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● PSF: Subject File

Platt an Platt

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M. H. M. To talk with Prall about.

May 14, 1937

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Jim:

Upon my return to Washington this morning I found your letter of May first relative to the application of the Eagle News and the Star & Enterprise of Poughkeepsie for permission to construct and operate a radio station.

I have made inquiry of the Communications Commission with respect to Mr. Grant R. Wrathall's letter and they state that:

"It would appear \* \* \* that he has not made application for a radio permit and it would seem to me very important that he should do so at once."

I think it would be wise for Mr. Wrathall to follow through with the above suggestion in this matter.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE  
Assistant Secretary  
to the President

James Townsend, Esq., xpp71270  
35 Market Street, x Rem.  
Poughkeepsie,  
New York.

136

Miss

x1059 Miss.

tmb

COMMISSIONERS

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE SECRETARY

ANNING S. PRALL, CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE HENRY PAYNE  
EUGENE O. BYKES  
THAD H. BROWN  
PAUL A. WALKER  
NORMAN S. CASE  
IRVIN STEWART

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 6, 1937.

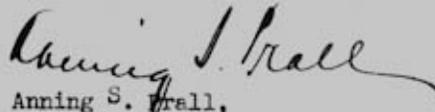
Honorable M. H. McIntyre,  
The White House.

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

In response to your request of the 3rd instant it is suggested that a reply be made to Mr. James Townsend as follows:

Replying to your inquiry of the 1st instant, relative to the application of the Eagle News and the Star & Enterprise of Poughkeepsie, New York, for permission to construct and operate a radio station, it would appear from the enclosed letter of Mr. Grant R. Wrathall that he has not made application for a radio permit and it would seem to me very important that he should do so at once.

Yours very sincerely,

  
Anning S. Prall,  
Chairman.

May 3, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN PRALL <sup>1059</sup>

The attached letter has arrived during Mr. McIntyre's absence. As you know, he is in Galveston, Texas, where he has established headquarters for the duration of the President's fishing trip.

I am taking the liberty of sending you Mr. Townsend's letter and the enclosure with the request that you let Mr. McIntyre have a draft of appropriate reply that I may send to him for signature. Thank you.

ROBERTA BARROWS  
Secretary to Mr. McIntyre

tmb

Enclosure

Let to MHM from James Townsend, County Chairman, Dutchess County Democratic Committee 35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York re publishers of the Eagle News and the Star & Enterprise of Poughkeepsie who have made application for a radio station. Encloses letter from Grant R. Wrathall of 4007 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. re same. Asks for a word to the right parties that the publishers application be denied for the time being. States they need the station but that "it is of the greatest importance that these publisher should not be granted a license and permitted to control a radio station in this locality."

JAMES TOWNSEND  
COUNTY CHAIRMAN

HOMER W. GUERNSEY  
SECY COUNTY COMMITTEE

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

ROOM 27  
BARDAVON BUILDING  
35 MARKET ST., POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE 1131

*Office County Chairman*

May 1, 1937

Col. Marvin H. MacIntyre  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mac:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter received this date from Mr. Grant R. Wrathall of 4007 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., which is self-explanatory.

Note the second paragraph of enclosure states the publishers of the Eagle News and the Star & Enterprise of Poughkeepsie have made application for such a station. These publishers, as you know, control the entire press of Dutchess County and have always been very nasty to the President and to the Democratic Party in general. It would be a great set-back for us if their request for a radio station were granted.

We have been working for some time in contemplation of a radio station in this county which in the absence of a fair press could be used to get the facts before the people and this appears to be along the lines of what we have been looking for. We will thoroughly investigate this proposition and if it proves to be the right thing we will endeavour to get the thing established. Such a setup, you can realize, would be a tremendous asset to us, however, we feel that it is of the greatest importance that these publishers should not be granted a license and permitted to control a radio station in this locality.

It goes without saying that we would greatly appreciate it if you could drop a word to the right parties in Washington to the effect that the publishers application be denied, at least for the time being.

I shall keep you informed of any later developments in this matter.

Thanking you for this and the many past favors, I am

Very sincerely yours

*James Townsend*  
James Townsend

4007 Conn. Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
April 28, 1937

Mr. James Townsend  
Democratic Chairman of Dutchess County  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Dear Sir:

For sometime I have been investigating the possibilities of organizing some interested parties together for the purpose of instigating a radio broadcast service in Poughkeepsie. Recently a way was cleared to place in the broadcast spectrum such a station to serve the general Poughkeepsie area.

Within the last week the publishers of the Eagle News and the Star-Enterprise, your local newspapers, filed an application for such a station. Information I have been able to secure would indicate that this publishing company in the past has exhibited a pro-democratic tendency. A radio station in their hands of the proper person would do much to balance any power which could be mustered by the opposite party through partial newspaper publicity. With these facts in mind I have taken the liberty of asking your advice in the plain I will now brief.

I am a young radio engineer (30 years) employed by a radio engineering firm here in Washington. I have for the past three years made a study of the radio situation with the thought of establishing myself as a part owner in a small radio station. Poughkeepsie was the city of my choice from a business and social point of view. I had contemplated spending my vacation in your city and furthering my plans.

After a thorough study of the situation and using official 1935 U. S. business figures I have concluded that the proposed station should produce a profit of not less than \$1,000 a month for not more than \$6,000 original investment. The average cost of a station of like power to the one here proposed is near \$12,000 and as my contribution to the venture I will build the station and save approximately 50%. I am fully qualified to do the construction work and have access to complete test equipment.

Now getting back to my trouble. Do you know of any person now living in Poughkeepsie that could show a worth of not less than \$20,000 in quick and good assets and at the same time be willing to invest \$6,000 in a business that for the past four years has shown 20% increase in returns from ~~xxxxxxx~~ year to year. He should at the same time be of the right political faith. Such a person would have a distinct advantage over the newspaper applicant because the Federal Communications Commission on more than one occasion has made it known that it is prone to grant a license to non-newspaper interests when such are contestants with the newspaper.

If you can help me in any way I will appreciate either the discouragement or the information you might give me. Should you know of some party that might be interested in my proposal please communicate the good news to me as soon as possible. The local application now on file will be set for hearing soon and our application should be filed if it is to be heard at the same time.

Let me thank you for any advice or information you might see fit to supply me.

Very truly yours

(signed) Grant R. Wrathall

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x

JAMES TOWNSEND  
COUNTY CHAIRMAN

BOMER W. GUERNSEY  
REG'Y COUNTY COMMITTEE

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

ROOM 27  
BARDAVON BUILDING  
25 MARKET ST., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE 1121

*Office County Chairman*

May 17, 1937

Col. Marvin H. McIntyre  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mac:

Yours in answer to my inquiry for information concerning a broadcasting station received. I appreciate the suggestion you made in this matter and will follow it through.

I hope to be in Washington the latter part of the month and will see you at that time, and discuss this question further.

Yours very sincerely

*James Townsend*  
James Townsend

JT:MD

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE ANNING S. PRALL:  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

You will recall that under date of May third my secretary referred to your office a communication addressed to me by Mr. James Townsend, of Poughkeepsie, New York, relative to an application which he stated was on file with your Commission for a radio station to be established in Poughkeepsie. You advised me on May sixth that no such application for radio permit had been made and stated that it should be done at once, which information I passed along to Mr. Townsend.

I am today in receipt of a letter from Mr. Townsend with further reference to this subject, and enclose it herewith. With its return, would you be good enough to advise me what reply I should make? Thank you.

  
M. H. McINTYRE  
Assistant Secretary  
to the President

JAMES TOWNSEND  
COUNTY CHAIRMAN

HOMER W. GUERNSEY  
SEC'Y COUNTY COMMITTEE

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

ROOM 27  
BARDAVON BUILDING  
25 MARKET ST., POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE 1121

*Office County Chairman*

June 10, 1937

Col. Marvin H. MacIntyre  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mac:

In further reference to our conversation and previous correspondence concerning the establishment of a radio station here in Poughkeepsie, I find after looking into the matter that station WGNV of Newburgh, has already established a studio in Poughkeepsie and is giving practically the same service that would be obtained from such a station as we had in mind.

Station WGNV is owned and operated by a Mr. Peter Goelet who, from what I can learn, has conducted his station on a very high plane and has recently invested quite a large sum of money in a new studio at Newburgh which takes in a whole building at 161 Broadway. A day or two ago he made application to the Federal Radio Commission for an increase in power, that is, to increase his present 100 watt station to 250 watts and he informed me that the Commission can grant this request immediately if they see fit to do so. Mr. Goelet is deeply interested in the radio business and is looking forward to increasing his power from time to time in the future and judging from the progress he has made in the past it is quite evident that the prospects for real radio facilities here in the future are very bright.

We have had quite some discussion with him concerning our plans and have arrived at quite a satisfactory agreement with him and we have decided to abandon our plans for establishing a new station here and in return he has assured us of his cooperation in extending us the facilities of WGNV. Therefore, Mac, I would greatly appreciate it if you would give this matter your personal attention with the view of having the application of WGNV approved at the earliest possible time.

Thanking you for this and all past favors, I am

Sincerely yours

*James Townsend*  
James Townsend

P.S.

I understand that the Platt & Platt application has been set for a hearing on September 15. This application of course should be denied if at all possible.

MEMO FOR M. H. M.

Mr. Prall will call you about this  
Monday morning.

TOI

*file*

June 14, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE ARNOLD S. PRALL:  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

You will recall that under date of May third my secretary referred to your office a communication addressed to me by Mr. James Townsend, of Poughkeepsie, New York, relative to an application which he stated was on file with your Commission for a radio station to be established in Poughkeepsie. You advised me on May sixth that no such application for radio permit had been made and stated that it should be done at once, which information I passed along to Mr. Townsend.

I am today in receipt of a letter from Mr. Townsend with further reference to this subject, and enclose it herewith. With its return, would you be good enough to advise me what reply I should make? Thank you.

M. H. McINTYRE  
Assistant Secretary  
to the President

RB/mwd

file

M. H. M. to talk to Judge Sykes  
about when he comes in to see  
the President.

Dove 8/17/37 K

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8/14/37

*File*

MEMORANDUM FOR FUTURE APPOINTMENTS

The President wants to see Judge  
Spikes to discuss with him allocations of  
stations and wave-lengths with reference to  
newspaper connections.

*x1059*

*x144*

H. H. H.

JAMES TOWNSEND  
COUNTY CHAIRMAN

HOMER W. GUERNSEY  
SEC'Y COUNTY COMMITTEE

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

ROOM 27  
BARDAVON BUILDING  
35 MARKET ST., POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE 1121

Office County Chairman

August 5, 1937

Col. Marvin H. MacIntyre  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

136  
Mis.

Dear Mac:

This will refer you to my letter of June 10 in refer-  
ence to the radio application of Station WGNV of Newburgh,  
New York, of which I am enclosing a copy for your ready  
information.

Mr. Goelet filed his application for an increase from  
his present 100 Watt station to 250, with the intention, if  
an immediate grant were issued to him, to file another ap-  
plication for a 500 Watt station. He is now operating on  
a 1210 Kilocycle. There is, I believe, an air channel at  
1310 Kilocycles open in this territory for which the Platt &  
Platt news publishers here in Poughkeepsie have made appli-  
cation. This 1310 channel is the ultimate goal of Station  
WGNV and if you think it advisable they will withdraw their  
present application and apply for a 500 Watt station on the  
1310 wave. This, of course, would be the ideal hook-up and  
with unlimited time it would be a tremendous value to us in  
the Hudson Valley.

I realize how terribly busy you are and I am reluctant  
to bother you with this at this time but Mr. Goelet has been  
informed by the Commission that his application is set down  
for hearing and of course that would not come until after  
the Platt & Platt hearing which is set for the 15th of Septem-  
ber.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you at your  
earliest convenience as to how our situation stands and would  
welcome any suggestions you might feel would be to our advantage.

With many thanks and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours

*James Townsend*  
James Townsend

x *See*  
x PP7 1270

JT:MS  
Encl.

TOWNSEND, James  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.,  
Aug. 5, 1937

Writes Mr. McIntyre, referring to his letter of June 10 (copy attached) in re the radio application of Station WGNV of Newburgh, N.Y., owned and operated by a Mr. Peter Goelet. Mr. Townsend understands that the Platt & Platt application has been set for a hearing on Sept. 15, and says this should be denied if at all possible. Wants to know the status of the Goelet application and asks for any suggestions that might help them. -- Attached is a memo of Aug. 14 from Mr. McIntyre in re "Future Appointments", stating the President wants to see Judge Sykes to discuss with him allocations of stations and wave-lengths with reference to newspaper connections. A notation indicated that Mr. McIntyre talked to Judge Sykes about this when he came to see the President on Aug. 17th.

SEE - 136 Ms.

rlv

SPRATT, Hon. Geo. V. L.  
Mayor, Poughkeepsie,  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
11-19-37

Wrote to the President with regard to application of Platt & Platt (Evening Star) of Poughkeepsie to install a radio station in Poughkeepsie and that Station WQNY of Newburgh is an applicant for an increase of power. Believes if Platt & Platt is granted permission, they could never look for more consideration than they now receive from its newspapers. Mr. James Roosevelt replied to Mayor Spratt, Nov. 22, 1937, as per the President's direction, stating that the matter (he refers to it as Hudson River valley radio stations) is being referred to the Federal Communications Commission, and he suggested that the Mayor communicate directly with the Commission re application for a hearing. -- Mayor Spratt's letter referred to Chairman McNinch, Federal Communications Commission, Nov. 22.

SEE 136-Miscel.

November 22, 1957.

136-miscel

My dear Mr. Chairman:

For the information of the Commission, the President asked me to refer to the Commission the enclosed letter from Mayor Spratt of the City of Poughkeepsie, New York, together with copy of reply.

Very sincerely yours,

James Roosevelt  
Secretary to the President

Honorable Frank R. McNinch, 1059  
Chairman, Federal Communications  
Commission,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.

FDR/dj

Letter from Mayor Geo. V. L. Spratt, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to Pres. Nov. 19th, with regard to application of Platt & Platt (Evening Star) of Poughkeepsie to install a radio station in Poughkeepsie and that Station WGNY of Newburgh is an applicant for an increase of power. Believes if Platt & Platt is granted permission, they could never look for more consideration than they now receive from its newspapers.

November 22, 1937.

My dear Mr. Mayor:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of November nineteenth, in regard to radio stations in the Hudson River valley. As this is a matter before the Federal Communications Commission, your letter is being forwarded to the Commission. I suggest that you communicate directly with the Commission and make an application for a hearing, if one is desired.

Very sincerely yours,

James Roosevelt  
Secretary to the President

Honorable George V. L. Spratt,  
Mayor of Poughkeepsie,  
Poughkeepsie, New York.

FDR/dj

Mr. Roosevelt:

The President dictated  
these two letters for your signature.

D.J.

TOWNSEND, James  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
February 1, 1938

Wrote Miss Leland re application of Platt and Platt to operate radio station at Poughkeepsie, New York, and that report thereon was favorable. Mr. Townsend, County Chairman of the Dutchess County Democratic Committee, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is interested in Peter Goelet who operates Station WOHY at Newburgh, N. Y., whose station would be affected by the licensing of station to Platt and Platt. Says Edward Perkins, President of the Poughkeepsie Publishing Corporation (Platt and Platt) has been active upon latter's application. -- Mr. McIntyre wrote Mr. Townsend February 10th that Miss Leland referred his letter to him, knowing that he was familiar with the subject matter. Mr. McIntyre says he does not see how the President can, with propriety, make any suggestions to the Federal Communications Commission of this sort, and that he is therefore not bringing it to his attention at all. Mentions proposed trip to Hyde Park, February 19th, when he hopes to see Mr. Townsend.

SEE - 136-Miscel.

SEE 136-Miscel. for Mr. McIntyre's telegram of Sept. ?, 1938, to Mr. Latta asking him to find out from Hon. Frank R. McNinch, of the Federal Communication Commission, just what is the status of the Platt and Platt application for radio station at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.----- Mr. Latta, on Sept. 9th, 1938, sent a telegram to Mr. McIntyre saying that Mr. McNinch is out of town but that his office advises that Platt and Platt application is available for commission consideration and should be taken up within the next couple of weeks.----- (Mr. James Townsend is interested in the Platt and Platt application. See Correspondence dated February 10, 1938 - filed 136-Miscel.)



February 10, 1938

136  
Miss.

My dear Mr. Townsend:

Miss LeHand has referred to me your letter of February first, knowing that I was familiar with the subject matter.

Frankly, Jim, I do not see how the President can, with propriety, make any suggestions as to any action of this kind to be taken by the Federal Communications Commission. For this reason, we are not bringing it to his attention at all and I am sure you will understand why I am taking the responsibility instead of bringing the matter to his attention. *not*

x1059

We are planning to come up to Hyde Park on the nineteenth and I am looking forward to seeing you.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

James Townsend, Esq.,  
35 Market Street,  
Poughkeepsie,  
New York.

mhm/k/tmb

not to go to  
Mr. Minch

JAMES TOWNSEND  
COUNTY CHAIRMAN

HOMER W. GUERNSEY  
SARCO COUNTY COMMITTEE

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

ROOM 27  
BARDAVON BUILDING  
35 MARKET ST., POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE 1121

Office County Chairman  
February 1, 1938

Miss Marguerite LeHand  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss LeHand:

I am very desirous of having the following matter brought to the personal attention of the President. Several months ago the local Press applied under the name of Platt & Platt for a permit to operate a 1000 watt radio station at Poughkeepsie. At that time I discussed this matter with the President and expressed my opposition and I believe he felt as I do--that it is not a good policy to have all branches of publicity controlled by one group. I have just recently been informed that Platt & Platt have had their hearing before an examiner of the Commission and the examiner has reported back favorably to the Commission. This report I assume was based on the theory that Poughkeepsie is not adequately covered by present radio facilities. x PP71230

We are interested in Mr. Peter Goelet who operates station WGNV at Newburgh, New York, who has been most generous in the use of his radio station to all church, public and civic societies giving free advertising and publicity to all their affairs and benefits. His station has studios at both Newburgh and Poughkeepsie and at present he has an application pending for more power. His present station is operating with 100 watt power and his application asks for an increase to 250 watts. He originally prepared his application for 1000 watts but on the advice of his consultant engineers at Washington he reduced his application to the 250 and if the Platt & Platt application is denied he will immediately make application for the 1000 watt station and if obtained Poughkeepsie and vicinity will have the same radio facilities that Platt & Platt could give them.

We have looked into this young man very carefully and find him to be of an excellent family and with unlimited financial resources and in a position to carry out his plans without any difficulty. His father was a very heavy contributor to the President's campaign fund in 1932 and Peter is and always has been an ardent supporter of the President.

There is no question at all but that the public interest will best be served by denial of the Platt & Platt application. The Platt & Platt attorneys probably contend that the Poughkeepsie area is not properly covered and the Commission will probably agree

Miss Marguerite LeHand

February 1, 1938

with them by consulting their charts, however, during the past campaign we used this radio station on four different occasions and I know there was excellent reception throughout at least 80% of Dutchess County.

I cannot express too strongly the necessity for keeping Platt & Platt out of the radio field and I would deeply appreciate it if you would call this matter to the President's attention at the earliest possible opportunity as there are only a few remaining days before the Commission makes its final decision.

Thanking you for this and all past favors, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours

*James Townsend*  
James Townsend

AH:MS

P.S.

It is my belief that Mr. Edward Perkins, President of the Poughkeepsie Publishing Corporation, (Platt and Platt), has been very active in their behalf in regard to their application.

J.T.

STANDARD FORM NO. 14 A  
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT  
MARCH 10, 1926

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

The White House

Washington

September 9, 1938

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

45703

136  
Miscel.

M. H. A.

McNINCH OUT OF TOWN STOP HIS OFFICE ADVISES THAT PLATT  
AND PLATT APPLICATION AVAILABLE FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION AND SHOULD  
BE TAKEN UP WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

M. C. L.

x 105-9

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

WX 9-9-38

Memo for MHM  
PK

McNinch out of town. His office advises that Platt and Platt application available for commission consideration and should be taken up within the next couple of weeks.

MCL.

*Just file  
no action  
MHM*

*Mac  
So take care of  
I don't know what  
it is about JPR.*

---

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

M. C. L.

A sk McNinch confidentially what status of Platt and  
Platt application radio station Boughkeepsie.

M. H. M. \*

10:55 a.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

10/6

Jim Townsend:

Is laid up with an "almost cracked" knee. Has two or three matters to bring to the attention of the President, as follows:

1. "On this matter of the broadcasting station here, the FCC has had this since last February. At first we opposed the people who are now probably going to get it -- they finally had to come to me. I would like to know in advance if they are going to get it. If I can give them the information in advance, it would help to make them (the newspaper) more friendly. Application is under Platt & Platt.

October 7, 1938.

Dear Mr. Townsend :

I enclose herewith copy of the findings of the Federal Communications Commission taken from the official record I have just received from Washington.

Reading these findings carefully, I believe you will agree with me that the Commission does not doubt for an instant that Poughkeepsie needs a radio station.

Wherein the Commission does disagree is that we have proposed, at the beginning, only a daytime station while the Commission says there is great need or greater need for a nighttime station.

But here is the point :

Radio engineers, government or private, will tell you that there now exists no wave length on the whole range of commercial radio wave lengths which can be used for a full time station in Poughkeepsie.

More than that, I believe these same engineers will agree that the 1000 kilocycle wave length for which we applied for daytime operation is the only wave length on the whole range of commercial radio wave lengths which can be used for a daytime station in Poughkeepsie for a station with 1,000 watts power which the Commission says is the power a station here should have.

The fact is proved by WGNV's experience in Newburgh. WGNV has been seeking in some way for years to obtain a full time-- day and night-- operation and has been and still is unable to obtain it. That is why WGNV has asked for another band which adds a few hours to its daytime operation ; there is no band Newburgh can use for Nighttime operation under the present set-up.

Our plan always has been this :

We hoped to obtain a license for daytime operation on the 1000 kilocycle wave length, which is the only one available for daytime operation. There is, as I have pointed out, no wave length on which a station in Poughkeepsie could operate, which will permit day and night operation.

If we could-- or if we can-- obtain a license for daytime operation, which is all any station can obtain for Poughkeepsie now, we planned to act promptly when the new radio wave length allocation program is put in

operation, which I believe will be in less than six months, and under that, which will provide some free bands, we would ask for a band which would permit day and night operation.

Under the present wave length allocation there is no such band so that no matter who applies for a full time station in Poughkeepsie, it simply is impossible.

This whole situation, I believe, has been quite overlooked by the Commission. Its findings seem to imply that we might have chosen another band and asked for a full time station. But there isn't any such band.

Since there isn't such a wave length, it seems to me that it is reasonable and desirable for the Commission to permit us to operate a daytime station until such full time band is available. True, Poughkeepsie may need a night time station. But we proved it needs also a daytime station. And, if it cannot obtain a daytime and nighttime station, then certainly it should not be deprived of a daytime station until a nighttime wave also comes along. A half loaf is better than none for this community, isn't it ?

The Commission on September 12th granted a license to the Troy Broadcasting company for a daytime station in Troy, N. Y., where there are numerous other stations in the radius of a few miles. Troy is much larger than Poughkeepsie, yet a daytime station has been approved even when Troy had already considerable local service. Poughkeepsie has none.

You realize that most businesses start on a modest scale and expand as conditions and opportunities offer. I think our program is identical with this fundamental business principle. If we can get a daytime station, which is all there is to be had for Poughkeepsie now, we will then be set up, our station operating smoothly, the people attracted to it and then when we can get a day-and-night band we can expand, as we wish to.

Our plans have never been based on equipment or service merely for a daytime station. We have planned for a full time station. We would have asked for a full time station when we started our proceeding, if such a station could have been had on any wave length at 1000 watts. We plan, as you know, on an expenditure at least of \$100,000 for the station, and that is no little station. We plan for the best and most modern equipment, the best quality of personnel, and the widest possible service not from our studios alone but by remote from all points in this area. I already have told you of our plans for certain remote hook-ups.

You will recall, too, that I mentioned yesterday that if we do not obtain a favorable action on a rehearing and if the Commission does not grant us a license for a daytime station now, it will be impossible for anybody to go through the necessary proceedings and obtain any sort of a license before 1940. I believe I am correct in saying that anybody else who may apply now will be able only to obtain a daytime license until the wave length re-allocation is effective. So, one reasoning is : why not give it to us, now, because then we can go ahead with our station and it will be available for use within a few months and we will be able to act more promptly than anybody else to obtain a day and night wave length when any such length becomes available.

This is a community project, after all. You know we did nothing for a long time and then finally asked for the best and the most license we could obtain solely because so many people from every part of the community urged us to get Poughkeepsie a station to serve not only the city but the whole area of Dutchess county. You and I agree on its possibilities for reaching thousands of people and I feel you agree with me that there is every reason to have this service in operation as soon as is humanly possible. And I am sure you know we will provide the highest quality of equipment and service which can be provided.

Since all this is true, and there is no hope for anybody obtaining more than a daytime license now and we have gone thus far, I know you will be glad to have this statement of the situation as a summary of the reasons to have our application granted

With deep appreciation of your interest and with most sincere best wishes, I remain

REC-ms

Cordially,



Mr. James Townsend,  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM ON POUGHKEEPSIE RADIO LICENSE APPLICATION :

Applicant : Platt & Platt, Inc.

Seeking : Construction permit.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION : Docket No. 4581.

Decided : October 4, 1938. (29813)

Brief history : This application was made as the result of a suggestion at a civic gathering in Poughkeepsie in early 1937 that Poughkeepsie as a community, together with Dutchess County and the Poughkeepsie trading area, is important enough to have its own radio station and could sustain one both as to program and business. A further suggestion from civic and business organizations was that applicant was the logical and best-qualified unit to operate a station and representations were made to applicant accordingly. Applicant made a survey to determine extent of interest in and support of proposed station and found both factors existed to unusual degree in the community. On this basis application was made.

Proceedings : Applicant first filed about April 1, 1937, for 1270 kc band which then was open but subsequently a license was granted for Pittsfield, Mass., on that band. This, about August, 1937, necessitated amendment of application and new filing was made for 1000 kc band, with 1 kw power as allocated to Poughkeepsie. On advice of engineers (Barron) application was made for 1000 kc band as the only band on which a station in Poughkeepsie could operate full daytime, there being no band available, according to same advice, on which a fulltime station could be operated. Restriction of application to a daytime station was involuntary since applicant desired a fulltime station but was foreclosed thereon as set forth and further because WHO Des Moines operates on the 1000 kc band and would interfere with Poughkeepsie station to some degree after local sunset in Poughkeepsie. In face of this situation, applicant decided to ask for daytime station but in planning station facilities and service it calculated at all times on using 1000 kc band only until some fulltime band should become available. In this connection, the supporters of radio station plan in Poughkeepsie urged applicant to obtain daytime facilities at least, because the feeling was that Poughkeepsie deserved and could use a daytime station immediately and until fulltime station became available.

The subsequent proceedings in this case are completely shown by the record, including favorable examiner's report, oral argument to confirm examiner's report, etc.

Decision : The Commission (McNinch, chairman, Brown and Case, Commissioners, not participating) ruled that :

The applicant proposes to establish a limited time station in a community having a public need for unlimited time service, and granting such an application would not satisfy the local public need nor would it be an efficient allocation of radio facilities. (Grounds for decision, par. 1)

The opinion preceding the decision set forth (pages 4 and 5) that there is no radio station in Poughkeepsie, that there is no broadcast service available to Poughkeepsie having a signal strength usually necessary to render consistent service day and night to residential and high noise level areas, but that several New York City stations could be heard in Poughkeepsie and that some other stations render adequate service to rural areas surrounding Poughkeepsie.

Note : Although these stations can be heard in Poughkeepsie and the normal area proposed to be served by a Poughkeepsie station, there is no station which gives local service either to Poughkeepsie or Dutchess County, and these areas constitute a closely-knit unit needing comprehensive local service and expression because of their abundant talent, their highly-developed community consciousness, and their importance as sources not only of local service but of far greater and wider service on occasion.

The opinion further set forth (pages 5 and 6) that :

"The Commission is constrained to deny this application because favorable action hereon will not result in supplying a satisfactory service to the people of Poughkeepsie. The people are as much in need of nighttime service as daytime service, and the need for the former may be greater.

"\* \* \* Granting this application, therefore, would result in the establishment of a limited time or daytime station which may preclude the establishment of a station which would be able to render local day and night service."

Applicant's comment : (Reasons for granting of motion for rehearing, for reconsideration of applicant's case by the Commission, and for granting of license to applicant.)

1. There is no radio station in Poughkeepsie.
2. Both the examiner and the Commission found that there is need for a radio station in Poughkeepsie. This was unquestioned.
3. This applicant limited its application to daytime service but only because fulltime service could not be provided due to the restrictions on available wave bands.
4. This applicant at all times has planned for a fulltime station and has planned to apply for additional time as soon as possible. It made its limited application based on the public urgings and demands for a station for Poughkeepsie to be established promptly, if permitted, rather than to wait until a full-time station band should become available.
5. In planning for a Poughkeepsie station, this applicant has projected and is prepared to expend up to \$100,000.00 at least, if necessary, to provide a modern facility fitting for the need of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County and in keeping with the importance of a station in Poughkeepsie. It has planned also to staff the station with the most experienced and efficient personnel and to present programs of highest quality and widest appeal and scope.
6. Since a fulltime band is not available now, Poughkeepsie should not be denied a daytime station for which there is both great need and great demand. That a most acceptable daytime program can be presented has not been questioned. To provide a correspondingly high-quality nighttime program when opportunity offers is no problem since the talent and events are amply adequate and readily available.
7. Denial of this application means that, in ordinary course of events, no applicant, this or any other, could expect reasonably to obtain a license and have a station operating until 1940, and probably not much before mid-year of 1940. In the mean time, Poughkeepsie as a

community, and this includes Dutchess County, is left without a much-needed radio service of its own, a service important to the community interests and the development of the area, and with the possibilities, always, of being at times important to much broader areas.

8. This applicant is prepared, if permitted, to proceed as soon as possible with construction and operation of the station sought and to take whatever steps may be permitted henceforth to provide Poughkeepsie with a fulltime station.

9. Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County are more interested in a local radio service and more anxious for it now than they were a year ago when representatives of the community (see who testified in depositions) expressed their views as part of the record. This is substantiated by the many voluntary inquiries received daily from representatives of civic, religious, educational and fraternal organizations and from individuals as to the status of the pending application.

In re application of

PLATT & PLATT, Inc.

POUGHKEEPSIE, New York.

For a Construction Permit.

Federal Communications Commission Docket No. 4581.

This application for permission to construct a radio station in Poughkeepsie to operate daytime until local sunset in Poughkeepsie on the 1000 kc wave band with 1,000 watts power, was denied by the Commission in decision dated October 6, 1938, in which decision Chairman McNinch and Commissioners Brown and Case did not participate.

The Commission in its decision said in substance that this applicant had proved Poughkeepsie needs a radio station but that it was denying the application because this applicant had asked only for a daytime station when it should have asked for a fulltime station to get as much service as possible for Poughkeepsie. The Commission added that it felt that to grant a daytime station might prevent a future grant of a fulltime station.

The reason applicant asked only for a daytime station was because when it applied there was no band on which a fulltime station could be operated in Poughkeepsie, due to night interference with several other existing stations, and because the 1000 kc band was the only one available then on which a daytime station in Poughkeepsie could be operated satisfactorily.

Applicant at all times has planned and still does to obtain a fulltime station if Commission will permit just as soon as a band is available which allows of fulltime operation in Poughkeepsie.

Applicant now had filed with the Commission a petition praying for a rehearing and/or reconsideration of its case, setting forth why it limited its original application to daytime operation and also setting forth that whenever a band becomes available permitting fulltime operation in Poughkeepsie it will apply immediately for such band and for permission to transfer operation to that band and give fulltime service.

Applicant urges in support of its petition for a rehearing and for a subsequent grant of a license so soon as possible that : (1) Poughkeepsie needs a daytime station now as the case proves according to the Commission's findings ; (2) that Poughkeepsie should not be denied a daytime station over the interval until a fulltime band shall become available ; (3) that operation of a daytime station will not be an interference with any existing station, as the engineering proof in the case confirms, and that it will be of great value to the community to have it in operation as soon as possible ; (4) that applicant, having always planned for a fulltime station and being most desirous of operating a fulltime station, will, if granted a daytime station now, apply at the first moment that a fulltime band becomes available, for permission to transfer to such fulltime band and give Poughkeepsie fulltime service.

This applicant's petition for a rehearing will be scheduled for argument by the Commission in due course, probably within the next four weeks or less, and it is vital that applicant be granted a rehearing and/or reconsideration so that it may present fully its statement of facts to the Commission.

Applicant also will point out that granting of its present and pending application is desirable so that preliminary construction may be commenced at an early date. Otherwise, the entire proceeding will be delayed for a considerable period of time with the result that Poughkeepsie and the Dutchess county community will have no radio station for which there is both need and demand. Many organizations of various approved quality are anxious to have such a station in Poughkeepsie for use as soon as possible, and since this application if granted will not in any way interfere with any existing station during daytime operation and will make it possible for a prompt transfer to fulltime operation when such band becomes available, it is elementally desirable that Poughkeepsie be granted : 1st-- a rehearing and/or reconsideration ; 2nd-- a construction permit and license, both on the basis of the pending application.

Contains original application.

Denial by Commission.

Re application.

all of which are self explanatory.

Plus.

Summary of the whole situation  
delivered to Mr McQuay.

DUTCHESS COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE  
35 MARKET STREET  
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

2/

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 13, 1938.

MEMO FOR MAC

Can you get some word  
for Jim Townsend from Federal  
Communications?

F. D. R.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S FINDINGS RE RADIO LICENSE :

The Commission is constrained to deny this application because favorable action hereon will not result in supplying a satisfactory service to the people of Poughkeepsie. The people are as much in need of nighttime service as daytime service, and the need for the former may be greater. The applicant shows that there are 6,000 industrial workers in this area, and it is doubtful whether they would be able to avail themselves of the proposed daytime service. This group deserves consideration.

The proposal herein is to established a limited time station on a clear channel frequency, namely, 100 kilocycles. The dominant station on this frequency, WHO, has rendered service for many years, and there is no suggestion in the record that it will relinquish any of its nighttime hours of operation. Under Rules 77-1 and 78-2 a station of the class proposed herein (or which will be acceptable to the applicant) may not operate after sunset at the dominant station. The difference between sunset at Poughkeepsie and at Des Moines (as shown by Rule 181) varies between  $1\frac{1}{4}$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The operation of the proposed station at Poughkeepsie, therefore, would be approaching the second hour after sunset condition at the time of local sunset at Des Moines. In view of the fact that propagation increases to a great extent at about the sunset period, the operation of WHO at that time would limit the signal of the proposed Poughkeepsie station to its approximate 5 mv/m contour. This fact is pointed out merely to illustrate the physical impossibility of the proposed station to render proper service at night on the frequency applied for.

Granting this application, therefore, would result in the establishment of a limited time or daytime station which may preclude the establishment of a station which would be able to render local day and night service.

Grounds for Decision

1. The applicant proposes to establish a limited time station in a community having a public need for unlimited time service, and ~~the~~ granting such an application would not satisfy the local public need nor would it be an efficient allocation of radio facilities.

2. Public interest, convenience and necessity would not be served by granting the application.

Order

Upon consideration of the entire record, IT IS ORDERED :

That the application of Platt & Platt, Inc., docket no. 4581, BE AND IT IS HEREBY DENIED.

This order shall become effective at 3 a.m. E.S.T. on the 14th day of October, 1938.

Chairman McNinch, Commissioners Brown and Case, did not participate.

*file under James Townsend*

*6/10/26/38*

**MEMORANDUM ON POUGHKEEPSIE RADIO LICENSE APPLICATION**

**P.P.E.**

**1270**

**Applicant : Platt & Platt, Inc.**

**Seeking : Construction permit.**

**Federal Communications Commission : Docket No. 4581.**

**Decided : October 4, 1938. (29813)**

*x1059*

*x1367/100*

**Brief history :** This application was made as the result of a suggestion at a civic gathering in Poughkeepsie in early 1937 that Poughkeepsie as a community, together with Dutchess county and the Poughkeepsie trading area, is important enough to have its own radio station and could sustain one both as to program and business. A further suggestion from civic and business organizations was that applicant was the logical and best-qualified unit to operate a station and representations were made to applicant accordingly. Applicant made a survey to determine extent of interest in and support of proposed station and found both factors existed to unusual degree in the community. On this basis application was made.

**Proceedings :** Applicant first filed about April 1, 1937, for 1270 ke band which then was open but subsequently a license was granted for Pittsfield, Mass., on that band. This, about August, 1937, necessitated amendment of application and new filing was made for 1000 ke band, with 1 kw power as allocated to Poughkeepsie. On advice of engineers (Barren) application was made for 1000 ke band as the only band on which a station in Poughkeepsie could operate full daytime, there being no band available, according to same advice, on which a full time station could be operated. Restriction of application to a day-time station was involuntary since applicant desired a full time station but was foreclosed thereon as set forth and further because WHO Des Moines operates on the 1000 ke band and would interfere with Poughkeepsie station to some degree after local sunset in Poughkeepsie. In face of this situation, applicant decided to ask for day-time station but in planning station facilities and service it calculated at all times on using 1000 ke band only until some full time band should become available. In this connection, the supporters of radio station plan in Poughkeepsie urged applicant to obtain day-time facilities at least, because feeling was Poughkeepsie deserved and could use day-time station immediately and until full time station became available.

The subsequent proceedings in this case are completely shown by the record, including favorable examiner's report, oral argument to confirm examiner's report, etc.

**Decision :** The Commission (McNinch, chairman, Brown and Case, Commissioners, not participating) ruled that :

The applicant proposed to establish a limited time station in a community having a public need for unlimited time service, and granting such an application would not satisfy the local public need nor would it be an efficient allocation of radio facilities. (Grounds for Decision, pp 1)

The opinion preceding the decision set forth (pages 4 and 5) that there is no radio station in Poughkeepsie, that there is no broadcast service available to Poughkeepsie having a signal strength usually necessary to render consistent service day and night to residential and high noise level areas, but that several New York City stations can be heard in Poughkeepsie and that some other stations render adequate service to rural areas surrounding Poughkeepsie.

**Note :** Although these stations can be heard in Poughkeepsie and the normal area proposed to be served by a Poughkeepsie station, there is no station which gives local service either to Poughkeepsie or Dutchess county, and these areas constitute a closely-knit unit needing comprehensive local service and expression because of their abundant talent, their highly-developed community consciousness, and their importance as sources not only of local service but of far greater and wider service on occasion.

The opinion further set forth (pages 5 and 6) that :

"The Commission is constrained to deny this application because favorable action hereon will not result in supplying a satisfactory service to the people of Poughkeepsie. The people are as much in need of night-time service as daytime service, and the need for the former may be greater.

"\* \* \* Granting this application, therefore, would result in the establishment of a limited time or daytime station which may preclude the establishment of a station which would be able to render local day and night service."

Applicant's comment : (Reasons for granting of motion for rehearing, for reconsideration of applicant's case by the Commission, and for granting license to applicant.)

1. There is no radio station in Poughkeepsie.
2. Both the examiner and the Commission found that there is need for a radio station in Poughkeepsie. This was unquestioned. The Commission's opinion objected to proposal limited to day-time service.
3. This applicant limited its application to day-time service only because full-time service could not be provided due to the restrictions on available wave bands.
4. This applicant at all times has planned for a full-time station and has planned to apply for additional time as soon as possible. It made its limited application based on the public urgings and demands for a station for Poughkeepsie to be established promptly, if permitted, rather than to wait until a full-time station band should become available.
5. In planning for a Poughkeepsie station, this applicant has projected and is prepared to expend up to \$100,000 at least, if necessary, to provide a modern facility fitting for the need of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess county and in keeping with the importance of a station in Poughkeepsie. It has planned also to staff the station with the most experienced and efficient personnel and to present programs of highest quality and widest appeal and scope.
6. Since a full-time band is not available now, Poughkeepsie should not be denied a day-time station for which there is both great need and great demand. That a most acceptable day-time program can be presented has not been questioned. To provide a correspondingly high-quality night-time program when opportunity offers is no problem since the talent and events are amply adequate and are readily available.
7. Denial of this application means that, in ordinary course of events, no applicant, this or any other, could expect reasonably to obtain a license and have a station operating until 1940, and probably not much before mid-year of 1940. In the mean time, Poughkeepsie as a

community, and this includes Dutchess county, is left without a much-needed radio service of its own, a service important to the community interests and development of the area and with the possibilities, always, of being at times important to much broader areas.

8. This applicant is prepared, if permitted, to proceed so soon as possible with construction and operation of the station sought and to take whatever steps may be permitted henceforth to provide Poughkeepsie with a full-time station.

9. Poughkeepsie and Dutchess county are more interested in a local radio service and more anxious for it now than they were a year ago when representatives of the community expressed their views in depositions. This is substantiated by the many voluntary inquiries from representatives of civic, religious and fraternal organizations, businesses, and individuals as to the status of the pending application.

From : Richard E. Coon

To : Colonel McIntyre

Date : October 19, 1938.

W. Comstock by  
J. H. on Dec. 1860  
Co. Seal

W. Comstock  
P. H. H. H.  
H. H. H. H.  
W. H. H. H.  
H. H. H. H.  
H. H. H. H.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

Secretary McIntyre

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 9, 1938

Memorandum For Secretary McIntyre.

The Communications Commission tells me that this application was denied on October sixth, a week before you got the memorandum from the President.

  
James H. Rowe, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 11, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MAC

Will you read this and  
give me a synopsis of the  
situation and then speak to  
me about it?

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

11/12/38

MEMO FOR JIM ROBE

Going back a little, I find that while this isn't your baby, it rested on your doorstep for awhile.

Being more familiar with it than I am, do you see how the President's request can be complied with?

MM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 21, 1938

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. McIntyre.

RE RADIO STATION IN DUTCHESS COUNTY.

It has taken me sometime to get the facts in this matter from the Communications Commission. I also summarize the attached file.

In February 1938 Mr. Townsend wrote the President urging very strongly that the application for a radio station in Poughkeepsie be denied if at all possible on the grounds that the application was made by the owners of the newspapers in Dutchess County who had been very unfriendly to the Administration. I also understand the President is opposed to the concentration of radio control in the hands of those who already control the newspapers.

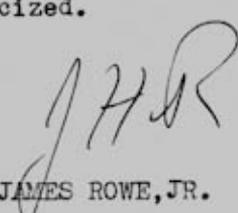
A few months later Mr. Townsend reversed his position and urged that Platt and Platt, who were acting for the newspapers, be granted the application. His ground was that they had to come to him for action and he thought that in the future the papers would be more friendly.

On October 6, 1938 the Commission denied the application on the ground that the applicant wished to establish a day-time station in a community which required full time service. The applicant in his petition for rehearing points out that he only applied for a day-time station because the night-time was already taken by another station.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

- 2 -

I was told confidentially that a rehearing is rarely granted in these cases and that this would probably be the fate of this petition, upon the record of usual procedure. I was also told very frankly that this was the sort of case which had brought the Commission into the disrepute it now enjoys. Before the recent clean-up, it was the practice of members of the staff, or even of the Commission, to send word in advance to certain persons what the result of a hearing would or would not be. These persons would then inform the applicants and invariably take credit for the results. The Commission is loath to take any action on this case out of the ordinary procedure and is quite frank in saying so, because of its similarity to situations for which it has been severely, and it thinks justly, criticized.



JAMES ROWE, JR.

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

6WU.RA. 16-

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., November 21, 1938

THE PRESIDENT.

Am tremendously interested in Richard Coons matter Any suggestions on your part will be greatly appreciated.

James Townsend.

10:50 a.m.

*Make  
to take up with  
the Commission*

JAMES TOWNSEND  
COUNTY CHAIRMAN

HOMER W. GUERNSEY  
SECY COUNTY COMMITTEE

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

ROOM 27  
BARDAVON BUILDING  
35 MARKET ST., POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE 1121

Office County Chairman

*pick up  
correspondence  
about Mr Coons -  
JST*

December 7, 1938

Miss Marguerite LeHand  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss LeHand:

I am taking up the following matters with you personally in the hope that at the proper time in your judgment they may be called to the attention of the President.

I first want to say that the PWA grant for the Arlington school came through for which I am very grateful.

The other matter pertains to Mr. Richard Coons of Poughkeepsie in regard to an application which I have discussed with the President several times and which I am sure he is familiar with. It is my opinion that that matter is going to be acted upon shortly and if it seemed best, I am sure that if it could be decided favorably it would be of untold value to us in the future.

Thanking you very kindly in advance for taking up these matters, I am

Very sincerely yours

*James Townsend*  
James Townsend

JT:MS

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1938

MAC:

(Coon)

Do you know Richard Coons referred  
to in letter?

F.D.R.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

12/13/38

MEMORANDUM FOR M.H.M.:

Richard Coon, about whom the President asks, is evidently the main applicant in the Platt & Platt case. You will find in the file attached a long memorandum which he left with you last October.

R.B.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*file* *PSF*  
*Gen. Carver*  
*P 4*

12/16/38

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Richard Coon is associated with the newspaper in Poughkeepsie making the radio application in the Platt & Platt case.

Have you seen Jim Rowe's memo to me on this case? (Attached).

MEM