



WALKING INTO HONG KONG from Red China, the Rev. Harold W. Rigney (right), Chicago and Walter A. Rickett, Seattle, are welcomed by American officials after four years of imprisonment, brainwashing by Communists (International)

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY United Press Correspondent

Hollywood—(U.P.)—TV viewers seldom hear about the shows that don't get on the air. One producer told of a program that's branded "too hot" for television. Worthington Miner, who produces "Medic" and "Frontier" and even introduced Ed Sullivan to unsuspecting citizens, has created a new show called "Challenge."



Aline Mosby

But this program is so controversial that networks and sponsors have run in the other direction.

Present Both Sides

"Challenge" would dramatize various widely-argued subjects of the day about the rights of Americans. The story would present both sides of the question, and the viewer would have to make up his own mind.

The "pilot" film of "Challenge," for example, tells about a school bus driver who was fired for refusing to sign a loyalty oath. The program ended with the unanswered question: Should he get his job back? Minter started the show after a subsidiary of the Ford Foundation, the Fund for the Republic, asked him to make a program about civil rights.

After extensive research into law, he produced the pilot film in New York last April. It's gathered dust in his office ever since.

He admits it's difficult to understand why sponsors would be leary as the show never takes a stand.

"But I suppose you merely mention the subject of loyalty oaths and the lunatic fringe would complain before even seeing the show and finding out we don't editorialize," he said.

NBC thought the show was "dynamite," he said, but made no offer to carry it without a sponsor. CBS and ABS said nothing.

"It was under option to NBC but that's over now, and I'll take it any place," Miner said. "I think it has tremendous impact."

Other chapters of "Challenge" would deal with freedom of the press, the Fifth Amendment, freedom of speech, segregation and unions.

Still Hopeful

Miner has not lost hope. "We worked a year to sell 'Medic,' he said.

"Any provocative show is hard to sell," he said. "Everybody in town turned down 'Medic.' Three agencies turned down 'Frontier' so I took it to sponsors directly

New Battery Converts Sun to Electricity

Portland—(U.P.)—Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company yesterday unveiled a solar battery that will power a telephone circuit or run a transistor radio.

Consisting of eight expensive silicon wafers the size of half-dollars, the battery converts sunlight directly into electricity.

Telephone officials said the battery could generate enough power to operate eight telephones. It generates up to 10 watts of electricity while the sun shines and, as the eight-phone circuit requires only one watt, the surplus is stored in a storage battery for use after sunset.

Charles Seavey, company information officer, said the silicon wafers convert 11 per cent of the total light falling on them directly into electric energy at the rate of 100 watts per square yard. In other words, he said, it would take a square yard of ultra-refined silicon to light a 100-watt bulb.

and sold it right away.

"CBS said no when I first suggested a variety show with the worst emcee in the country, Ed Sullivan. I figured he couldn't possibly be entertaining himself so he'd have to find good talent. Well, he's still going."

Packers Pay Penalty For Safety Violation

Portland—(U.P.)—Columbia River Packers Association yesterday paid the government \$950 plus \$87 court costs for violating Coast Guard safety regulations and the government said it would move to close the cases.

The government sued the Astoria firm and two of its fishermen in Federal Court when they failed to pay penalties levied by the coast guard.

Still pending were two actions demanding \$200 from R. D. Volle, Warrenton, for failing to pay two \$100 coast guard penalties.

The coast guard levies the penalties under authority of the 1940 motorboat act.

Norwell, Mass. — (U.P.) — If Diogenes is in town, he might do well to stop in and cast his lantern on Thomas Barstow of Norwell. Barstow, chairman of the town board of selectmen, thought a \$1,000 pay increase voted him and the chairman of the board of assessors was far too much. Accordingly, Barstow moved that the increase be disapproved. It was.

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