

The

ADT TRANSMITTER

vol. XV. no. 3 — MARCH — 1943



• LETTERS •

Alertness Appreciated

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We want to thank you for the efficient and satisfactory manner in which the American District Telegraph Company handled the theft in our window which occurred on Saturday, February 6 at our store.

We feel sure that if it weren't for the alertness of your company, we would not have recovered three of the stolen coats.

L. LUBOW

Benson Furriers
Columbus, Ohio

Beyond Expectation

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We have your letter concerning fusing of an overhead sprinkler in our steel shed. I am happy to report that no loss was suffered. Your guard and the insurance patrol responded immediately and between them they rendered valuable service in restoring the sprinkler system to a state of 100% protection in a very short time.

We consider your service the finest available, often going beyond our expectations for complete handling of any situation that arises.

L. H. HORN BROOK

Cullman Wheel Co.
Chicago, Ill.

Aero on the Job

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Your Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System is evidently on the job for it turned in the alarm about 7:30 at our plant when workmen arriving early started too fast a fire in their lounging room and set the alarm in action.

City fire apparatus arrived while apparently no one knew what it was all about, but an inspection by our fire service man soon found the answer.

As a result of the prompt action, what might have been a disastrous fire was averted.

A. L. FALER

Western Pine Mfg. Co., Ltd.
Spokane, Wash.

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T.), founded 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in electric protection services.

A.D.T. Central Stations serve upward of 32,000 subscribers in 350 municipalities from coast to coast. The aggregate property values protected by A.D.T. exceed twenty-two billion dollars. This figure does not include the values of cash and securities in the U.S. Treasury, U.S. Mints, Federal Reserve Banks and branches, thousands of banks throughout the country, or the U.S. bullion depositories at Fort Knox and West Point, all of which employ one or more A.D.T. Protection Services.

SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM: Makes the sprinkler an automatic fire alarm. Electrically supervises all vital parts of the sprinkler system.

AERO AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTING AND ALARM SYSTEM: Detects fire and summons fire department automatically.

WATCHMAN SUPERVISORY AND MANUAL FIRE ALARM: Watchman's patrol stations are electrically connected with the Central Station, which investigates any failure to signal on time. Manual Fire Alarm Boxes provide means to summon the fire department quickly and accurately.

BURGLAR ALARM: Any unlawful entry or irregular opening is automatically detected and immediately investigated by A.D.T. guards with police cooperation.

HOLDUP ALARM: Provides means for secretly summoning police in case of attack by bandits or other emergency.

INVISIBLE RAY (PHOTOELECTRIC) ALARM: Protective medium is beam of invisible light. For boundary protection, paralleling fences, and for any open areas indoors or out.

TELAPPROACH: Surrounds safe or metal cabinet with a field of radio waves. Approach of any person within the electrical field results in an alarm.

HEATING SYSTEM SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in heating systems.

INDUSTRIAL PROCESS SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in various industrial operations.

AUTOMATIC FIRE CONTROL FOR AIR DUCT SYSTEMS: Provides automatic smoke and fire detecting and alarm devices for air conditioning and other air duct systems.

• EDITORIAL •

Safety for Ships

New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Norfolk—all important cities—all with one vital factor in common—they're coastal towns where ships of the Allied Nations slip quietly into harbors to reload, refuel or effect repairs—and slide just as unobtrusively away to dispatch their precious cargoes to unknown ports.

Vessels anchored in these and other cities are safe, temporarily, from the menace of U-boats or enemy bombers. However, another danger lurks at shipping terminals and piers. Less spectacular than torpedoes though just as serious in consequence, is the element of *fire*. Mysterious little blazes flare up in the holds of these important supply links much more often than the average citizen might suppose. The availability of A.D.T. Fire Protection Services frequently is responsible for smothering these blazes at their inception. Most of them the public never hears of, for "no damage" is "no news".

Locked in its files, the American District Telegraph Company keeps records which show that in the past few months many fires have begun in ships' holds, kitchens or mess rooms, and on the piers, but in every case where the terminal was guarded by one of the several types of A.D.T. Fire Protection Systems, the flames have been quickly extinguished by the fire department.

Consider how rapidly a fire out of control in a single ship or on a wharf can spread to other vessels and piers. Any delay in discovery or extinguishment may add millions to the loss, as in the case of the outbreak which reduced the former liner *Normandie* from a valuable naval vessel to a useless hulk.

Only unrelaxing vigilance plus adequate first aid measures can prevent disasters of such proportions, which must be averted if we are to keep open our supply lines to Army outposts and Allied ports.

On the Cover

Sturdy M-4 tanks, dreadnaughts of American battle fronts, rumble across a field during a demonstration in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

(An Acme photograph)

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No. 3

FLAMES THREATEN WAR PLANT

Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Woodworking Plant Saved By Battling Firemen Summoned by A.D.T. Automatic Alarm

On February 5, a spectacular fire, sweeping through the finishing department of Robert Brand & Sons Company, engaged in war work, caused severe damage to an entire floor and injured a fireman. Flames shot through the roof and smoke billowed from windows, attracting a crowd of over one thousand persons.

The restriction of flames to the fourth floor of this wooden frame building is attributed to two factors—the instant operation of an A.D.T. Waterflow Alarm summoning the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, fire department—and an “encircling” maneuver by firemen to check the spread

of the blaze to other floors.

Flames apparently broke out near a paint spray booth at 9:00 p. m. when the factory was deserted, and the intense heat caused thirty-six sprinkler heads to open, flooding several floors with water. For more than two and a half hours water was poured into the building from the sprinkler system and four lines of hose laid by firemen.

Captain Arthur Apel of No. 1 Hose Company, overcome by smoke, was removed to a hospital where he remained for several days.

The A.D.T. Central Station immediately notified Mr. Robert Brand, the

firm's president, of the outbreak, enabling him to reach his office in time to salvage valuable office machines and remove important papers to a place of safety.

A.D.T. men remained on the job to help salvage undamaged material after the fire department had subdued the flames.

Mr. Brand stated that the fast work of the A.D.T. Company in summoning the fire department kept his inflammable stock from going up in smoke.

THIEVES RING OWN KNELL

Seizing a trio of thieves attempting to pilfer a Chicago pawn shop early one morning in January was a cinch, for they obligingly transmitted two signals to A.D.T. which tipped off the police.

The ingeniousness which lead three young men to chop their way undiscovered through a brick wall failed them when they tried to add articles from the jewelry cases to an already large pile of loot. One of the intruders tripped a Burglar Alarm Device and another kicked one of the Holdup Alarm foot-rails.

Completely surprised by police, they gave up without a struggle.

FAKE HOLDUP

When a robber attempted to hold up the F. & F. Style Shoppe in Cleveland, Ohio, one afternoon he made two mistakes. One was his selection of a toy pistol with which to do the job; the other his choice of a store equipped with an A.D.T. Holdup Alarm System. Police responded so rapidly to the proprietor's urgent signal that they arrived in time to grab the thug and send him to the city lock-up, where he was held for attempted robbery.



Press Association

DOING HIS BIT—Arthur Guy Empey, author of “Over The Top,” famous World War I book, works as a plant guard at the Vega Aircraft Corporation plant in Burbank, Calif. Here he is checking identification of Annabelle Bond, a clerk

BURGLARY

ROOFTOP CHASE

Police Finally Corner Juvenile Thief After Hot Pursuit

The Scranton, Pennsylvania, police department harriedly chased a burglar up and down Lackawanna Avenue for four nights before an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm finally helped them round up the culprit.

Carl Helcoski, a sixteen year old soda dispenser, admittedly broke into a five and ten cent store, a men's clothing establishment and an A.D.T. subscriber's premises, on consecutive nights.

His first venture into the Scranton Talking Machine Company store was interrupted by A.D.T. guards and police investigating the burglar alarm which testified that someone had broken through a protected window. When the police posse burst in upon Helcoski, he dashed wildly over rooftops with patrolmen hot on his trail and finally was captured by a detail of three policemen at the foot of a fire escape.

This latest exploit adds to Helcoski's juvenile crime record which includes two commitments to institutions for delinquent minors.

INTRUDERS TAKE NOTE!

The management of the Otto Knoop Lumber Yards knew that their premises were being entered by trespassers but little did they realize to how great an extent until an A.D.T. Invisible Ray Burglar Alarm was recently installed. Over a period of two months no less than thirteen men were apprehended by means of the system, keeping the New Orleans police force on the go and the city lock-up doing a rousing business.

At this writing however, Mr. Knoop is allowing himself the luxury of hoping that word finally has reached all prospective intruding brethren that his lumber yard is not "easy pickings"! It dishes out only a fare of A.D.T. guards, city patrolmen and hoosegow grub, with no opportunity to make off with the company's stock to be used for fuel.

ROPE TRICK

What would you do if you were trapped inside an elevator in a deserted office building on a Sunday afternoon? Building Superintendent J. A. White quickly solved such a problem when he found himself stuck in a lift at the premises of the George W. Luft Company in Long Island City.

Puffing and panting he clambered out of the top of the elevator cage and slid

down the cable in true athletic style. When he reached the fourth floor he wrestled with an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm Screen until he was satisfied that a signal had registered at the Central Station, then continued to the basement. Sure enough, in a few minutes guards appeared and released Superintendent White through a basement door.

SLEEP SEEKERS SNARED

"Come out with your hands up!" At these warning words the whispering in the washroom in a closed-up Camden, N. J., service station stopped abruptly. Two small, frightened figures sidled out of the dark into the clutches of Detective Clifford and A.D.T. Guard Eckel.

Seventeen year old William Thomas of Boston and Edward Shaw, same age and address, hitchhiking home from Houston, Texas, felt sleepy when they reached Camden. Breaking through a window wired with A.D.T. burglary protection, they unwittingly signalled the Central Station.

That night held no rest for the young lads, for the town police, the service station owner, a detective and two A.D.T. guards turned out in full force to deal with the intruders.

After staying locked up in a cheerless jail for the night, no doubt Bill and Ed will think twice next time before indiscriminately selecting a refuge for sleep.

UNCONVINCING ALIBI

His tale of having been locked up at the Spiro Company Sports Goods store for three hours just didn't "jell" when police seized a stranger under a desk at 11:00 p. m. in response to A.D.T.'s Burglar Alarm which went off when a protected window was forced.

Three minutes after the alarm sounded, patrolmen had reached the store where they promptly uncovered the prowler.

Mr. M. E. Spiro, proprietor of the San Francisco store, was extremely skeptical of the intruder's story and asked the police to hold him for attempted burglary.



Acme

GETTING READY FOR AIR RAIDS—In preparation for the gas leaks and fires that occur after bombings the Brooklyn Union Gas Company is training more than 2,000 volunteers. Here two emergency trainees operate a machine which shoots heavy grease into broken main and shuts off gas, stopping the fire

Get your War Stamp Album into the fight . . . turn it in for a War Bond TODAY.

FIRE

FIGHT FOUNDRY FLAMES

Steel Plant Avoids Disastrous Loss to War Materials

The furnaces in the National Erie Steel foundry were roaring full blast on January 27 to turn out priceless steel for ships and tanks and guns. Sparks were shooting about and men carefully protected themselves against the fiery bits. Suddenly, the roof over the annealing ovens burst into flames. Sensing the dangerous situation, a quick-witted employee immediately pulled an A.D.T. Fire Alarm Box.

Apparatus of the Erie, Pennsylvania, fire department clanged up to the building in time to keep flames from extending to other parts of the foundry which was operating with a full daytime force.

FROZEN LIGHTNING

An electrical storm in a mid-western city in February is somewhat of a rarity. One such storm which occurred recently not only proved unseasonable but caused a fire when it struck a gravity tank on the roof of the Multi-Colortype Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, and ignited the wood covering and insulation of the standpipe.

A manual fire alarm signal turned into A.D.T. headquarters immediately brought out the fire department and salvage corps who dealt with the tricky blaze so efficiently that the firm suffered no consequential loss.

IT'S THE NUTS

Ten dollars worth of roasted peanuts would feed a lot of hungry soldiers, not to mention rationed civilians. This was the loss to Armour & Company at the Fort Worth, Texas, stockyards when a peanut roasting machine caught fire on January 27.

It might have been worse, however, had it not been for the efficacy of an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box in summoning the prompt aid of the Armour and Swift fire departments as well as the city's engine companies.



International
GIRL FLAME FIGHTER—British miss waits for orders from a comrade battling flames on a balcony at a demonstration in London, England, to show the worth of women in fighting air raid fires

A CLEAN SWEEP

"A new broom sweeps clean," but one pile of brooms stored at a U. S. Army Quartermaster Depot never will clean the dust from a barracks' floor.

In mid-morning on January 22 a small fire flared up among a pile of these floor sweepers in a Quartermaster Corps warehouse in Chicago. Because an



International
FORTY FIREMEN ESCAPE—Spouting flames two hundred feet into the air this blazing Philadelphia, Pa., warehouse collapsed, narrowly missing firemen below

A.D.T. fire alarm did quick work in calling out the fire department, the damage did not spread to other valuable Army supplies. Several hundred dollars worth of shiny new brooms was destroyed, but considering the inflammable nature of these articles the loss was relatively small.

FIRE RUINS DRESS SHOP

Ladies' Specialty Shop Suffers Severe Fire Damage

Gowns scheduled to be worn by lovely models in a fashion show at Montaldo's Dress Shop in Denver, Colorado, on February 12 were destroyed by a fire which swept through the shop early that morning.

As there was no automatic fire detecting and reporting system the outbreak gained considerable headway. The heavy loss which resulted might have been even greater if the smoke had not passed through the beam of an A.D.T. Invisible Ray Burglar Alarm, sounding a warning at the Central Station. When guards arrived and found the air laden with smoke, they immediately summoned the fire department.

The smoke and flames ruined Montaldo's entire stock and gutted part of the shop itself. This was the store's second blaze within a week—smoke from a small coal bin fire caused minor damage the previous Sunday.

SILENT GUARDIAN

So small and soundless was the fire which flared in the night, that the watchman at the premises of a Jersey City matzoth plant knew nothing of what was happening on the fifth floor. However, when flames ignited a heap of burlap bags behind an oil burner, a "silent guardian" detected the trouble — an A.D.T. Waterflow Alarm transmitted a fire summons to headquarters.

Firemen from several Jersey City brigades found the blaze mysteriously stubborn, though it was confined to a narrow area. Only after an hour of diligent effort were they able to squelch the flames completely.

The cost to the B. Manischewitz Company was estimated at only one hundred dollars.

TRAIN STARTS BLAZE

A locomotive chugged along the tracks on the outskirts of Chicago, billowing black smoke and spouting flames. Clutched in the grip of a high wind, sparks sailed over the Central Chemical Company building and fanned into flames on the roof of the concentrator room.

A call for help was put through over the Manual Fire Alarm System, signaling the A.D.T. Central Station and the fire fighting brigade at the chemical plant's power house. Firemen burst in to cope with the blaze before it extended to the stock of nitric acid.

WATCHMEN

HARBOR INCIDENT

Watchman is Instrumental in Preventing Ship Loss

On Friday night, February 5, the watchman guarding a shipping terminal in Oakland, California, heard a commotion through the usual night sounds of ships anchored in the bay. When he rushed to the water's edge, he discovered smoke and flames rising from the forward hold of a steamship loaded with an indispensable cargo of sodium nitrate.

Workmen were unsuccessfully battling the flames, so the watchman made a bee line for his A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box.

The fire never had a chance to light up the waterfront and endanger other vital vessels, for the fire department appeared in ample time to control the blaze and limit the damage to the ship in which it originated.

STRANGE BED

Night watchmen may be reputedly lonely, but the watchman at the Carlisle Leather Tannery in Saginaw, Michigan, had so many interruptions on January 16 he was beginning to long for an isolated desert island.

Several times during the night he chased away a very persistent though inebriated intruder. Making his rounds at 5:00 a. m., and congratulating himself on having finally discouraged the drunk, he heard sounds. Peering into a tanning vat, he discovered his would-be friend noisily sleeping it off. His patience exhausted, the watchman transmitted an A.D.T. emergency police call.

At the police station where he was rapidly sobered up it was discovered that the trespasser was a former employee who had been giving the firm trouble for some time.

"ILLUMINATED" SIGN

The Lincoln National Bank Building in Cincinnati, Ohio houses several other tenants besides the banking institution. Monday night, February 8, the bank watchman found not even a mouse stirring inside the building, but when he stepped outside to test the door locks, his nostrils detected the odor of smoke very close by.

Quick as a flash he put through an A.D.T. fire alarm, for the electric sign on the first floor premises, rented by the Robert Hummel Company, was blazing merrily away—lit up not by electricity but by flames.

The fire, discovered to have been started by a short circuit, was dealt with successfully by the fire department and salvage corps.

MINIATURE RIVER

Performing his midnight tour, the Trumbull Electric Company's night watchman noticed that it was extremely wet underfoot. Upon investigation, he found water flowing down from upstairs.

Deciding that discretion was the better part of valor, he operated his Watchman's Security Box for assistance from the Cincinnati, Ohio, police department.

Police found that the running water was caused by the breakdown of a coil on the house water supply tank, and summoned the fire department and salvage corps who made temporary repairs to prevent further damage.

A.D.T. TO THE RESCUE

On the night of February 6, the engineer at a Cincinnati plant producing parachutes for the Army, fell headlong from a boiler into a coal bin, badly lacerating his scalp.

Dazed and bleeding though he was, he knew where to turn for help. Dragging himself to his feet, he put in an emergency call to A.D.T.'s Central Station.

A guard who responded recognized that the engineer needed immediate medical attention and called the police who removed him to a hospital as quickly as possible.

He was back on the job again as soon as an intern had sewed up the gash in his head.



International

SUB-ZERO FIRE—Ice, frozen solid, covers the remains of the Ben Hutchings Lumber Company in Brooklyn, New York, after flames swept through the building, causing damage of \$100,000. Two firemen were felled during the two hour blaze fought in six degrees below zero weather

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

FIRES IN ONE YEAR OF WAR

Automatic Control and Application of Elementary Rules Would Have Kept Most of Them Out of The Headlines

By PERCY BUGBEE

*General Manager,
National Fire Protection Assn.*

Our national fire record for the first year of war is by no means as bad as it might have been—but by no means as good as it should have been.

If Mr. Schickelgruber had an opportunity to scan the N. F. P. A. special report of some three hundred war plant outbreaks reported to us, he would get some satisfaction from the fact that these disasters have saved his busy U-boats a lot of work.

Anybody else who studies the brief details of these hampering blazes must experience a feeling of chagrin over the slowness with which we learn our lessons.

The factors, repeated over and over, accounting for the bulk of the large losses are an old, old story: excessive areas; highly combustible or inferior construction. Coupled with these most elementary faults is that other capital sin—too little automatic protection.

Those factors combined to produce \$438,000 worth of destruction in a Maryland rubber plant—in the midst of our well-known rubber crisis. Those same factors contributed to another blaze which was so far advanced when firemen were summoned that they were blown across the street when they opened the door of the building. The final score on that one was \$900,000.

With all our American genius for getting things done, it doesn't seem possible that such negligence can exist in plants involving such huge investments, yet it does.

In California, for example, a building housing parachute silk and plane parts was destroyed to the tune of \$257,500. There were no automatic sprinklers—no watchman on duty—no alarm service.

In Oregon a \$461,000 warehouse fire destroyed stores of groceries, irreplace-

able chemical and rubber products. No sprinklers; not even fire doors.

In Massachusetts a \$250,000 wood-working plant was destroyed. Neighbors smelled smoke for hours; nobody could locate it because the involved plant had no sprinklers, no watchman, no automatic alarm.

In Illinois \$400,000 worth of Diesel engine parts, railway supplies, rubber and oil are lost. Again, no sprinklers, no watchman, no automatic alarm.

Not that the mere presence of any of those protective devices can work magic—if they themselves are also subject to neglect. There was a \$711,000 blaze in an Illinois warehouse which got out of hand because the sprinkler system was out of service at the moment. A similar condition cost \$325,000 in a Massachusetts tannery.

Watchmen, untrained or unsupervised, or employees, too busy with ineffectual fire fighting to summon skilled aid, accounted for \$750,000 worth of vital damages in three other outbreaks. And

in case after case where persons were alert enough to attempt to report the outbreak in time, the alarm was seriously delayed in transmittal because over-loaded telephone lines made it impossible to get a connection—a condition which promises to get worse before it gets better.

It would be easy to go on and on through seventy-five fires rating in the conflagration category—\$250,000 in losses or more—but it would add nothing to the basic point that when plants are built to burn, they burn. By the same token, when intelligent fire protection is built into them—or even added to them—the fires which do occur rarely advance beyond the inconsequential stage.

Surely it does not require a very specialized training to be able to see that the sub-division of excessive areas minimizes a fire's potential damage by isolating it—or that the protection of vertical arteries can hold an outbreak to somewhere near its point of origin until other measures can be taken.

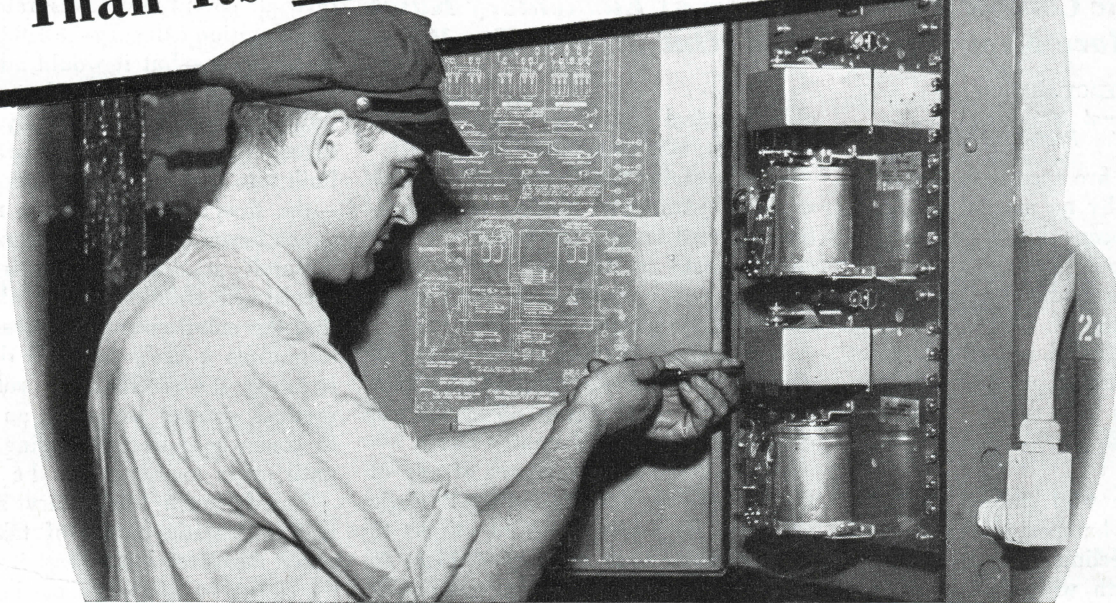
Fortify such elementary safeguards with automatic means of taking those other measures—detecting it, sounding the alarm, putting water or chemicals on it—and you get a practical fire immunity.

At this crucial time nothing less than that sort of protection is adequate. The net result of anything less is this sorry list of three hundred outbreaks seriously hampering the war effort—and relieving Mr. Schickelgruber's U-boats of a considerable volume of work!



INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION—permitted this fire in a Providence, R. I. shipyard on December 31, 1942, to reach destructive proportions. Employees fought the flames for fifteen minutes before calling the municipal fire department

A Protection System Can Be No Better Than Its MAINTENANCE and SUPERVISION



The following is quoted from the Standards of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for Central Station Protective Signaling Systems (Pamphlet No. 71, Section 101).

“The general experience with all protective signaling systems is that their dependability is directly in proportion to the amount and character of maintenance, testing and supervision; also that these functions are best performed when the owner or occupant of the premises contracts for this service with an outside agency known to be qualified in the handling of central station signaling service.”

The standards for effective protection detailed in this authoritative bulletin are not only met, but in many respects exceeded, by A.D.T. Central Station Service. From the moment of installation, performed

by trained installation crews, A.D.T. assumes complete and undivided responsibility for proper maintenance and supervision. The protection equipment on the subscriber's premises is electrically connected with the Central Station. Thus, trouble conditions are detected and reported *automatically*, and corrective action is taken immediately.

In addition to this continuous electrical supervision, A.D.T. maintenance experts make periodic tests and inspections to *anticipate* possible trouble conditions, and any adjustments, repairs or replacements that may be indicated are made immediately. More than any other single factor, it is this high standard of maintenance and supervision that is responsible for the unequalled efficiency of A.D.T. Protection Services.

A.D.T. ELECTRIC PROTECTION SERVICES

Controlled Companies of **AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.** 155 Sixth Avenue, New York
CENTRAL STATION OFFICES IN ALL PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES

ADT

Electric Protection Services
AGAINST FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP
A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION