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April 21, 1947

Dear Frank:

Re: WOKO's frequency

I have studied carefully the contents of your letter as well as the copy of Mr. E. C. Lovett's letter to you dated the 17th.

Your decision may be the right one to make in view of the circumstances outlined by Mr. Lovett. Personally, I am more inclined to agree with your own reasoning than I am with his, namely, that if anyone gets the frequency it will be someone associated or identified with the Knickerbocker News.

But, in my own opinion, I think it is well worth making a bid for. The dual-city operation suggestion was my own if you will remember. That was my idea of combining both operations through interconnecting Albany and Troy studios in a dual set-up. That would be the ideal way of handling this situation. That was my reason for going to Washington this week to explore its possibilities with Barron and others.

Notwithstanding your decision against filing for WOKO's facilities, I believe that in view of the fact that you plan an extensive FM operation at Troy plus the fact that Troy has only one AM station (WTRY) whereas Albany will soon have another 5000 Watt AM station ( Platoon B/C Co. ) that the chances of the Troy Record getting the frequency are as good as anyone's. I believe that Mr. Lovett is folding up too soon without giving this matter more careful study. In fact, I believe that with the combined efforts of a highly experienced FCC attorney, a good engineering report plus our own collective efforts before FCC at a hearing, that we would stand as good a chance as Van Curler B/C Co. despite the fact they filed a year or more ago.

In turning down Van Curler there is more there than meets the eye. That is the considered opinion of many people acquainted with the case. No one knows for a certainty, but the very fact they have thrown open the facilities to open competition leads to the belief that there is something in Van Curler's set-up which does not measure up with all other Commissioners <sup>EXCEPT</sup> ~~than~~ Mr. Jett.

Please be assured Frank that in making known my considered opinion in the matter is not intended one whit in influencing you to reverse your decision about WOKO. On the contrary, my only thought was in the best interests of the Troy Record for quick and profitable returns from such an operation while awaiting the long-term pay-off on your FM project. I would like to see such a set-up for you even if you had to make a bid for another frequency in view of the heavy expense you are presently faced with in your printing plant revamping program. I am merely trying to be commercially minded in your behalf, that's all. I am confident you or Mr. Plumb will not hate me for that.

Your decision changes all of my plans for this week. I was leaving for Washington tonight on the Empire but have cancelled all of my reservations and have decided to use my time on other matters instead. Believe me, I am not seeking long tiresome trips anywhere that I can conscientiously avoid, these days. I am on the road too much as it is. But, I felt in your best interests it was advisable to explore this WOKO matter thoroughly in Washington, and was willing to make the trip.

As I write this you are in New York. I do hope you will have a pleasant and profitable time at your annual convention and that the change will do you good physically. One often needs these changes badly without realizing it. I have been going it so hard for several months, that I am going to take things comparatively easy this week with only one short trip out of town. Maybe I'll go fishing the end of the week when I return from Boston.

Please call me up Saturday morning upon your return so that we can plan for next week. Meantime we may have a reply from Barron.

Very sincerely,



Ernest A. Barbeau

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EAB/MW