

CBS TELEVISION

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.

485 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK • PLAZA 5-2000

June 23, 1954

Mr. Maurice W. Wittler
Box 94
Geneva, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Wittler:

This will verify your report of reception of WCBS-TV on June 17, 1954.

Recently there was an unusual set of atmospheric conditions. These conditions, known as "skip effect" in radio language, resulted in abnormal reception of radio waves of certain frequencies. This effect reached its peak May 13 and was again repeated between May 23 and May 28, and in June.

At this time, many television stations were seen thousands of miles away. In the New York City area, reception of the powerful local stations was disturbed by stations in the middle west, and the opposite also held true. Our New York station, WCBS-TV, was reported by so many viewers in midwestern and southern states, Canada, Cuba, and elsewhere, that in order to answer all these letters promptly we must resort to a mimeographed reply. This reply, it is hoped, will also explain the situation to our local viewers who wrote in.

WCBS-TV, New York City, is on television Channel 2, and broadcasts with effective radiated power of 43,000 watts visual and 21,500 watts aural. The transmitter is in the Empire State Building, and the antenna is 1290 feet above average surrounding terrain. Although reception is reasonably consistent, it does vary with weather and atmospheric conditions. The situation recently existing, however, is not to be expected normally, but happens occasionally in a largely unpredictable manner.

We appreciate all the reports and comments that have been sent to us.

Yours very truly,



Arthur F. Schoenfuss
Engineer-in-charge
Television Technical Operations