

Signal Officer of the Army; Rear Admiral Noyes, Director of Naval Communications; Breckinridge Long, Solicitor of the State Department, and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston. Mr. Long would in all probability have as his alternate Thomas Burke, head of the State Department International Communications Division, and Mr. Gaston would have as his alternate Commander Farley, Coast Guard Communications Officer.

A major task of the telephone and telegraph companies during the past month—and one which will continue through August—has been advance planning for the wire facilities which they will have to furnish for the presently expanded encampments and air fields and the new Army and Navy communications and bases. The communications companies, especially the Bell System, have been taking steps to insure that their facilities and services are adequate to meet the demands of the national defense program. These steps have not only included studies of the actual service facilities—such as exchange and toll in the case of the telephone companies—but a review of alternate route possibilities and a survey of emergency power facilities to insure continuity of service.

The FCC is now completing the organization of a special staff of nearly 500 field inspectors and clerks which will have the two-fold national defense task of patrolling the radio spectrum for "fifth column" and espionage radio transmissions, and of examining the citizenship of licensed radio operators and probably the employes of wire and cable companies. FCC Chairman Fly has had several conferences with the leading executives of the communications companies in New York on the citizenship problem of their employes and has received excellent cooperation in regard to his ideas about guarding against any possibility of sabotage or disruption of service.

#### *A. T. & T. Executive*

##### *Given Post on Defense Commission*

THE communications industry was given its first major representation on the National Defense Advisory Commission, when William H. Harrison, Vice-President and Chief Engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., was selected by William S. Knudsen, co-chairman of the Commission, as its director of construction for production facilities. Mr. Harrison was given the difficult task of planning and coordinating all industrial plant construction and expansion to meet defense production needs.

In announcing the appointment, Mr. Knudsen said that he had selected the A. T. & T. executive because of the experience he gained while he was in general charge of the construction activities of the Bell System in every state of the Union—a task which had given him a wide knowledge of industrial construction problems. Mr. Knudsen said that because of his Bell System career, Mr. Harrison had

a unique knowledge of the architectural and engineering professions and building construction industry throughout the country. The A. T. & T. Vice-President will not deal with problems of the communications industry but his work will be related to plant construction particularly in connection with such defense production fields as munitions, airplanes, tanks and other mechanized units. He will have to decide important questions regarding construction and amortization plans for such expansion of industrial plants.

#### *FCC in Summer Doldrums, But Likely to Take Up Important Issues in Fall*

THE traditional torrid summer heat of Washington has brought a cessation of FCC activities and the Commission has gone on a vacation schedule consisting of a single meeting each month.

There is, however, considerable grist in the FCC mill ready for production when meetings are resumed in the fall. For the telegraph industry, it is anticipated that a hearing will be staged on the Commission's inquiry into the pickup and delivery services which will probably be one of the most interesting proceedings yet held by the FCC. Another development in the fall is expected to be the formulation by the telegraph companies of a new volume rate service to take the place of Timed Wire Service which the FCC ordered disestablished early in June.

For the telephone industry, the FCC has pending the proposed reports on the investigation of interstate telephone toll rates on the Pacific Coast and the old jurisdictional question of interstate, interzone service arising out of the extension of exchange areas in Kansas City. The FCC also has before it the problem of a proposed increase in the pension accrual rates for seven Bell System companies. Two inquiries also are being considered by the FCC—one into the question of the division of toll compensation between Bell Companies and Independents and another into the question of the hotel surcharges on interstate long distance phone calls.

#### *European Communications Situation*

##### *Closely Watched by Government Officials*

THE shifting of communications facilities in Europe is being carefully observed by the Washington authorities charged with international communications problems, particularly the State Department and Naval Communications. The phase of greatest importance is the apparently determined effort of the "Axis" powers of Germany and Italy to gain complete control of the transoceanic communications facilities in Europe. But only the future outcome of the war will produce the success or failure of the "Axis" nations in this goal because of the British dominance in European communications.

In all of the occupied territory, the Nazi command has refused to permit reestablishment of normal communications, except in the case of Denmark where Mackay Radio and Telegraph Co. was