

The **ADT** TRANSMITTER

vol. XXII. no. 1 — JANUARY — 1950



**SET THE STAGE
FOR SALVAGE**
(See Page 7)

• LETTERS •

Fast Response

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 6 and to express our appreciation for the exceptionally fast response to watchman Flood Williams' distress signal after he had the first joint of the middle finger of his left hand badly crushed in the sand-blasting machine.

The prompt arrival of your guard and the city police saved this watchman from losing a considerable amount of blood, and he joins with this company in extending our grateful appreciation to the ADT System.

H. F. LUIK

National Lead Company
Portland, Oregon

Sold on ADT

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 2 regarding the fire in our general warehouse on the night of October 1.

As your alarm signal was immediately transmitted to the fire department, and because of their prompt arrival, damage was held to a minimum. Again we are very grateful to your company for providing such an alarm system.

We have always been sold on ADT protection and we feel sure that the saving made from such protection is worth many times the cost.

You may be assured that we will continue to be an ADT booster.

R. F. J. WILLIAMS

Oklahoma Operating Company
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

On the Cover

Two members of the New York Fire Patrol scoop water out of a bagged salvage cover placed on the floor to catch the drainage from other covers protecting stock and fixtures against water seeping through from fire area on floors above. Other details of salvage operations are described in article on page 7. Photo courtesy New York Fire Patrol.

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T.), founded in 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in the manufacture, installation, maintenance and operation of electrical supervisory and alarm systems for protection against fire, burglary and intrusion, watchman supervision, etc.

A.D.T. Central Station Protection Services are available in more than 350 cities and towns in the United States. In this type of service the protection system in the subscriber's premises is connected to an outside A.D.T. Central Station which provides continuous electrical supervision, transmits alarms to the fire and police departments and investigates trouble and other emergency signals.

Outside of Central Station areas, A.D.T. installs protection equipment for owner operation, with visual or audible signals within the protected premises and, when desired, direct-wire connections to police or fire departments. In exceptionally large establishments, systems may be installed to operate through owner-operated proprietary central stations on the premises.

Whether the system operates through an A.D.T. Central Station or is of the local or proprietary type, A.D.T. provides periodic inspections, systematic tests and complete maintenance by an organization trained and experienced in this type of work. *Without this specialized attention there is little assurance that any protective signaling system will operate when an emergency arises.*

A.D.T. Protection Services include the following systems:

SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM: Summons fire fighting forces when sprinkler operates. Maintains a continuous automatic check on shut-off valves and other points controlling water supply.

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

WATCHMAN SUPERVISORY AND MANUAL FIRE ALARM: Investigates any failure to signal Central Station. Includes Manual Fire Alarm Boxes to summon the fire department quickly and accurately.

BURGLAR ALARM: Automatically detects unlawful entry or intrusion and initiates immediate investigation.

HOLDUP ALARM: Summons police in case of attack by bandits and in other emergencies.

Also: Automatic Fire Control for Air Duct Systems; Heating System and Industrial Process Supervision and other miscellaneous supervisory services.

• EDITORIAL •

Duct Fires Can Be Dangerous

A few weeks ago a watchman in the warehouse of a large department store in Pittsburgh smelled smoke and immediately reported the condition to the ADT Central Station. Operators promptly notified the fire department.

When the firemen arrived they found smoke coming from the ducts of the air conditioning system. After shutting down the fans they discovered that an oil filter had ignited and that smoke was being forced through the ducts into the open areas of the building.

Although in this case the condition was discovered and corrected before any serious damage could result, it illustrates the danger that exists in many air duct systems not equipped with automatic protective devices.

An air duct fire which caused a loss of \$100,000 from smoke damage in a Detroit department store some years ago prompted insurance engineers to demand some type of automatic protection for such systems. ADT engineers accordingly developed a highly efficient Automatic Fire and Smoke Control System.

Under this system smoke detection devices installed in the ducts actuate control equipment which automatically gives an alarm, shuts off fans and closes dampers to prevent damage and panic as the result of the distribution of smoke throughout the building.

The value of the system was proved a few years later in the same department store when another fire developed in an air duct. Firemen, summoned automatically, extinguished the blaze which was confined to the duct.

Within recent years numerous department stores and other buildings with extensive duct systems have been equipped with this type of protection. The most recent of these is the new John Hancock Building in Boston.

Automatic Fire and Smoke Control is one of the many ADT Automatic Protection Services which may be applied to furnish better protection at lower cost through elimination or modification of other less effective but more expensive protective measures. Such systems provide a practical solution to present-day protection problems.

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The ADT TRANSMITTER

VOL. XXII

JANUARY, 1950

No. 1

CHECK FIRE IN BOX FACTORY

ADT-Supervised Sprinkler System Enables Fire Dep't To Save Plant After Fire Sweeps Unprotected Building

Automatic protection gave a convincing demonstration of its effectiveness in minimizing fire losses on December 1 when an ADT-supervised automatic sprinkler system operated to check a fire in the plant of the Rock Manufacturing Company, West Stoughton, Mass., after flames had swept a storage building protected only by an unsupervised watchman.

A 25-foot bridge separated the unsprinklered storage building from a sprinklered building used for the manufacture of wooden cases. The storage building is a two and a half-story frame structure with a false brick front. It contains 27,000 square feet of floor space.

Hundreds of finished wooden chests for packing silverware were awaiting shipment in the storage building when the fire broke out shortly before mid-

night from an unknown cause. The watchman was elsewhere in the plant at the time and the fire raged undetected.

Gaining momentum, the flames completely involved the storage building and ate their way across the bridge until the heat entered the case, or factory, building. Eighteen sprinkler heads fused, holding the fire in check and causing an ADT waterflow alarm which gave the Stoughton Fire Department its first notification of the fire.

When Stoughton firemen, under the direction of Chief Fred Pye, reached the scene a few minutes later, the storage building and trestle were completely engulfed but a veritable wall of water from the sprinklers inside the case building kept the flames from entering.

Pye's men, with fire companies from near-by Brockton standing by, worked



Brockton Enterprise

FLAMES ABRIDGED — Fire which swept across the bridge at left was stopped by automatic sprinklers and firemen summoned to the scene by ADT waterflow alarm signal before main factory building could become involved

feverishly to turn back the raging flames and to prevent them from destroying the case building. The unprotected storage building and the trestle, valued at close to \$200,000, were by this time beyond salvation.

Due to the efficient, three-hour-long fire-fighting operation, the case building and several other buildings in the area, including one containing 12,500 gallons of highly flammable lacquer, and another stocked with 500,000 board feet of unfinished lumber, were spared from destruction.

According to President Charbonneau, the plant watchman made his rounds at 11 p.m. Just 50 minutes later the flames were lighting the entire area.

President Charbonneau said that the plant, including the fourteen-year-old storage building, was recently termed by insurance underwriters as "the cleanest woodworking shop in New England." The burned building will be rebuilt as soon as possible.

Seventy-five employees will be out of work until the new building is completed.



Brockton Enterprise

AT CLOSE QUARTERS—Stoughton firemen move in to battle raging flames in storage building, but the unprotected wooden structure was beyond salvation

BURGLARY

CLEAR-CUT CASE

Burglars' Hopes Are Shattered as They Run Up Against Bad Break

Plunging headlong through a plate glass window when surprised by police and ADT guards on the morning of November 11, one of a pair of Los Angeles burglars was slashed by the razor-like glass.

Having designs on the ladies' garment shop of Dee On of California, the team entered the store by prying the lock off the ADT-protected front door. When police and guards converged on the store two minutes later, the two men broke through a door into an adjoining shop and made their desperate bid to evade capture.

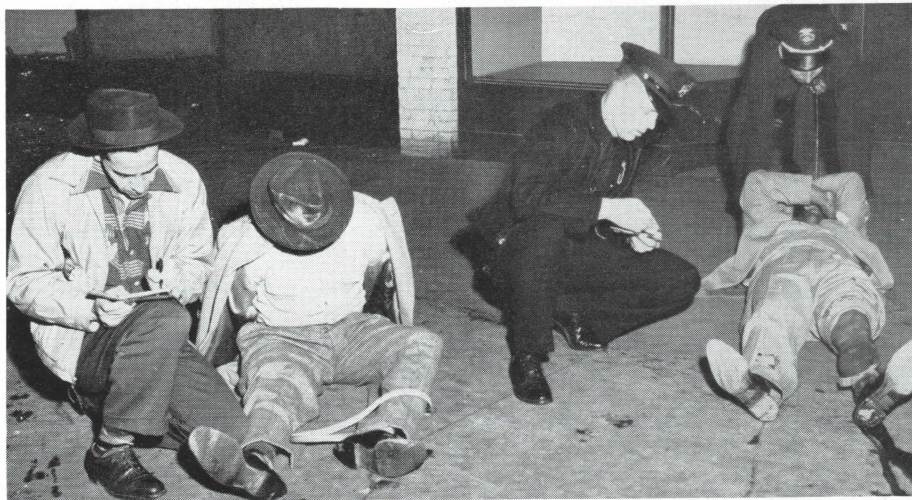
One of the fugitives crashed through the window first, cutting his leg on the jagged edge of the broken pane and collapsing almost at the feet of one of the officers. The other jumped through the opening and started to flee, but halted when an officer fired a warning shot into the air. Both men confessed.

UNLUCKY STRIKE

A pair of marijuana-smoking El Paso youths, one a soldier stationed at near-by Fort Bliss, were taken into custody by police and ADT guards at midnight



BELIEVED IN SIGNS — El Paso burglars evidently read the sign in the show window of Feder's Jewelry Store and decided to speed up the removal. Operation of the ADT Burglar Alarm paved the way for their capture



Los Angeles Mirror

PANE-FUL RETREAT—With his leg slashed from dive through pane of glass, one burglar lies stretched out on pavement while the other is questioned by detective

on December 1 after a hit-and-run attack on Feder's Jewelry Store.

The culprits evidently were impressed not only by the window display but also by a sign reading "removal sale," for they smashed the ADT-protected show window and removed several items of jewelry. As police officers approached, the pair ran from the scene.

They split up shortly thereafter and were captured individually as they prepared to repeat their window-smashing act at two other local jewelers, Shain's and Stevens'. A representative of Feder's was summoned and the jewelry found on the men was identified as that stolen from the Feder store a short while before.

Five marijuana cigarettes were found in the soldier's possession.

SAFE-CRACKER SURPRISED

An unwary safe-cracker thought he had struck a sure thing recently when he started to work on an unprotected safe in a second-floor office of the Gately Clothing Company, Minneapolis.

What he didn't know was that police and ADT guards already knew of his presence as a result of his having forced his way into the building through an ADT-protected rear window.

When the officers arrived, they could hear the intruder at work upstairs. In less than a minute, the frustrated yegg was in custody. Identified as Russell Marshall, age 30, he was booked for breaking and entering.

COSTLY CRASH

Sideswiping another car at an Akron, Ohio, intersection while traveling at an excessive rate of speed on the morning of November 20, a careening automobile hurtled the curb and crashed through an ADT-protected show window of the Princess Fur Shop.

Police and ADT guards, who responded to the burglar alarm at 2:10 a.m., assisted the driver from the car and notified the store owner who arranged to shore up the front section of the building to prevent the collapse of the second floor.

STRICTLY FROM HUNGER

A Baltimore youth who said he broke into a local fur shop because he was hungry and thought it was a restaurant, was promptly served a hot meal in a comfortable cell by police officers who captured him on the morning of November 30.

The youth climbed atop a wooden garbage shed in the rear of an adjoining restaurant and forced open an ADT-protected second-floor window of the Mano Swartz fur shop, transmitting an ADT burglar alarm signal at 3:39 a.m.

The police officers found their man crouched behind a counter, an overcoat over his head and a handkerchief at his nose to keep him from sneezing. He surrendered without a struggle.

The prisoner was held for the Grand Jury and was charged with attempted burglary.

The ADT Transmitter

BANDITS BATTLE POLICE

Forced to Flee After Tricking Manager Into Opening Store

A pair of Toledo thugs were routed from a super-market on the evening of November 18 by police officers responding to an ADT burglar alarm transmitted when the manager obeyed the instructions of the daring duo and opened the front door.

The manager was summoned to the store at about 11:00 p.m. by a clever telephone ruse. When he arrived, the thugs clouted him on the head with an unidentified object and ordered him to open the front door. As he did so, the ADT alarm was transmitted and the officers were directed to the scene.

Upon seeing the patrolmen, the manager shouted that the men were armed, whereupon the bullets began to fly. In the ensuing melee, one officer was shot in the hip and wrist. One of the gunmen was believed to have been hit by a bullet from the officer's gun.

The men made good their escape but their daring attempt at burglary had been thwarted. Police are currently conducting a widespread search in an effort to run down the culprits.

FIRE

LARGE LOSSES AVERTED

Burglar Alarms Give Yeoman Service in Discovery of Fires

Although ADT Burglar Alarm Systems are not intended to detect fire, their operation on four recent occasions served effectively for that purpose. In each case there was no automatic fire protection and flames raged unchecked until they attacked the Burglar Alarm wires.

On November 3, a Buffalo patrolman investigating a burglar alarm from the scrap metal plant of Harry Fox & Company discovered a blaze, which appeared to be of incendiary origin, on a loading platform outside of a protected door. He immediately turned in a fire alarm. Firemen extinguished the blaze in short order. Police are searching for the arsonist, who caused a loss of \$1,000.

On November 16, Birmingham, Ala.,

police and ADT guards were dispatched to the department store warehouse of the Loveman, Joseph & Loeb Company upon receipt of a burglar alarm signal at 5:11 a.m.

Noticing smoke coming through the roof, the police officers quickly summoned firemen via the two-way radio in their patrol car. Although the blaze had progressed undetected for some time, the fire fighters succeeded in holding the loss down to an estimated \$8,000.

On the morning of November 29, a trash fire burned through an ADT-protected rear door of the wholesale tailoring firm of Borushak & Rubenstein, Minneapolis. Upon receipt of the burglar alarm, police and guards were dispatched to investigate.

Firemen who responded to an alarm turned in by the officers had no difficulty in bringing the outbreak under control. Damage to the door and a stock of woolens amounted to \$3,200.

A fire of undetermined origin broke out in the warehouse of the Louisville Grocery Company early on the morning of December 2. ADT guards responding to a burglar alarm promptly summoned firemen upon discovery of the flames. The fire department won out after a stiff battle. Most of the loss was caused by water damage to the grocery stock.

FLAMES THREATEN PHARMACY

According to El Paso, Texas, firemen, the Warner Drug Store in that city might have suffered a total loss on November 8 if the premises had not been protected by an ADT Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System.

The blaze, possibly caused by a smoldering cigarette, flared up in a trash vault at the rear of the first floor at 1:55 a.m. It was instantly detected and reported by the Aero System, and firemen arrived two minutes later.

Burning trash dropped through an opening to the basement where it ignited more waste paper, but firemen promptly put out the flames. The drug-store owner reported that the loss, caused chiefly by smoke, would amount to less than \$100.

BONFIRE DAMAGES MILL

A bonfire started by a group of small boys in a vacant lot in Philadelphia on the afternoon of November 18 almost proved fatal to the plant of the Lumber & Millwork Company.

Noticing the blaze, which had attacked the side of the building, a plant employee operated an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box. Fast fire fighting held the damage to a few scorched lockers.



Wide-World Photo

COLLEGE CATASTROPHE—Not a moment too soon, student at the University of Oklahoma in Norman flees from burning dormitory (background) with belongings after fire broke out on morning of December 3. The building, housing 300 male students, was destroyed. Three men died and more than a score suffered injuries

SLEEPY SMOKER STARTS FIRE

An Army lieutenant, on leave from Fort Knox, Ky., inadvertently set fire to his mattress in a fifth-floor room of a Charleston, S. C., hotel on the night of December 8, but fast action by another hotel guest prevented any serious damage.

The officer undoubtedly had fallen asleep while smoking in bed. At 9:05 p.m. a guest on the same floor noticed smoke pouring from the ventilator of the lieutenant's room. He immediately operated an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box in the hallway and notified the desk clerk.

When firemen arrived a few minutes later, they were directed to the room where they discovered all of the bedding in flames and the officer overcome by smoke.

They quickly extinguished the blaze and removed the officer to a near-by hospital for treatment. He was soon declared out of danger. There was only slight damage to the furnishings of the room.

FEMALE FIRE FIGHTERS

Nurses at the St. Louis State Hospital turned to fire fighting on the morning of November 16 when a blaze, evidently started by a carelessly discarded cigarette, broke out in a dressing room adjoining a patients' ward.

City firemen, summoned by the instant operation of the ADT Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System, completed extinguishment and helped their feminine counterparts in the "drying out" process which followed. There was no damage to the institution.

FLAMES MOVE FAST

While a welder was working on a paper-making machine in the plant of the Champion Paper & Fibre Company, Hamilton, Ohio, on November 7, an employee stood by with a hand extinguisher to guard against a possible outbreak of fire.

In spite of this precaution an erratic spark fell on two large felt rollers nearby, causing a blaze which spread so fast that the extinguisher was ineffective in putting out the flames. The fire quickly shot to the ceiling twenty feet above the machine, but several sprinkler heads

operated and checked the advance of the flames.

Three minutes after an employee pulled an ADT Manual Fire Alarm Box, firemen were on the scene and brought the blaze under control before it could spread to other machines in the area.

Company Fire Marshal Robert Chambers reported that very little damage was done to the ceiling, but the two rollers, valued at \$3,500, were destroyed.

FAST ACTION FOLLOWS BLAST

When the five-story office building at the huge meat-packing plant of Swift & Company was rocked by an explosion of natural gas on the morning of December 14, an ADT waterflow alarm signal sent Sioux City, Iowa, firemen racing to the shattered building where they immediately began rescue operations.

The alarm was transmitted when the sprinkler pipes gave way under the tremendous weight of falling debris. Sixteen persons are known to have been killed by the blast and at least a hundred more suffered injuries.

Reports from the scene indicate that fatalities would have been greater had it not been for the prompt and heroic rescue work conducted by the Sioux City Fire and Police Departments, the city's entire ambulance corps, Swift Company guards, and units of the Iowa State National Guard.

BLAZE IN VACANT BUILDING

Spontaneous ignition of a quantity of shipping material was believed to be the cause of a fire which broke out beneath a packing bench in an unoccupied building of a Los Angeles chemical concern on November 4.

The instantaneous operation of the ADT Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System called firemen to the scene in time to hold the loss to \$200.

ORGANIZATION

ADT 'VETERANS' RETIRE

After almost fifty-three years of continuous service, William A. Riedel, Detroit Plant Superintendent, retired on pension January 1, 1950, according to a recent announcement by the Benefit Fund Committee. Mr. Riedel began his long association with the ADT organization on April 1, 1897.

Cincinnati Inspector John E. Reis, an ADT member since December 1, 1917, retired last December 1, thereby completing thirty-two years' service.

John H. Fortmuller, New York plant man for thirty-one years, retired on pension November 21. Guard-Operator Albert Stamford, of Bridgeport, Conn., an ADT veteran of twenty years, will retire on pension as of January 5, 1950.



'SWIFT' DESTRUCTION—Shattered windows and debris-filled street greeted Sioux City rescue workers as they responded to ADT waterflow alarm signal after an explosion of natural gas blasted the Swift Company building on December 14

Wide-World Photo

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

SET THE STAGE FOR SALVAGE

Proper Arrangement of Stored Merchandise Will Do Much To Keep Your Loss at the Minimum When Fire Breaks Out

By PAUL W. KEARNEY

"You know," said the Chief to the plant superintendent who was accompanying him on a routine inspection, "I have one fault to find with this place right off the bat."

"What's that?" inquired the super.

"The way you store your raw materials, supplies and finished merchandise. We've only been through the stock room and two departments, but I can already see that your methods are poor."

"Take that stack of cartons over there—see anything wrong?"

"No," said the superintendent. "In fact, it looks pretty neat to me."

"Neat enough," agreed the Chief, "but there are three things the matter from a fireman's angle. The top row is too close to the ceiling; the back row is smack against the wall; the bottom row is right on the floor."

"I didn't know that was a fire hazard," the superintendent countered.

"It's a *damage* hazard," retorted the Chief. "If you have a fire upstairs, our men will come in here to cover up stock and protect it from water dripping down. But they'll never get canvas over that stuff because there isn't enough room under the ceiling and they can't get around behind it. Furthermore, after a couple of inches of water get on the floor, the bottom boxes will crumple and the whole pile will fall down and get soaked."

"You should have no less than eighteen inches of leeway on top and at least several inches from the wall. And down here your stock should be on skids at least five inches high. It'll pay off sometime."

"I see the point," said the super. "But I thought it was only the insurance guys who worried about that problem."

"Well," replied the Chief, "they were the first to worry about it and in the big cities they organized fire patrol companies to do something about it. In



MAN-MADE WATERFALL — Typical salvage operation shows fireman mounting stairway down which water has been diverted to prevent a ceiling collapse. Canvas blanket under his arm will be used to protect merchandise from damage

cities, such as New York, Chicago and Boston, these organizations save many thousands of dollars each year by protecting goods from water damage. But in recent years every wide-awake fire department has gone in for salvage work. All our ladder trucks carry covers and we have one company with special equipment that does nothing but salvage."

"What kind of special equipment?" inquired the superintendent.

"Oh, brooms for sweeping out water, poles for lifting the covers, canvas chutes for diverting water out of a window or down a shaftway, sprinkler stoppers and extra heads, a siphon for bailing out cellars, chamois for wiping off wet furniture and machinery—a lot of stuff like that."

"You don't mean that you actually dry off machinery in a fire building?" the super inquired in surprise.

"Sure we do—and we oil it, too, to

keep it from rusting. The average layman has no idea how far we go to keep damages down because, naturally, he can't see what goes on in a fire building."

"We teach our boys how to cover dresses on racks, for instance, without soiling them—the green side of the cover always goes toward delicate merchandise; the black side toward rough surfaces. They know all about heating systems so they can put them back into operation after a fire to prevent damage in cold weather."

"They're pretty good plumbers, too, and when we find toilet bases flush with the floor, we lift off the bowls and divert excess water down the drains. They even know something about the produce business, for very often it becomes necessary to protect perishables from freezing."

"One headache we have in grocery stores and such is canned goods. If the labels are soaked off the cans it's impossible to identify the contents later. So our boys are trained to keep all of the same type of canned goods together so the 'naked' tins can be relabeled and sold."

"Gosh," said the superintendent, "I had no idea you fellows did all that kind of stuff."

"Well, why not?" shrugged the Chief. "It's our job to keep losses to the minimum. And since 75 per cent of the loss at many a fire is from water damage and smoke rather than fire itself, it's up to us to do something about that end of it."

"Of course, the average bystander still has the cockeyed idea that firemen just smash things up for the heck of it. Nothing could be farther from the truth. When they chop open roofs or rip down metal ceilings or cut holes in floors, you can bet there's a good reason for it—they're ridding the building of smoke or chasing fire in a hidden void, or possibly just letting water drain downstairs to the sewer instead of piling up on the floors and coming through the ceilings."

The Chief waved his hand toward the rows of cardboard cartons as he resumed his inspection tour. "Yes, we do our darndest to keep the damages down. But, brother, you can make it much easier for us and yourself if you will act now to set the stage for salvage!"

BETTER PROTECTION
LOWER COST
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... IT PAYS 2 WAYS TO
SAFEGUARD YOUR PROPERTY

Automatically

Many Businessmen Are Saving Money by Adopting
ADT Central Station Automatic Protection Services

The high degree of security against fire, burglary and other hazards provided by ADT Automatic Protection Services in most cases makes it possible to effect substantial economies through modification of other more costly but less effective protective measures.

ADT AUTOMATIC PROTECTION SERVICES

BURGLAR ALARM SERVICE

SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM SERVICE

AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTION AND ALARM SERVICE

AUTOMATIC HEATING SYSTEM SUPERVISORY SERVICE

AUTOMATIC INDUSTRIAL PROCESS SUPERVISORY SERVICE

We shall be glad to explain how these services may be applied to solve your particular protection problem.



AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.
155 SIXTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 13, N. Y.
Central Stations in All Principal Cities