

LAYS CURB ON RADIO TO FEAR OF HOOVER

**Gen. Harbord Tells Republican
Women That Congress Action
Menaces the Industry.**

DEMAGOGUES' DOOM SEEN

**Corporation Head Declares That
Broadcast Political Talks Will
Help Honest Candidates.**

The recent Congressional interference with the control of radio broadcasting by the Department of Commerce was actuated by fear that retention of control by the department would aid Secretary Hoover in his campaign for the Republican nomination for President. Major Gen. James G. Harbord, President of the Radio Corporation of America, declared last night at a dinner of the Women's National Republican Club at 8 East Thirty-seventh Street.

An audience of 150, including many prominent Republican women as well as Charles D. Hilles, Vice Chairman of the Republican National Committee, heard General Harbord describe Secretary Hoover as "one of the ablest men of our generation." General Harbord did not mention Hoover by name but left no doubt as to whom he referred.

Sees Radio Industry Menaced.

"No other Government agency has ever been taken away from the jurisdiction of a Presidential aspirant," General Harbord said, "for fear that it might help him, only to be dangled over his head for a few days in his preconvention campaign, and finally given to that uncertainty of future that characterizes legislative indifference to private interest and jeopardizes with semi-confiscatory regulations the investments of thousands of honest Americans."

Taking as his topic the place of radio broadcasting in political campaigns, General Harbord declared that it has already served to remove the voter from the spell of the demagogue whose gift of oratory enables him to sway unreasoning crowds. Its value in the future, he said, would rest in its ability to bring home to the voter, in the calm and quiet of his own home, the real issues of campaigns and the true logic of campaign speakers.

"The change that will be wrought by radio," he said, "lies in the fact that though one address goes to an audience of 30,000,000 the contagion of the crowd is gone. The magnetism of the orator cools when transmitted through the microphone. The impassioned gesture swings through unseeing space. The purple period fades in color; the flashing eye meets no answering glance.

"Though he be one of 30,000,000, each hearer becomes in the privacy of his own home an individual listener. He is free from the influence of mob psychology. The only appeal is the logic of the issue the orator presents.

Handicap in Mass Meeting.

"In the mass meeting there is something that makes it impossible for the average man to determine matters upon their merits. He cannot judge the sincerity of the man who speaks to him or whether he really means what he says.

"With radio broadcasting that man's voice comes into the quiet home. We sit in our library, in a room where we are accustomed to study and reflect, where all the surroundings are natural. When we there hear the same man speak we know him better than we could in the crowd. The very tones of his voice, quiet and deliberate, if he is to be heard by radio, proclaim his sincerity or his lack of it.

"Great as have been the varied contributions of science to mankind, it may well be that none has been quite so great as that of radio to the science of government, the exposure of the demagogue, the power of the man who is right to show the people he is right, the power of the man who is honest to make the people feel that he is honest."