

April 6, 1937

Lieutenant Edwin C. Denstaedt,
Supervisor of Radio
Police Department,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Ed:

Your radiogram this morning requesting information about the procedure manual caused me to awaken to the fact that I had not previously answered your letter dated March 25. Believe me, this job surely requires a lot of correspondence, believe it or not. It isn't letters like yours which bothers me, but those such as I received from Fleming at Atlanta, Georgia. I sent him a little sales talk with the request that he belong to the APCO, after which I duly received his application together with the request that I forward "as much information as possible regarding the radiotelegraph net, arrests which have been made and messages handled, etc." He would also like to know all about the APCO. The requests are earnest enough, as he explains that he desires to "sell" the State of Georgia on intercity CW and would also like a better representation of the APCO in his state.

It wouldn't be so bad if we received requests such as these only once in a while, but we get them darn near every day, and we cannot send them stereotyped replies because the information they request is usually just a little different from that which the other fellow requested. This, coupled with the fact that we do have quite a bit of business around here, is the only excuse I have to offer for these delayed answers to your letters. So if you will refer to your copy I will take up the letter paragraph by paragraph:

1. Regarding the APCO Bulletin: I have received many letters in favor of continuing the Bulletin in its present form. As I stated, the only reason for reverting back to the Bulletin would be the cost involved. The cost, however, is not "slightly higher." The last issue cost us \$27.00, as against approximately \$11.00 for mimeographing. There is a saving of about \$2.00 on each mailing, however, but then, we find it still costs more than twice as much as the mimeographed affair. This is again referred to in Paragraph Two.

2. Regarding the membership list and the procedure

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manual: I believe both of these are highly important and I would appreciate an opportunity of going ahead with both projects. A glance at our financial setup will give due explanation as to the reasons for inactivity so far. I stated that the Bulletin (mimeographed) similar to the last issue would run about \$11.00 plus mailing costs of about \$5.00. This does not, however, include printed diagrams, photographs, reproductions, etc., and these inserts run rather high. Facsimiles cost \$4.70 for a single sheet when 250 copies are made, so you can see that the Bulletin has averaged between \$20.00 and \$25.00 per month, and with the higher cost of printing it will probably run between \$25.00 and \$30.00 per month. The financial standing as of March 31 leaves us with \$143.82 in cash and outstanding membership dues approximating \$65.00. This makes the total possible receipts, not counting new membership dues, about \$200.00, which must run us between now and next September. New memberships have averaged about seven to ten per month, bringing us an additional amount over a six months period of an additional possible \$100.00. Money must be spent for stamps and stationery, long distance calls, Western Union, etc., etc. I do not, however, wish to take a pessimistic stand about our financial condition, but considering a possible outlay of \$150.00 to \$175.00 for Bulletins, it does not really allow a great deal of money for any large future printing, as you can see.

3. I knew that you were pretty busy with your strike at Detroit and I didn't want to bother you with a lot of stuff that needed no immediate attention. As I see it now, there is a noticeable let down in committee activities. Convention dates should be definitely set and manufacturers should be notified accordingly, so that they may include displaying at the convention in the advertising plans. The Intercity and the Procedure committees are definitely idle. Pressure should be brought to bear for disposition of designated signals of directional Wppa's. Some effort should be made to fill in a few more Z signals, and operating procedure is again in need of a bit of tightening up. There is quite a bit of "hamming" and some of these Z signals which were vetoed by Jett are still being used. I don't mean that we at KGPC are not at fault as well as the rest of the net, but one station can hardly adhere strictly to procedure when all of the rest do not. Nothing else of real importance has developed that I know of.

4. Regarding the convention: Referred to in the previous paragraph.

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5. The OPCO-APCO consolidation: It looks like this will be my job so I'll get it through as quickly as possible and send it to the Executive Committee.

6. Regarding the teletype and frequency allocations committees: They can say what they want about West and Kinsey, but Kinsey especially is on the job; and if you noticed the article by West in the February Bulletin, it shows that he is not asleep either.

7. Finances: Mentioned in a previous paragraph.

8. Scavarda: Not a word from this dear brother as yet and I wish you would do one thing - find out if that guy is mad at me, and if so, why.

9. Michigan State telegraph: I counted Michigan out a long time ago. I think Ohio will be on before very long and I know definitely that West has started constructional work for a 400-watt transmitter.

10. Chatterton: I received a letter from the Statler Hotel at Cleveland, asking what Cleveland could do to further their bid for the next convention. I told them to ask Chatterton to start advertising in the Bulletin whenever they felt so inclined. They stated in their letter that they had talked to him and that he was very anxious to get the next convention at Cleveland. Chatterton has never written me directly, though, but I understand he was sick.

11. Regarding Scroggin and procedure: I received a copy of his recommendation to the Intercity Committee as chairman of the Procedure Committee and frankly I don't think it covers the requirements at all. I thought it best, however, to be complimentary rather than to argue about it. I offered a few polite suggestions and I haven't heard from him since. I don't know whether you know it or not, but the article which I ran in the Bulletin entitled "Word Counting" or words to this effect and which listed the proper counting of various words, etc., together with a request for accuracy and so forth, which article carried Scroggin's name, was actually written by myself from information which I had obtained from the Commission. The reason being that Scroggin, at the last minute, said that he didn't have anything prepared and would I please fix up a little something for him? This is only to show that a heck of a lot of these committees need waking up.

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12. Regarding the routing of traffic for Ohio: I'll tell our operators to rout traffic for this destination if at all possible, through Indianapolis.

13. The only explanation I ever got from Batts as to their apparent decrease in continuous monitoring is that their operators were busy constructing receivers, but judging by the length of time required thus far they must be making receivers for RCA. I notice in this respect that several of the stations are mighty hard to raise, amongst the more noticeable ones being Louisville, Atlanta, Georgia, New Orleans (at times) and Minneapolis. These fellows expect immediate service when they start calling but when we call them it is an entirely different proposition. I had repeated complaints from our operators and I took a watch myself the other night to find out just what was wrong. Strangely, however, they were all on the job and I was even successful in placing a Wppa message to every one of our contacts on the air, which means every one on the air except Houston. I think that a little article asking that cooperation be reciprocated might help, so who shall I give it to to be written up?

Guess that's about all for this time. Will you kindly keep your sit-down strikes in Detroit? We have had several strikes here and I think we got them from you, although it is not yet a serious proposition. Best regards and please tell Mr. Jackson that I didn't have an opportunity of showing him and his wife any of the hospitality mentioned under postscript of your letter today.

Yours very truly,

EEHF: erd

EVERETT E.H. FISHER;
Radio Supervisor KGPC
Secretary-Treas. APCO