

The project was one of those approved by the Ford Foundation in December, 1956, and between then and the end of June of this year, Mr Reid completed the scripts, all of which were accepted by WHA, where production was to take place. The subjects finally agreed upon were Captain Cook, Captain Bligh, Darwin, Herman Melville, Father Damien, Paul Gauguin, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Hubert Murray, Katherine Mansfield, Daisy Bates, Sir Peter Buck, and two invented characters, to bring the series up to date and to illustrate post-war trends, including the work of the South Pacific Commission.

"I recorded on tape in the introduction and concluding portion for each programme, 'speaking from Auckland, New Zealand,' and tried in each to give the point of view of a member of the Pacific community," said Mr Reid. "Authentic music to serve as background was also obtained from each of the important islands and special music was composed by Don Voegli, music director of WHA, and a member of the University School of Music, for the radio orchestra."



J. C. Reid

Production has been in the hands of Karl Schmidt, a director who has won several awards for his work on radio and in the production of documentary film. The series was completed in the studios of WHA during June and July, and was scheduled for release to member stations of the N.A.E.B. for broadcast this month.

"I was pleased to be associated with this project," Mr Reid went on, "for, apart from the challenge it offered and its intrinsic interest, it seemed to me to offer an admirable opportunity to make New Zealand better known in the United States, as well as to extend the knowledge there of the development and problems of the Pacific in general. The research involved for each programme was extensive, but lightened by the assistance of several authorities on the area."

"A set of symbols and of recurrent ideas binds the series together—among them the relationship between white and brown man, the clash of cultures, the contrast between the 'Romantic Pacific' of travel-posters and the reality, the emergence of a 'Pacific consciousness,' and the problems still to be faced."

The reaction to the scripts by the producer and by the directors of WHA had been most encouraging. Mr Schmidt in a recent letter wrote: "I've never enjoyed doing a series of programmes as much as *Pacific Portraits*, and I have high hopes for them if we here are able to fulfil in production the beauty of the scripts."

Broadcasts of this kind are considered to be an important part of adult education in the United States; such universities as that of Wisconsin, which claims that "the boundaries of the University are the boundaries of the State," rate the production and transmission of such programmes as among the most significant of their cultural activities.

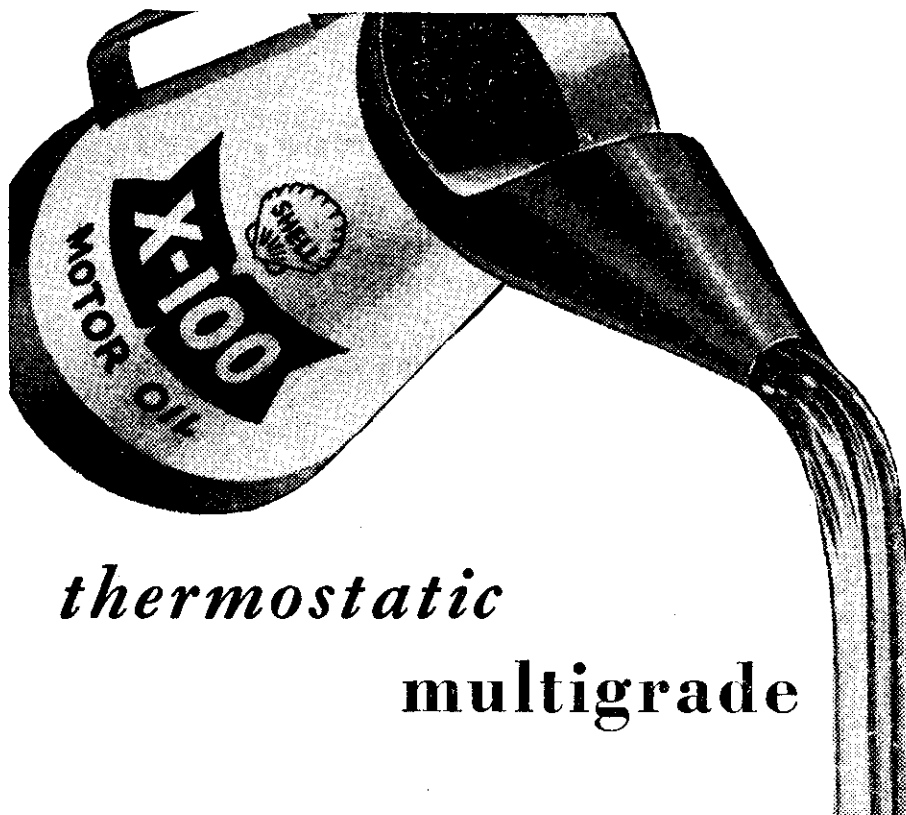
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N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 30, 1957.



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