

# Phone Company Busy Installing Vast Network for Demo Conclave

Pacific Telephone engineers, technicians and equipment installers, numbering more than 250, have been working since February, 1959 to design and build the mammoth communications system which will carry the big story of the Democratic National Convention to the world.

According to local telephone Manager Dick Pyle, the telephone, television, radio and teletypewriter gear installed at the Arena could handle the business of a city of 25,000 persons.

"All the equipment is standard and will be used in our

normal expansion program when the convention is over," the manager said.

HE ESTIMATED that 22,000 phone calls a day will be made over equipment especially installed to handle the business of the convention, and listed these installations either already in place or to be made by his company before July 11: 4000 telephones, 25 switchboards, manned by 85 operators, 350 teletype machines for newsmen, 20 telephoto channels, 46 television "dishes" or sending antennas, 123 additional cable circuits for televi-

ion, and 350 public telephones.

ALL THIS would be connected together with more than 12,000 miles of wire and cable, most of it already in place, the manager said, with the calls being fed through equipment at seven exchange offices.

Telephone wire facilities between the Arena and six hotels where delegates will live, have been expanded with the largest expansion occurring at the Biltmore Hotel, which is headquarters for the convention. Here the incoming and outgoing capacity has been boosted by the addition of 2700 additional telephone circuits.

Twenty-five switchboards, the largest at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Biltmore will be manned on a 24-hour basis by a rotating corps of 85 skilled operators.

IN PREPARATION for the convention volume of tele-

phone calls, a new prefix, Richmond 6, has been designated by Pacific as the Arena prefix.

Most long distance calls will be by Direct Distance Dialing, and in anticipation of a record number to all parts of the county, toll offices in Glendale and Huntington Park and the Prefix offices of Normandy, Pleasant, Madison, DUNKirk and Richmond will be ready to transmit calls along with the big communications center at 433 South Olive street.

TELEVISION equipment installed for the convention will double the normal capacity maintained in Los Angeles for all network and local shows, the manager said. Forty eight television microwave circuits will be mounted on the roof of the oliseum. They will beam television programs from the Arena to Pacific's television operating center at 434 South Grand Ave. and to the network master controls in Hollywood.

In addition, 123 cable circuits have been installed to connect the Arena with the Biltmore, other hotels and to augment Pacific's existing television routes.

TWO TELEPHONE message centers will be installed by Pacific at the Arena and at six hotels and will be manned by a specially trained corps of 80 telephone girls and men.

In these centers, delegates, committee members and members of the press may receive incoming calls over a direct outside telephone line not associated with convention switchboards. At the Arena some calls will be delivered, others will be flashed on screens via closed circuit television and others will be posted. About 500 calls a day are planned for the Arena.

SPECIAL information desks will be maintained by Pacific at two points in the Arena, with the attendants prepared

to answer questions about Los Angeles, street addresses, points of interest, bus, train and aircraft schedules, hotel locations and the wide variety of questions such a gathering will generate.

Daily, the manager said, Pacific will bring out special telephone number bulletins, with names, addresses and phone numbers of all delegates, convention dignitaries and committee personnel. These bulletins will be delivered to all delegates, committee people and members of the press each morning.

ALL CONVENTION phones will be in color, the manager said, and the color tones will also show up in the public pay telephones, 350 of which will be located at the Arena and the Biltmore. Some of the pay phones will be "speaker phones" with which a customer need not lift the receiver to talk. He will hear and speak

over microphones, leaving hands free for writing.

Two special long distance telephone centers will also be operated at the Arena by Pacific with attendants ready to assist visitors with telephone calls and to make change. Directories of major cities will be on file at the center.

Pacific will have a staff of 214 people on hand at both the Arena and the Biltmore, including 60 technicians who will keep phones, television and other apparatus operating in top condition.

Gerald H. Yates, seaman, USN, of 20802 Margaret st., returned to San Diego, May 31, aboard the destroyer USS Wiltzie after a four-month tour of duty with the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific. Besides participating in various operational exercises, the Wiltzie and her crew visited Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong and Formosa.

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