

"As it has a dynamic speaker and a power valve with an output which can reach four watts the neighbourhood is likely to know it too. It has been specially arranged to avoid overloading by 2YA, although it is quite possible to overload it by reception of other New Zealand and Australian stations. Moreover, I have never been able, by overloading a receiver with too powerful a carrier, to produce distortion of the kind of which I complained. The too frequent use of this stock reply to complaints is one of the many grievances held by listeners and traders against the company."

### Mr. Harris Replies Further.

#### Excisions by "Evening Post."

TO this Mr. Harris made further reply, but the "Evening Post," for reasons of its own, excised material points from his statement. Fortunately a carbon copy is available, and in the following statement the parts excised or so drastically condensed as to lose point are set out in black type so that readers may follow the situation fully.

Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, before sailing for the south on Friday evening, said, in the course of an interview, that he would like to remind

"Grid Bias," in relation to his continual complaints about the transmission of 2YA, that on one occasion the chief engineer of the company, Mr. J. M. Bingham, after a previous complaint from him, attended at his own house with a set and demonstrated to "Grid Bias" that the transmission at 2YA was perfectly correct. The reception on that occasion on the machine taken to the home of "Grid Bias" was perfectly correct and clear, but "Grid Bias" refused even then to admit the falsity of his own statements, and claimed that "something had been done" to the set which Mr. Bingham brought in. The absurdity of that contention when it was a matter of merely receiving clearly the sounds put on the air will be apparent to all listeners, and a sufficient demonstration of the attitude of "Grid Bias" himself.

[Omitted from statement appearing in the "Post."]

Mr. Harris further stated that he would like "Grid Bias" to explain, out of the wealth of technical knowledge and experience which he claimed to possess, how it was that the transmission by 3YA of Mr. Coates's speech was, on "Grid Bias's" own confession, "far better than 2YA," when that transmission was merely 2YA's original transmission, picked up and rebroadcast without, as "Grid Bias" suggested, the use of land-lines. The actual fact was that a land-line was arranged for the transmission. It was used for the first ten minutes of the speech to Christchurch, but was unsatisfactory, and the land-line was then abandoned, 2YA picked up direct on the air, and rebroadcast by 3YA. How was it possible for 2YA to issue a distorted transmission for the benefit of Wellington residents, and at the same time send on to Christchurch a transmission which was picked up perfectly clearly and rebroadcast in a manner to satisfy the very critic who complained of the local reception of the same original broadcast?

To the unbiased listener the absurdity represented by such a posi-

tion would be at once apparent, but perhaps "Grid Bias" would concentrate on the problem and give his explanation.

[Omitted from statement appearing in the "Post."]

Mr. Harris continued that his company was perfectly prepared at any time to demonstrate the accuracy of the transmission of 2YA to any reputable body of interested listeners, organised or unorganised. At such a demonstration it would be possible to illustrate technically the perfection at-

tained in the regular transmission of 2YA as that transmission left the station.

In conclusion, Mr. Harris said that the insistence of "Grid Bias" on his continual complaints about transmission, in spite of all the proof and demonstration given him to the contrary, showed that it was not a matter of reason with him, but an absolute obsession, revealing bias of such a calibre that his name should be changed from "Grid Bias" to "All Bias." In season and out of sea-

son "Grid Bias" had complained of 2YA's transmission and service generally. On occasions his statements had been shown to be false and misleading, and corrections forced in his own columns upon, for instance, financial matters. The "Post" had the reputation of being in general a fair paper, but the attitude adopted by "Grid Bias" on matters relating to the broadcasting service was seriously jeopardising that reputation, and leading the general public to assume that "Grid Bias" was waging a vendetta to further an object of his own.

[Omitted from statement appearing in the "Post."]

#### Only One Check on Christchurch.

"GRID BIAS" replied: "The explanation of the problem presented by Mr. Harris is neatly supplied by Mr. Harris. The check on the Christchurch transmission was made in the first few minutes of the speech. I was well aware, when I wrote the original paragraph, that the Christchurch transmission was only in part made over the land-line. It will no doubt appear to most readers of Mr. Harris's statements that he would have been in a stronger position if he had brought out his little problem yesterday, instead of the worn-out device of blaming other people's equipment."

In regard to the second paragraph quoted, offering a demonstration of the technical perfection of 2YA's transmission, surely Mr. Harris realises that listeners are much more concerned with the transmissions as they are able to hear them than with "technical illustrations." The demonstration of perfection that is required is one that lasts all the time.

#### Final Comment.

"GRID BIAS" originally wrote that 3YA was "far better" than 2YA. He now admits he tested 3YA only in the first few minutes of the transmission. But that transmission which he then found better than 2YA was not good enough for the company's experts, and they abandoned the landline to give a direct re-broadcast. Evidently their standard of quality is higher than that of "Grid Bias." It is also to be noted that "Grid Bias" made his sweeping statement regarding 3YA on the basis of only one test in the first few minutes of a long transmission. Secondly, his reception of 2YA could not have been so much of a "fiasco" as he claimed or he would surely have preferred to listen direct to 3YA which he says he found so much better! However, "Grid Bias" apparently broadens his charge to include 2YA at all times, so he will have the less diffidence in accepting the challenge we have pleasure in making him in another column.—Ed.

### 3YA Musical and Dramatic

MR. S. WILLIAMSON (representing the Musicians' Society) presided at a meeting of the 3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee on October 8, when there were also present Messrs. F. H. Christian (Harmonic Society), Geo. Manning (W.E.A.), W. H. Dixon (Royal Christchurch Musical Society), K. Atkinson (staff), J. Mackenzie, and C. S. Booth. The station manager submitted his report on programmes broadcast and proposed. The community singing programmes were discussed and suggestions were advanced.

## Challenge to "Grid Bias"

### Special Offer made by "The Radio Record" for an Independent Test

ON another page we give in full the controversy that has waged between "Grid Bias" of the "Evening Post," and Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, upon the point of the efficiency or otherwise of the transmission by 2YA of the speech on unemployment by the Rt. Hon. J. G. Coates on Tuesday, October 13.

On a number of previous occasions "Grid Bias" has complained of distortion on the part of 2YA. In previous statements Mr. A. R. Harris has explained that a careful check is maintained upon all transmissions, and that proof was submitted to "Grid Bias" in his own house by the chief engineer of the Radio Broadcasting Company of the efficiency and clarity of 2YA's transmission. The technical explanation of the liability to distortion being suffered on multi-valve receivers in close proximity to so high-powered a station as 2YA is referred to by Mr. Harris in his statements elsewhere and is supported by the practical experience of innumerable listeners.

The major point is that 2YA cannot at one and the same time issue transmission which was received clearly at a distance, and transmission which is distorted locally. Obviously the transmission as sent out must be one thing or the other, and if certain listeners get distorted reception locally, then the fault must lie in their own receivers.

In order to set this matter at rest once and for all, the "Radio Record" now issues a definite challenge to "Grid Bias."

The "Radio Record" is prepared to hire the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, or any other suitable hall in Wellington, on any evening convenient to "Grid Bias," for the purposes of a demonstration.

The "Radio Record" is prepared to pay the expenses of "Grid Bias" removing into that hall his receiving set and returning it to his home. The "Radio Record" is prepared to invite representatives of any commercial receiving set to demonstrate their sets alongside that of "Grid Bias." The same offer will be open to the Radio Broadcasting Company to demonstrate on any set it chooses.

The "Radio Record" is prepared to arrange for three musical judges, to be screened from the sets, to make an award as to the clarity of reception of the sets under test. Prizes of £5 5s., £3 3s. and £2 2s. will be awarded for the sets placed first, second and third.

The "Radio Record" is prepared, in order to secure absolute fairness and equity of administration, to entrust all arrangements for this test to a committee appointed by the Wellington branch of the Radio Dealers' Association.

#### WILL "GRID BIAS" ACCEPT OUR OFFER?

We want to know definitely once and for all

- (1) Whether 2YA'S transmission is correct or not.
- (2) Whether the receiver of "Grid Bias" as specially prepared by him is capable of good reception compared with standard sets.
- (3) Whether the comments of "Grid Bias" are based on reason or are merely "all bias," and part of a deliberate campaign entered upon for a special predetermined purpose calculated to prejudice the Radio Broadcasting Company.