

Czechoslovak Radio

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agency. They are transmitted also in the tongues of the national minorities. Farmers' and workers' broadcasts are likewise compiled independently of the broadcasting corporation. The underlying idea, I was informed, is that the interests and needs of these two most numerous social groups require special attention by a specialised programme staff.

BOTH men and women comprise the announcing staff and there is a woman technician in the control room. For horse-racing, football, motor racing and other sports, Radio-Journal has special announcers, and a small fleet of specially-equipped motor-vans is used for "outside broadcasts."

I was shown over the ten studios at Prague's Broadcasting House. The largest is noteworthy for its organ, built specially for the studio. Its Czech designer also built broadcasting organs for Rome and Stockholm. The Prague organ has a special register for Bach's compositions.

Throughout post-war Europe I had heard much of minority problems and the propaganda side of radio. It is one of the weaknesses of State or semi-State conducted broadcasting in Europe that radio tends to become a medium for expressing "nationality" and "self-determination"—to clothe the uglier word of propaganda—as opposed to broadcasting in its generally accepted sense of cultural entertainment.

One cannot escape the political aspect of European radio. Thus in Vienna I was informed, in official quarters, that the high-powered Bisamberg transmitter was constructed largely to combat Nazi propaganda. The "Ides of March" have closed that chapter—and in Budapest, Bucharest and elsewhere I found evidence of the relation between radio and minorities.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA, too, I discovered, was faced with this problem of foreign transmissions, which, the Czechs alleged, created unrest in the minorities in Czechoslovakia. The Czechs, I was told, were forced to protect themselves from this ether invasion. To quote one case in point: While I was in Prague Radio-Journal was planning a station at Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. An important objective of the new directional beam transmitter, I was informed, was to combat transmissions allegedly causing unrest in the Hungarian minorities from the giant Budapest station.

Who, indeed, would like to control the broadcasting of the small, artificially constructed nation, in a European atmosphere charged with violent propaganda?

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generally speaking, shows capable knowledge of subjects musical. Yet I was rather astounded to read in the issue of June 3: "I have yet to hear a New Zealand Bach player," and in the previous issue, "Bach Italian Concerto, was delightfully played by Noel Newson." These contradictions should surely be avoided!

[There is a wide difference between being a Bach player and playing a Bach concerto delightfully.—Editor.]

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