

Chimes

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED

TO Mr Niles Trammell

DATE March 23 1950

FROM George McElrath

MAR 23 1950

SUBJECT

NILES TRAMMELL

Regarding Mr Reilly's letter to Mr Sarnoff attached, the musical notes of the NBC chimes represent the letters GEC. I assume that Mr Reilly knows that a note in the musical scale representing "N" does not exist. Therefore he must be thinking of the Sonovox system of vibrating the sound of the human voice with musical tones. This is accomplished by fastening a specially designed magnetically operated headphone on the throat which vibrates the larynx with tone as letters or words are produced vocally. The result would be to modulate the voice with the musical note G when "N" is spoken, E when "B" is announced, and C when "C" is reproduced vocally.

This suggestion was made when the Sonovox system was first introduced. We cooperated with the program department in making these experiments, and the consensus of opinion was that the result was unharmonious and would soon become tiresome to the listener.

Attached is a suggested reply to Mr Reilly for your signature.

George McElrath
George McElrath

Att.