a private corporation provided the authorities in the case are willing to make a fair and unbiased comparison. In this connection, it was deemed expedient that all supervisors of municipally owned Public Safety Communications Systems set up cost accounting methods within their department such that direct quotations of maintenance costs of mobile units, land stations, mobile repeaters, etc., can each be made on a moment's notice. The conveying of these cost figures to the budget authorities requires, of course, good liaison between the department head and his technical supervisor and the head of the Budget Department. Other factors which require equally good liaison is that of causing the administration of the radio operating personnel and procedures to be varied in accordance with the best applicable radio system. In other words, the radio system can frequently be greatly im-

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proved through changes in types and use of equipment, provided the administrative officers will go along with certain reasonable changes in administrative procedures and discipline. Police radio engineers should be persistent in asking for such administrative changes when they are desirable.

Bill Durham, our National Secretary, reported on the progress of the membership drive and again asked all members to send in the names of new prospects. Bill issued application cards for advertisers and asked that all members who knew of prospective advertisers for the *Bulletin*, contact them and endeavor to return the completed cards to him.

Art McDole reported on proposed new Constitution and By-Laws for the Northern Group and considerable discussion was entered into by both organizations on certain features of these proposals. Art also reported on Constitution and By-Law problems concerning the National APCO and made one definite suggestion concerning "Equitable National Voting." This subject also resulted in considerable discussion but no action was taken concerning either of these parliamentary issues.

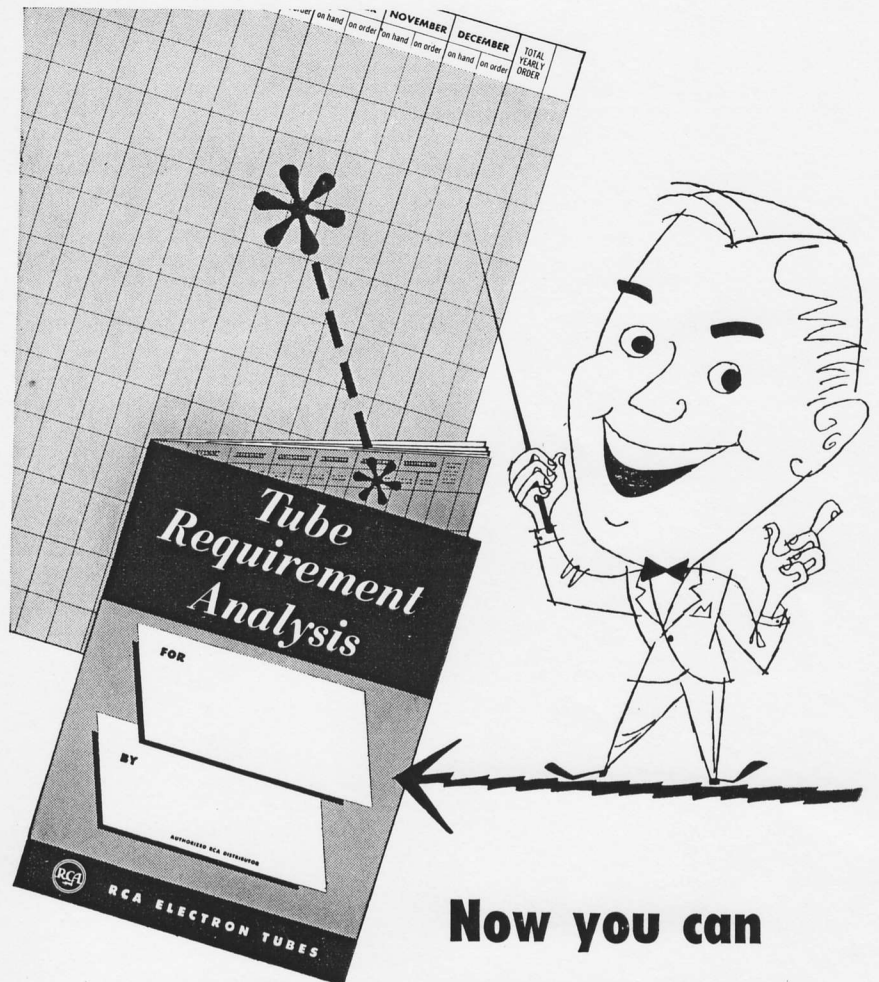
While ten hours of business meeting and several more hours of committee meetings were required to formulate the above decisions and actions, many valuable individual "get togethers" were also effected after business hours and all members left with numerous technical ideas, kinks and bits of information which could not be obtained in any way other than by attending these and similar meetings.

During business hours, the women were treated to a boat trip along the Bay off shore from Santa Cruz and to a visit to the famous Redwoods. All members had a chance to mentally relax at an excellent lunch Friday at the Ship Ahoy Cafe and at an enjoyable and entertaining banquet at the hotel Friday evening.

The meeting adjourned shortly after noon Saturday with a rising vote of commendation and thanks to our host, Walter Keller, and to those who so ably assisted him.

K. V. KEELEY,
 Secretary, CPRA

THOMAS BAYLEY,
 Secretary, NC-APCO



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