

Re Legality Of Action On Police Radio Messages

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Act 84, Michigan Public Acts of 1935, made information received by radiogram equal in value to that received by commercial telegram. The passage of this act has been of great value to police officers in Michigan.

Some other states have a similar law but most do not. It has been suggested that it might be possible, through APCO and the IACP, to bring this matter to the attention of all departments.

When the matter was presented before our legislature it was pointed out that communication by police radiotelephone or radiotelegraph is far more reliable as to information regarding warrants than commercial wires, since it is possible for anyone, whether or not connected with a police department, to send a telegram, while information passing over police communication systems must necessarily originate in a police department.

It is believed that members at the 1941 Conference should consider the advisability of action, through IACP, to encourage the adoption in all states of acts similar to that which has served so admirably in Michigan.

Following is an extract from the Michigan Act which contains the regulation affecting police messages:

"Any peace officer may, without a warrant, arrest a person—

* * *

"5. When he has received positive information by written, telegraphic, teletypic, telephonic, radio, or other authoritative source, that another officer holds a warrant for such arrest.

"6. When he has received such positive information broadcast from any recognized police or other governmental radio station, or teletype, as may afford him reasonable cause to believe that a felony has been committed and reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed it."

New Word List For CW and Phone

Procedure Committee Finds Need For Only a Few Changes

As a result of two questionnaires prepared and mailed out by the Pro-

cedure Committee a standard list of word-letter combinations has been decided upon.

On the original questionnaire, sent to all zone and interzone police radio stations, suggestions were requested and the Western Union and Bell Telephone word lists were included along with a list in general use by a number of police stations throughout the middle west and east. Lists used by any of the military services were not included because the committee did not have permission either to recommend their use or to publish them. A list equally useful for radiotelephone or radiotelegraph was the aim of the project.

The original questionnaire produced only a few words not included in the three published lists. A second questionnaire was made up to obtain a decision on the disputed words. The final list follows:

A Adam, B Boy, C Charles, D David, E Edward, F Frank, G George, H Henry I Ida, J John, K King, L Lincoln, M Mary, N Nora, O Ocean, P Paul, Q Queen, R Rob-

ert, S Sam, T Tom, U Union, V Victor, W William, X Xray, Y Young, Z Zebra.

A comparison of this list with the Bell list will show only five changes. Each change appears to be justified. The same is true with the eight changes between the selected list and the Western Union list. The selected list is therefore, with few exceptions, already familiar to radio operators and it is believed that changing to its use will not cause any difficulty.

The Procedure Committee therefore offers the revised list for your consideration and recommends that it be used by all police radio stations, both radiotelephone and radiotelegraph.

The Procedure Committee wishes to thank the operators at the zone and interzone stations for their prompt returns on the questionnaires and the many helpful suggestions offered.

—Ed Denstaedt, Chairman
APCO Procedure Committee

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