

April 28, 1937.

Mr. Maurice B. O'Neil,
Supervisor of Radio,
Police Department,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. O'Neil;

Your letter of the 25th is very interesting, I hope that we can bring the program outlined to a satisfactory conclusion.

The FBI has evidently considered the outlined plan for some time since you will notice that it conforms closely with the confidential discussion Secretary Fisher had with the FBI agent in St. Louis. I see no fault with the plan assuming of course that the stations selected for the FBI teletype machine are willing and ready to carry out the responsibilities that it entails. This you are apparently ready to do. We shall have to check who the other station should be.

The closest station to the FBI is now Buffalo who incidentally is on the 8 state TT chain which is also available for FBI important broadcasts (so really they now have a connection to the net). Whether it would be better to have the machine in Buffalo or in St. Louis, Indianapolis or Detroit, I do not know. The cost would be a little greater but the message if it went to St. Louis or Indianapolis would come into the net more centrally. Though Buffalo is just new in the net they seem to be doing a very good job. They however will perhaps later have sufficient traffic in and out of the 8 state TT net and it may not be fair to ask them to take any more. We are willing to take the machine here in Detroit and I assume St. Louis and Indianapolis feel the same way.

Here is one trouble however. The difficulties of transmission you are experiencing down south are also present here. We are now actually out of reliable contact with Indianapolis and Buffalo several hours a day. Buffalo is only 200 miles away and Indianapolis 250, seems impossible but it is true. A peculiar thing is the one way effect that seems to be present. Buffalo will call us with an S2 to S4 signal but won't hear a peep out of us, a little later conditions will be reversed. The same is true between here and Indianapolis but not so bad. The other day I heard Indianapolis try to give two messages to St. Louis. St Louis came back with ND S1 to S2 and said he had two for Indianapolis but would try later, Indianapolis popped back with ZSF S5, R5 K and St. Louis put the two messages thru without a repeat or break. They could not clear the west bound traffic until later.

At several times we have been out of reach with Buffalo and Indianapolis when Louisville and Atlanta would come pounding in. I tried to draw some East West - North South conclusions but NO. Things are certainly peculiar and as to whether a higher frequency would solve our problem or not I am hardly able to say. We should perhaps try to get one temporarily and see what it will do.

We did have temporary permission to use the day channels for an extra hour but in the present case that would not help sufficiently. Also in the previous case by the time we obtained the permission we did not need it because conditions were again normal. I do believe however that we can obtain an extra hour on the present day channels and that it will assist generally when conditions are not as bad as they are at this instant. I understand that these unusual conditions are effecting commercial services as well. They may last a considerable time or they may be gone when you receive this letter but until they clear up or we get additional channels we are going to have trouble communicating particularly in the afternoon after changing frequency.

Now I wonder in view of this should we not advise the FBI of the possibility of a delay at occasional times rather than to go ahead without saying anything of this possibility. Except for this, the net in the north is now working smoothly. Messages flow from Buffalo to Kansas City evenly and with little delay and this chain of stations seems fairly good. With the radio phone nets this chain feeds it represents a fairly valuable service particularly in cases of general broadcasts. It is now possible to put an important WPPA into this chain and have it cover police departments protecting better than half the population in the United States

(radiotelegraph, radiophone connections and 8 state TT net)
that's not bad.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sgt. Fisher and
Capt. Betts. Between the three of us we should arrive at
a conclusion as to where the other FBI machine should go.
Assuming of course that Capt. Geno does not want it in
Buffalo because of the other teletype. Two machine will
be sufficient I believe, since as long as conditions are
good one machine in this northern chain is ample. It is
unfortunate that the FBI could not use TWX service as a
trial. We have a Bell Telephone System here and a machine
in the radio station. No extra machine would then be
needed. I am not sure but same may be true at Indianapolis
and St Louis.

I am going to the I.R.E. Convention in New York next
month and expect to see some FCC men. I will try to find
out what I can about the present radio conditions and our
chances for another shorter wave. In the meantime we can
discuss the FBI offer between those interested.

Yours very truly,

Lieut E.C. Denstaedt

copy

Fisher
Betts
Geno