

SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Theatre Bldg., San Jose, Calif.

Nov. 12, 1929.

Fellow Amateurs:-

You will remember that it is almost time for the Sixth District election that will determine who is to be our Director for the next two years. This club has gone on record as unanimously favoring and subsequently nominating Dr. John E. Waters, W6EC, W6XE, of Orange, Calif., for the office of ARRL director of the Pacific Division.

The requisite qualities for this position are the same as for any other post in which the man who holds it carries largely on his own shoulders the destinies of the men he represents, - innate honesty, courage of a high order and the ability to think from fundamentals while others are running off on tangents. Dr. Waters has all these qualities; otherwise this club would not have made such strenuous efforts to induce him to take up the burden. In the radio field he is the technician of outstanding attainments. As an operator he has been given a Commercial First Class ticket under the new rules, tho he hasn't the remotest commercial affiliation, and is a ham first, last and always.

He has been actively in amateur radio since 1909. He knows the full history of it. He has watched the encroachment of the commercial interests since away back in 1912 when at the convention of London the Marconi Company made the commercials' first attempt to regulate the amateurs off the air. He has definite and well-founded convictions as to the fundamental rights of the amateurs as a class. He believes that the invasion of these rights can be prevented only by openly and fearlessly attacking every instance of aggression, - not by fearsomely dodging the issues and trying to curry favor with the aggressors.

The amateur organization is no longer composed of a majority of youngsters. Those of us who were youngsters have matured into thinkers; and the man needed as our representative at ARRL headquarters, and as our counsellor and trusted friend here at home, is one who thoroughly appreciates this fact. Dr. Waters is that man.

Let us impress upon you that the amateur of today is in a wholly different position from what he was in the days of spark and the early days of CW. In those days when we were on 200 meters it was commonly accepted as a fact that we were in a band that was of no practical use to anyone, and, therefore, we were not molested by commercial interests. Today the situation is entirely different; when we ourselves developed the art of short-wave communication we made the short-wave channels extremely valuable to the commercial companies. Because we were not thoroughly awake to what this condition foreshadowed we lost two-thirds of our space on the air.

The other third? - If we don't fight to retain it we shall lose it at the Madrid convention as sure as the Lord made little apples, for all signs point to the fact that the commercial interests of the world are out to wipe the amateurs completely out of the so-called "international" channels, the frequencies above 6,000 kilocycles. The foreign governments and commercials are working for this, and we have no reason for believing that United States com-

mercials will do otherwise. And if our Congress sanctions it there will be no more amateur 40 and 20 meter bands.

In the old days when no commercial interest would accept as a gift what the amateur was forced to use the policy our organization pursued - that of soft words and conciliation - was, perhaps, excusable; but the continued use of that policy after the value of the higher frequencies became apparent was suicidal. So, as our representative, we want a man who will come out instantly and openly and denounce the continued advertising to the world in our official organ that the amateurs had secured at the Convention of 1927 "privileges adequate for their purposes" and that we must accept without "bucking" the restrictions demanded by the commercials in the name of "progress." It is absolutely impossible to announce that you are tickled with the licking you got and satisfied to take another and get anything but just that.

This club was formed in 1921 and has been actively engaged in working for the cause of amateur radio ever since. We had our convictions about the rights of the amateurs and we have never ceased to believe that those rights could be maintained only by taking every means of asserting them. We have maintained this attitude thru constant and concerted efforts to hush us up. We have been labelled "radicals," as if the courage of our convictions were a crime. Now, we are happy to say, our beliefs have the outspoken and wholehearted support of scores of active oldtimers all over this country.

Three years ago this club took the stand that the amateurs had just as much right to handle messages of a "business" character as any other class of citizens. We held to this stand against constant and bitter denunciation. A year ago when we learned from ARRL headquarters that it looked as if we were going to be licked on this message-handling issue, and that all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't prevent the licking, certain members of this club - with the whole club's approval - announced far and wide, and in such manner that it would get to every interest concerned, that the very first time an attempt was made to shut down any of our stations we would go right into the courts and find out where we stood. We were fully prepared to do so, and had all the money pledged for conducting such proceedings.

We amateurs had no desire to conduct other people's commercial correspondence but we, in this club, at any rate, did not purpose to see any rights that we might have constantly threatened.

And now we are happy to be able to tell you that we have it direct from Washington that attorneys of the Federal Radio Commission believe we were right in our contention. So you fellows need no longer feel like criminals if you happen to handle a so-called business message.

As for how much credit we may claim for the removal of this threat of oppression, our club is not interested, but Dr. Waters was with us on this, and what we do claim credit for, proudly, is that we and our fellow amateurs in the Philippines were able to induce him to make the personal sacrifices necessary to permit him to be our next director.

73, OMs,

S.C.C.A.R.A.

By Harry Engwicht, 6Hc,

President.