

At the annual convention of the International Police Chiefs Association at Atlantic City, New Jersey in July this organization was officially recognized and encouraged in its work. The radio committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police was authorized to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the Associated Police Communication Officers in dealing directly with the Federal Communications Commission in matters pertaining to Police Radio.

One of the most important subjects before the Convention will be a discussion of the plan for an Inter-City Police Radio-telegraph Communication System. This plan was evolved by this organization and has now reached the stage where preliminary tests are about to begin between several key cities of the country.

It is a recognized fact that radio communication is an indispensable adjunct to the operation of an extensive police communication system. This is evidenced by the growth in the number of State and municipal police radio stations and by the marked increase in the efficiency of those agencies equipped with radio.

The Associated Police Communication Officers believes that the present mobile police communication system, and the close coordination so desirable between law enforcement agencies may be strengthened by interchanging police information on a nationwide basis. To accomplish this mission, any inter-city communication system must provide for accurate, rapid, and on some occasions, secret communication to any or all officers having investigative jurisdiction over violations and matters in which the United States or any subdivision thereof is or may be a party in interest.

At present all inter-city radio communications are handled by radiotelephony (voice) or regularly assigned police frequencies. The Federal Communications of this nature on the regularly assigned police emergency channels, except in the case of actual emergency messages. This has greatly handicapped the dissemination of police information to neighboring cities and states, especially information that could hardly be classed as emergency, yet which would permit police departments to carry to a conclusion many minor investigations which are now dropped. Examples of this are investigations pertaining to persons picked up on vagrancy charges who give residence in distant cities and similar cases. In many cases these investigations are made due to the high cost of long distance telephone and telegraph services.