Favoritism Alleged In Mich. Elections
CONTINUING its vigilance on rules requiring "equal opportuni-
ties" for political broadcasts, the
FCC last week designated for
hearing complaints charging
WHLS Port Huron, Mich., with
favoring one candidate over an-
other.

The Commission received com-
plaints from rival candidates for
city commissioner during an elec-
tion last April. One charged the
station with refusing him time on
the ground a script he submitted
was unsuitable for broadcast. An-
other complaint charged the sta-
tion with refusing time to "any
candidate" out of fear the first
candidate would cause it trouble.

The Commission order designat-
ing the hearing is based on the be-
Hearing is to determine whether
the station's alleged refusal to ac-
ccept a script offered by Mr. Muir
and to deny its facilities to any of
the candidates constitute violation
of Section 315 of the Communi-
cation Act.

Stations Offered Plan for
Syndicated Promotion
A SYNDICATED PROMOTION
service for radio stations has been
developed by Noble & Swars Inc.
(new name of Walter P. Burn &
Associates, which was taken over
by William Noble and Lawrence
Swar, following Mr. Burn's retire-
ment months back). Mr. Swars will soon start on a cross-
country tour to explain the service
to station managers.

Production of the material will
be under the supervision of Hartley
Samuels, who has been a promo-
tion executive at CBS, WHN New
York, Atlantic Coast Network,
most recently, NBC; and John L.
Fox, former art director of Lennen
Mitchell, New York. They will
coordinate the overall plan and will
coordinate the on-the-air work.

Production Team

DAN SEYMOUR, announcer-
producer, has formed a new radio
program producing team, P. L. S.
Producers, with Tony Leader,
radio director, and Judson Phillips,
script writer. Organization has
offices at 10 E. 43rd St. New York.
H. Philip Minis and Blake Cabot
have joined the script writing
by Judson Phillips. You Make the
Show a P. L. S. production
started on Mutual Nov. 15, Thurs-
days, 10-10:30 p.m.

Proximity Fuse Proves Quality Possible in Large Production

Dr. Selvidge Mr. Diamond
ALTHOUGH THE RADIO proxi-
imity fuse is ranked by many as
second only to the atomic bomb in
shortening the war, its greatest
importance to the radio industry
probably lies in the fact that its
developers proved quality control
in large scale production is possible.

This point was brought out by
Dr. Harness Selvidge, head of the
Rugged Tube Division of the
Johnny Hopkins Applied Physics
Labs, speaking in Washington
last month before a meeting of
the Institute of Radio Engineers.
The rugged tube is the special
type used in the proximity fuse
made by Johnny Hopkins Labs with
U. S. Bureau of Standards. Harry
Diamond, chief of the Bureau's
Ordnance Development Division
also spoke.

Big Scale Production
Dr. Selvidge revealed that pro-
duction was on such a large scale
that by the end of the war there
were more rugged tubes produced
than the entire output of the whole
tube industry before the war. Each
tube was tested for quality before
it left the assembly lines, he said.
They could not take chances with
duds.

Every tube was centrifuged to
test its resistance to gravity. So
"rugged" was the tube in final
development, that it reached from
18,000 to 20,000 G, an astronomi-
cal figure in usual terms of grav-
tional resistance.

The Germans had been experi-
menting with acoustic proximity
fuses, Dr. Selvidge told the group,
and were greatly interested in
U.S. research along those lines.
In fact, he said, when a group of
German spies landed in this coun-
try in 1941, after cross-examina-
tion, they revealed that the first
problem they were to solve was:
"Does the U.S. have a photo-
electric proximity fuse?"

This country had been working
on the idea of radio-controlled
fuses in projectiles for some time,
according to Dr. Selvidge. In 1940,
the Office of Scientific Research
and Development set the project
into high gear, with Army and
Navy splitting the responsibility
of its development. Signal Corps,
Dr. Selvidge said, did the majority
of Army procurement.

There were two projects on
radio proximity fuses, the scien-
tist said, one for pinpointing projec-
tiles; the other for nonwhirling
projectiles. The first was under-
taken by Johns Hopkins; the sec-
ond by the Bureau of Standards.

Technical Aspects
Mr. Diamond addressed the meet-
ing on the more technical aspects
of the fuse. He pointed out, illus-
trating with slides, that one of
the greatest advantages of the radio
proximity fuse is its wide target
area. Radio impulses sent off by
the tiny transmitter within the
nose of the projectile go out in a
figure eight design, or roughly,
in the shape of a widened propeller.

Any object coming within that
electronic area sends back an echo
and causes the bomb to explode,
spilling the target with killing
fragments, he explained. Chances
of a hit are increased many times
over usual projectiles because of
the wider target area of the radio
beam. This is true of ground as
well as air targets, as other type
ammunition causes great damage
only upon direct contact, while
the radio proximity fuse causes an
explosion above ground, and per-
mits thousands of fragments to
"rain" upon the area.

"The war would have been extinct if we had had the radio
proximity fuse a few years before we did," he added.

The fuse was put into operation
as soon as it was, he said, because
it was one of the few instruments
of warfare that required no special
training for handling. All the
testing and most of the assembly
was done at the factories. The bat-
teries, sent in a separate con-
tainer, had to be screwed onto the
radio unit, the whole then screwed
into the projectile. That was prac-
tically all the knowledge needed
for their use.