

# RADIO VIEWSREEL

## What Our Commentators Say

### Little Drops of Water

AUCKLAND listeners have had one more illustration (if even one more were needed) of the power of suggestion when the suggestion is made in a radio broadcast. The broadcasts from the Hydro-Electric Branch in Hamilton were not only topical to the nth degree but in the form they took had the rare virtue of making good citizenship and civic responsibility an exciting business. The thought of millions of gallons of Waikato water stayed in their course at the sound of an announcer's voice led inevitably to speculation on how much better Mrs. Partridge or The Little Dutch Boy would have fared if they had had the radio on their side. A more practical speculation, however, would be just how much potential power could be saved if Auckland's bright idea were made the basis of a regular competition between Wellington and Auckland listeners. A goal for each centre could be fixed on a consumer basis and there might even be a prize offered for the centre making the best weekly showing—an extra half-hour of listening-time would not come amiss!

### Murderous

I HAVE seldom been so infuriated by any programme as I was by 4ZB's "Murder by Music." This programme set out to prove, or suggest, in a most condescending and unscientific manner, that certain music actually has the power to kill certain people who may be misguided enough to listen to it. The coincidences of consecutive deaths after performances of certain works were unblushingly used to suggest that the deaths were really due to the effect of the music. The composers whose music was supposed to possess the deadly power were Locke, Halévy, and Tchaikovsky, the last named's *Symphony Pathétique* apparently being rich in deadly destruction, many and varied listeners having died after being at concerts where it was performed. (At least half-a-dozen, anyhow). No mention was made of the thousands who have heard the *Symphony* without ill effect, not only once but several times (yourself, reader, and I also). No scientific explanation was offered, not even a hint as to how the miracle of destruction was accomplished. At the end of the programme, the narrator put the whole thing to his unseen audience as a serious example of an Unsolved Mystery, asking in an insinuating manner, "What do YOU think?" Personally, I should very much like to tell him what I think, but it is quite unprintable.

### Holiday from Noise

NOTHING but moans are to be heard just now from the majority of my fellow-listeners in Dunedin. Complaints are as follows: (1) We can't get to work in time without constant nagging from 4ZB, and even if that station is willing to give us the time every morning per phone, what about those of us who aren't on the phone? (2) Why should the South Island be restricted as to broadcasting hours when we have electricity to spare? (3) North Island listeners can't get many South Island stations anyway, and it's not likely they'd waste power trying to get us during the day-time. (4) What's to stop us from listening to shortwave? Personally, I think

such complaints can be answered. (1) How did people keep their clocks on the correct time before the discovery of radio? (2) What is there so remarkably thrilling about South Island daytime programmes that we can't bear to be without them for a while? (3) Since most power is wasted by that moron, the "constant listener," who leaves the radio on from dawn till midnight but never consciously listens to it, he or she will not notice that the thing has been cut off, anyhow. (4) Who has time for the

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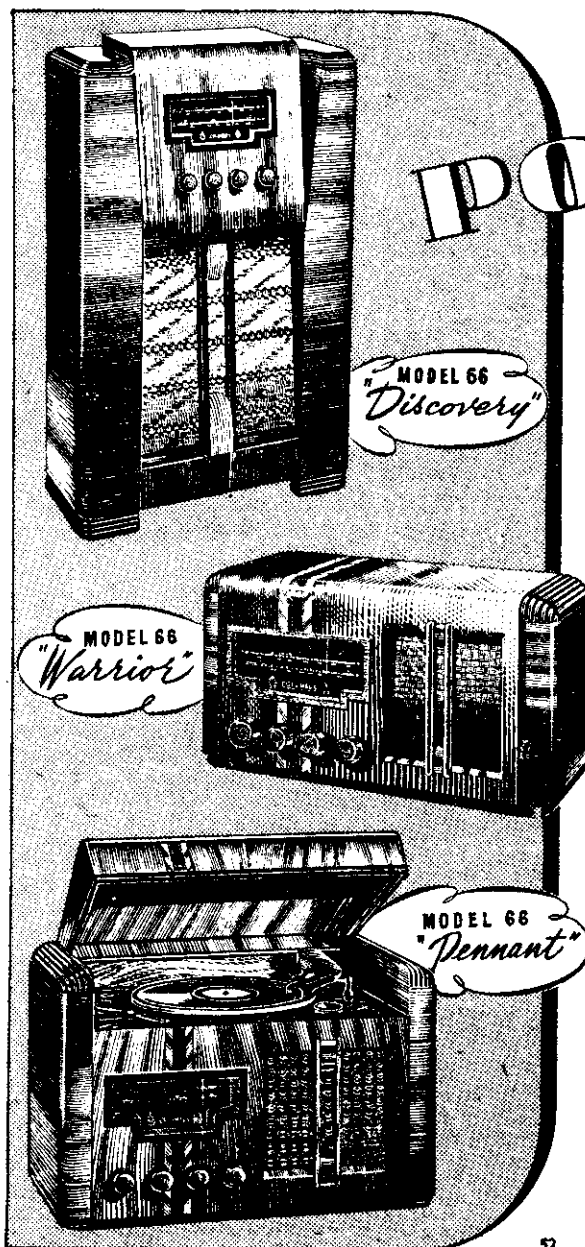
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