

# The New Zealand Radio Record

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## THE RACING GAG.

THE effort that is being made by the racing authorities to gag broadcasting and completely prevent the public from receiving early news of results will certainly not win public favour. The volume of correspondence which we have received since the restrictive aims of the two conferences was made public, quite sufficiently shows the tenor of public opinion. A selection of those letters is published elsewhere in this issue. They quite abundantly show the authorities concerned that the public is not deceived by the reasons advanced, and is disappointed at the failure of the conferences to weigh adequately all factors and give due regard to the unquestionable interest developed in racing on the part of distant listeners, and the joy thereby given to a wide circle of those who are loyal supporters of racing in their own locality.

IT was represented in connection with the decisions of the conferences that while they were prohibiting the broadcasting of descriptions of the races, facilities equal to those afforded the Press would be available to representatives of the company for the collection and distribution of information. This proves not to be so. Correspondence which has passed between the conferences and the company show that there is a tag attached to the "liberty" proposed to be given. The condition sought to be imposed is that publication of the information gathered shall not be made until the evening sessions, by which time, of course, every person in the country interested in the result will have secured the news from the evening papers. This is a most extraordinary attempt to suppress and delay information. In declining to avail itself of the proffered privileges while so restricted, the Broadcasting Company has done the right thing—it would have definitely failed listeners had it done otherwise.

THE Press exists primarily as a medium for the distribution of news, and in the larger centres of population those papers secure the greatest measure of public favour which are most active in their enterprise and carry the news first to the public. No journal would ever consent to be bound, in its report of public proceedings, to allow hours to elapse before publishing news it was entitled to publish. The history of journalism is full of stories of dashing enterprise and resourcefulness in securing and publishing news of value. The first journalist who defied an order for suppression was John Wilkes.

The House of Commons forbade the reporting of its proceedings. Wilkes defied the House, and successfully asserted the rights of the people to news—and early news.

THE Broadcasting Company is quite within its rights in announcing that to serve the listening public with the news of public events to which it is entitled, it will broadcast as soon as available the results of races at meetings which are of sufficient public interest. More, it will win the favour of listeners if it shows enterprise in securing those results with as little delay as possible. The action of the racing authorities in proposing special treatment of broadcasting is not likely to be approved by the public. The proposal is illogical and unfair. If the authorities are desirous for their own purposes of preventing all information as to proceedings leaking out till afterwards, it should at least do the job properly, and prohibit the afternoon Press from publishing early results; further, all telephone communication between the ground and the outside world should be cut off; even a forty-foot board fence might be erected round every course in the country! Without these measures in support of the policy of suppression, the demands of the racing authorities look suspiciously like victimisation of broadcasting. Why should broadcasting be penalised in this fashion?

## KFI FOLLOWING 2YA

### CAREFUL TUNING NOW REQUIRED FOR LOCAL STATION

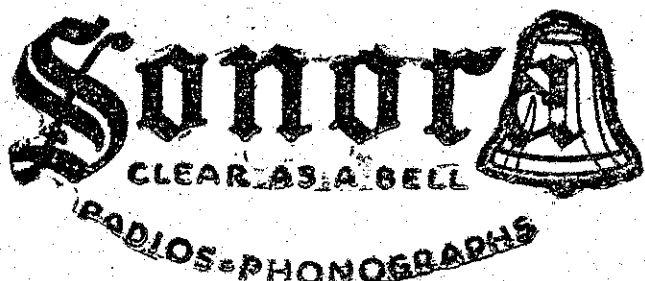
THE latest American mail brings news of the intention of KFI to install crystal control similar to that which was recently carried out at 2YA:

"Complete arrangements having been made with the Western Electric Company for the installation of one of its latest type crystal control panels at KFI which is now making extensive changes in its present equipment in order to incorporate the new unit.

"With the new equipment in operation, KFI's present efficiency will be more than doubled. In addition to keeping the station on its proper wavelength, the new installation incorporates a double modulation system which gives eighty per cent. modulation as contrasted to the thirty per cent. which KFI and other stations not so equipped now have.

"The crystal control equipment consists of a quartz plate which it kept in oscillation at a constant frequency. In order to maintain this frequency, the plates are enclosed in an insulated container which is kept at a uniform temperature by means of thermostatic control."

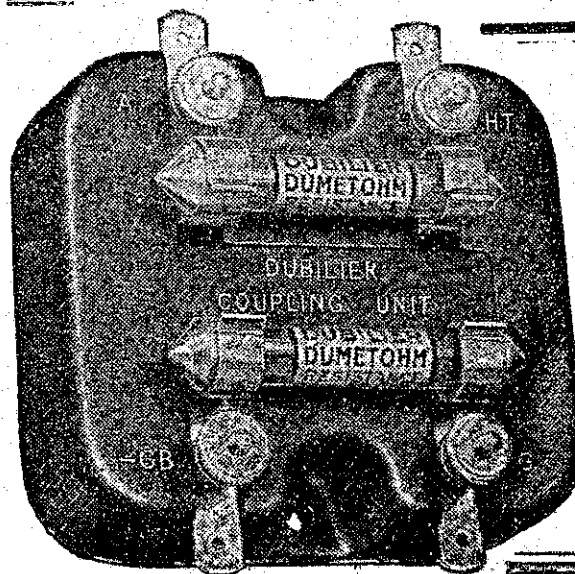
WHILE careful listeners-in report a big improvement in both volume and clarity, as the result of crystal control being installed at 2YA, it would appear from other correspondence that it is necessary to remind listeners to be very careful when tuning in to 2YA, so accurate and regular is the wavelength. They should tune in to the middle of the wave. If the tuning-in is on either side there is a possibility that the quality will suffer. If the volume is too strong listeners are advised not to detune to reduce the volume, but to make reduction by suitable volume control, or by varying the antenna coupling.



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