

September 24, 1936

Mr. Anning S. Prall, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The 1936 National Convention of the Associated Police Communication Officers will be held in Davenport, Iowa, October 5-6-7.

You are cordially invited to attend all sessions and the banquet. The banquet will be held at 8:30 P. M., on the 7th.

It is the earnest desire of the Program Committee that you attend the banquet and make a short address. We realize that you are very busy and that Davenport is some distance from Washington, but feel that a few remarks from you would be of great value to our membership and would make possible a more successful convention.

Others on the program will be Governor Herring of Iowa, Governor Horner of Illinois; and possibly Honorable Homer S. Cummings, and Mr. Hoover, Director of the Bureau of Investigation and the new President of the International Association of Chiefs. The latter gentlemen are being invited.

For information on the Associated Police Communication Officers, I respectfully refer you to Mr. E. K. Jett, who is quite familiar with our organization and its activities, having attended one of our conventions and several committee meetings.

However, in order to acquaint you briefly with us, I wish to outline the organization and its activities:

1. The Associated Police Communication Officers is a national organization of police communication men.
2. The APCO membership is made up mainly of supervising heads of Police Department Radio Divisions.

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3. Its purpose is to promote a more harmonious relationship between persons engaged in police communications; to provide a means whereby such persons may receive the benefits of each others experiences; to exchange ideas of efficient operation of police radio communications; to make necessary studies of technical police radio matters and to provide methods of disseminating data and information pertaining thereto; to make recommendations to the I.A.C.P. on questions involving police policy and legislation insofar as the use of radio and other communication facilities are concerned; and to make recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission.
4. The APCO was formed in January, 1935, at St. Louis, Missouri, when the need became increasingly apparent for a nationwide police radio communication system between departments.
5. The APCO immediately began work on such a plan. For many reasons we formulated the plan for a nationwide police radio communication system, which would use a radiotelegraph instead of voice communication. This plan was presented to the International Association of Chiefs of Police and approved by them in the Convention at Atlantic City in July, 1935. After their approval, they submitted the plan to the Federal Communications Commission. Since that time the APCO has conducted experimental work, submitted its recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission, and have recently realized the fruits of their efforts. On September 15th the Federal Communications Commission approved this plan, and made the new nationwide police radiotelegraph service (not voice) available to all police departments in the nation. On September 15th several cities began official operation as a nucleus of this new communication system, which new use of radio, we believe, will lead again to a further reduction in crime throughout the country. These cities are Indianapolis, Detroit, St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo., New Orleans, La., Houston, Texas, and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

More than fifty cities have expressed their intention of joining this network in the very near future.

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5. (contd.)

We have already proven the reliability, speed, accuracy, privacy, and value of this new service. The APCO is very proud of its part in the development.

6. The APCO as an organization makes possible, for the first time, joint representation of Police Radio. We used this privilege to good advantage before the F.C.C. at its June Engineering Hearing at Washington, which was very important to Police Departments throughout the country, and again in the development of the new police radiotelegraph service.

The Committee, taking cognizance of the Department which you represent, recognizes the outstanding desirability of getting you to address this body of law enforcement officers, and sincerely urge you to accept our invitation. We are advised by the Chicago office of the National Broadcasting Company that they are much interested in the exclusive rights of broadcasting this banquet program. Therefore, it is possible that our banquet program will be broadcast.

If you will accept, I will send you further details and information. A twenty-minute talk will be sufficient.

Will you please advise me by wire, collect?

Again, cordially inviting you to Davenport, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Capt. Robt. L. Batts,
President APCO
Indianapolis Police Dept.

RLB:D