

From the FCC . . .

As a result of action taken at the APCO National Conference in Clearwater last August, this organization on December 6th petitioned the FCC for a "formal inquiry" into present and future requirements of public safety agencies throughout the country for radio spectrum space. The 20-page filing declares that present frequency allocations for the public safety field are no longer adequate, and when future requirements are considered, the present allocations are clearly lacking. It was pointed out that APCO does not want the Commission to take the word of the public safety radio users that additional frequencies are necessary, since it is felt that there is a joint responsibility of the federal government and the users to develop exactly what the needs are. APCO is urging the FCC to devote its own manpower and resources to the effort, along with that of the public safety users, as has been done recently in connection with television considerations.

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The FCC had received well over a thousand statements in support of the petition of the Electronic Industries Association's Land Mobile Communications Section for reallocation of television channels 14 and 15 to the mobile radio services, by the December 4th deadline. A request from Forest Industries Radio Communications for a month's extension of the deadline was denied.

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An interim report on the concentrated rule enforcement program now under way in the public safety radio services by the Field Engineering & Monitoring Bureau of the FCC shows that of 206 stations inspected during one period, deviations from the regulations were spotted on a total of 150 counts. The report included inspections of 80 police, 30 fire, 14 forestry-conservation, 21 highway maintenance, 41 special emergency, and 20 local government radio stations. Found to be most frequently violated was section 10.161 — "Content of Station Records," and section 10.157 — "Posting Station Licenses and Transmitter Identification Cards or Plates."

The U. S. District Court in San Francisco handed down a ruling on November 26, acquitting former Oakland, California policeman Kenneth G. Fuller of charges of violating section 605 of the Communications Act (privacy of communications). Mr. Fuller had set up a news-tip service for small newspapers and radio stations, using a 30-receiver monitoring system tuned to various police radio frequencies in the area and charging a fee for reports to his customers. The Court's ruling stated that while it was the law's aim to keep communications private, it was pointed out that most of the policemen who testified at the trial said it was common practice for news agencies to monitor their broadcasts.

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The International Association of Chiefs of Police, in reply comments on the

APCO Meetings



You are invited to attend the meetings of the APCO Chapters.

The following known dates are printed for your convenience:

ILLINOIS

January 10, 1963
Skokie, Illinois

FLORIDA

January 17-18, 1963
Panama City, Florida

FOUR-STATE

January 22-23, 1963
Jersey City, New Jersey

MICHIGAN

January 24, 1963
Toledo, Ohio

OHIO

January 18, 1963
Columbus, Ohio

WISCONSIN

January 8, 1963
Madison, Wisconsin

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

August 13-14-15, 16, 1963
Leamington Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

COMMITTEES

The new APCO Standing Committee appointments for 1963 are listed on page-6 of this issue.

Active committees mean an active and progressive organization — inactive committees defeat the purpose of any organization. We urge all members to study the listings carefully and if you are a member of any committee, contact the chairman and let him know that you wish to be active. Whether a member of a committee or not, let the members of the proper committee know of any matters you feel should come to their attention.

FCC's outstanding rule proposals to service-allocate split channels in the 25-42 mc band urged the FCC to "re-evaluate the priority of need of the various services for frequencies" in the case, since the Commission "may make a direct and substantial contribution toward effective law enforcement by its action," in docket 14503.

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The CPRA has petitioned the FCC for such rulemaking proceedings as may be necessary to make possible the licensing of mobile relay stations on frequencies below 50 mc in the police, fire, forestry conservation and highway maintenance radio services. It was pointed out that many systems in the Los Angeles area use these frequencies and because of the vast areas involved, there is often a need for mobile-to-mobile communication over distances in excess of those which can be covered in simplex operation.

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The FCC reports that an up-dated version of its standard operating procedures, prescribed for police radio service zone and interzone stations, is now available. According to FCC rule section 10.151(c), all zone and interzone stations are to use the FCC-prescribed procedures, which are available from the Commission for distribution to persons having a legitimate need therefore. Requests for copies should be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

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