



TIC TOC

Vol. 2, No. 8

November, 1963

During the critical period of broadcast operations which followed the assassination of President Kennedy, WTIC staff members functioned in a highly commendable manner in the face of hectic and unpredictable developments. Their complete cooperation, excellent judgment and capacity for teamwork reflect the highest standards of the broadcasting industry.

We may also take pride in the superlative performance of the two networks with which we are affiliated.

To all those who gave an extra sure, I extend my personal thanks.

Paul W. Morency

WTIC TV, RADIO IN WASHINGTON ON DAY OF PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL

Three members of the staff were in Washington on the day of President Kennedy's funeral to cover the activities of such Connecticut leaders as Governor Dempsey, Democratic National Chairman John Bailey and the state's Congressmen.

Reporter Stan Simon flew to Washington and Photographer Dick Heinze and Information Director Dick Ahles drove to the city Sunday night. Simon arrived in time to interview the Governor and Bailey for that evening's late radio news and to make arrangements for radio and television interviews the next day.

On the day of the funeral, they
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A CHAPTER OF HONOR

Perhaps Jack Gould of The New York Times said it as well as anyone could:

"When the day's history is written, the record of television as a medium will constitute a chapter of honor."

We can take pardonable pride in having been part of our industry's finest hour.

"The major networks and local stations gave to the nation, at phenomenal expense to themselves, penetrating and thoughtful coverage of one of the most painful, soul-searing weekends in this country's history," said The Hartford Times in an editorial on Tuesday, November 26.

During the longest weekend of our lives, our staff worked hard to bring the story to our listeners and viewers. The words "dignity, restraint and resourcefulness" were frequently used to describe the efforts of the broadcasting industry. They are most appropriate in regard to both network and local activities.

There was the resourcefulness of our News Department in preparing local newscasts for radio and television. Film of a memorial Mass from New Britain on the evening of the President's death will be long remembered, as will the magnificent use of still photographs from all over the nation on another news broadcast.

There was the dignity in the voices of our announcers, even as they read the seemingly endless lists of cancellations and other routine, but vital announcements.

And the admirable restraint of our receptionists as they handled thousands of telephone calls and spoke politely to even those who wanted "regular programs" on the night of the President's death.

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YALE PROFESSOR BARGHOORN LEARNED OF BENEFACTOR'S DEATH AT WTIC

A man who owes his freedom from Russian captivity to the late President Kennedy learned of his assassination at Broadcast House.

Professor Frederick C. Barghoorn of Yale, whose mid-November release from a Soviet prison was prompted by the strong reaction of the late President, was on his way to Broadcast House to tape a special WTIC-TV program, when the assassination was announced.

A smile on his face told those in the lobby that his car radio had not been on during the drive from New Haven to Hartford.

The shocked and saddened scholar and two of his colleagues graciously agreed with Vice President and General Manager Patricelli that the station's viewers would want to hear their reaction. After watching reports most of the afternoon, Professor Barghoorn and his colleagues taped an interview with Tom Eaton. The portions dealing with President Kennedy were broadcast at the conclusion of network programming that night.

WOMAN SENDS 'OPEN LETTER' TO THANK 'ALL NEWS MEDIA'

Viewers and listeners were quick to react to the thorough coverage of the events surrounding the assassination of the President.

Many telephoned to thank the stations and networks for the programming and others sent letters and telegrams. One of the first letters to arrive, on Tuesday, Nov. 26, came from Mrs. Lincoln Stack of Manchester. It was addressed as "an open letter to all news media:"

"No one has yet thought to offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the television, radio and newsmen who permitted us to take part in all of the tragic but historical proceedings of the last four days.

"As we sat in the comfort of our homes, how many realized the enormous job it was to cover and present everything that was happening--as it happened.

"No better memorial for John Fitzgerald Kennedy could have been given to the American people and to the people of the world than this stupendous offering the combined news media.

"We thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

TEN OTHER RADIO STATIONS CARRY WTIC BROADCASTS

WTIC's programming on the death of President Kennedy was carried simultaneously on 10 other Connecticut and Massachusetts radio stations throughout the weekend.

The station granted permission to the following stations to carry the WTIC and NBC broadcasts: WMAU, Amherst, Mass.; WCNX, Middletown; WILL, Willimantic; WBIS, Bristol; WHMP, Northampton, Mass.; WLIS, Old Saybrook; WAVZ, New Haven; WDEE, Hamden; WLAD, Danbury, and WMMW, Meriden. Permission for unlimited use of its broadcasts was also granted by NBC. The New Haven and Hamden stations also carried the WTIC broadcast of President Johnson's address to a joint session of Congress on Nov. 27.

COMMENT ON RADIO-TV COVERAGE

Tributes to the broadcasting industry have been made by many of the nation's leaders regarding the coverage of the President's assassination and the sad days that followed. Here are some excerpts, provided by the National Association of Broadcasters:

Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary:

"I would like to express appreciation on the part of Mrs. Kennedy, the Kennedy family and those who served with President Kennedy to the press, radio and television of this country for the very dignified manner in which they covered the death of the President and the events which followed it."

FCC Chairman E. William Henry:

"Americans are deeply indebted to the broadcasting industry for its comprehensive, dignified coverage... With the first incredible bulletin
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A CHAPTER OF HONOR
(Cont. from p. 1)

There will always be the memory of Bernard L. Mullins, our retired vice president-radio programs, entering Broadcast House on the morning after the assassination and explaining that "you can sit home for just so long."

And, of greatest importance, the leadership of Mr. Morency and Mr. Patricelli as they made decisions for which there was no precedent.

COMMENT ON RADIO-TV COVERAGE
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from Dallas, virtually all citizens turned to their radio and television sets and all broadcasters responded by keeping the nation fully and continuously informed...A special word of thanks is due to the national networks for pre-empting all regularly-scheduled programs on their radio and television stations in order to give round-the-clock coverage...In this hour of tragedy, broadcasting achieved greatness..."

Chairman Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) on behalf of his entire Senate Commerce Committee:

"I would be remiss in my responsibility if I did not take this opportunity to commend the broadcasters and specifically the major networks for their magnificent, outstanding service to the American public... The remarkable coverage during this period of shock, bewilderment and confusion attests to the skill and maturity of electronic journalism. The coverage was respectful and restrained, yet in full detail...I say: 'Well done, networks and broadcasters'..."

IN WASHINGTON
(Cont. from p. 1)

obtained several interviews, including one with the Governor that was filmed in front of St. Matthew's Cathedral, site of the President's funeral. Interviews with Bailey were the first on radio or television with the Democratic chairman since the President's death. In addition, the radio and television stations obtained exclusive reports from Senator Thomas Dodd, a close friend of the new President, and Congressman Abner Sibal, the state's only Republican member of Congress. The second of two interviews with the Governor was made on audio tape and film in his Washington hotel suite immediately after he and other governors met with President Johnson.

In addition, a dramatic interview was obtained with three East Hartford youngsters, who were found at the foot of the Capitol rotunda. The youngsters had been given flowers from the wreath in the rotunda by Capitol police. In the interview, they told why they had come to Washington, how they had obtained the flowers and how they had been giving single flowers to others who had asked for them.

No other Connecticut radio or television station and only one newspaper sent news people to Washington.

Film was flown to Hartford in time for both the early evening and late newscasts and the Washington trip netted from one to three news reports on each local radio and television news program Monday and Tuesday.

SPECIAL ISSUE

This November issue of TIC TOC includes only material on the stations' activities surrounding the tragic death of President Kennedy.

The December issue, which will be published in about 10 days, will contain material contributed in the past weeks for the November issue and any additional material that is available.