

TV TAKES HALF U. S. TO THE INAUGURAL

**118 Stations on Vast Hook-Up
—Millions of School Children
See Event—Cafes Crowded**

By **IRA HENRY FREEMAN**

At least half the population of the United States, including millions of school children, were able to "attend" the Inauguration of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower as the thirty-fourth President of the United States yesterday—by means of the largest television hook-up in history.

In the Eastern time zone, where the ceremonies fell conveniently into the luncheon period, people crowded restaurants to watch television screens. In New York, trading on the Stock Exchange slackened and even the telephone was fairly quiet between 11:30 A. M. and 1 P. M.

Here, as elsewhere in the country, special arrangements were made to allow school children to observe American history in the making. Some states recessed their Legislatures to watch and listen. Churches everywhere held special services to pray for divine guidance for the new President.

Scores of millions—men at bars, housewives at home, disabled service men in hospitals, business men at their luncheon clubs, workers in factory recreation rooms, convicts in prisons, and, most notably, children in their school assembly halls—had a closer view of the Inauguration than the privileged few in the grandstand before the Capitol.

118 Stations in Hook-Up

For this first coast-to-coast telecast of a Presidential Inauguration, the four biggest TV networks, the National Broadcasting Company, Columbia Broadcasting System, American Broadcasting Company and Dumont hooked up 118 stations in seventy-four cities throughout the land. The ceremony was available to 21,000,000 sets, according to the networks' estimate, and probably could be seen by a maximum audience of 75,000,000 persons.

The four radio networks, A. B. C., C. B. S., N. B. C. and the Mutual Broadcasting System, also broadcast the ceremony of President Eisenhower taking over from former President Truman, reaching 1,300 stations, and available to 98 per cent of the homes and 27,000,000 automobiles in the United States. The broadcasts were relayed by short-wave around the world.

In New York, bars and restaurants with television sets had standing room only during the height of the Inaugural ceremony. Elsewhere, business was slower even than usual during the luncheon break.

The cocktail lounge in the Statler Hotel was crowded to its capacity of 250 diners, with every seat reserved in advance, for the telecast on its five-foot screen. Diners who jammed Shine's Restaurant, Seventh Avenue and Thirty-third Street, burst into applause when President Eisenhower completed his oath at 12:32 P. M., with the traditional, "So help me, God."

Trading on the New York Stock Exchange was about half the normal volume during the noon hour. Most of the floor members had left to watch the video screen in the Exchange Luncheon Club, where many in the rear had to stand on chairs to see.

G. O. P. Club Celebrates

Members of the National Republican Club who could not get to Washington yesterday put on the biggest daytime party the clubhouse at 54 West Fortieth Street had ever held, according to James J. Gibson, manager.

Luncheon clubs generally silenced the usual speakers to watch the event. Among these were the Lions, sixty of whom roared happily at the Belmont Plaza Hotel. Three hundred members of the Drug-Chemical and Allied Trades Section of the New York Board of Trade sat before five television screens at the Astor Hotel during their mid-winter meeting.

Members of the Republican Business Women of New York who could not get to either of the Inaugural Balls in the Capital had their own party last night at the Women's National Republican Club, 3 West Fifty-first Street.

The Lower East Side heard the brazen voice of New York's "Liberty Bell" from noon to 12:10 P. M. The bell, which rang out to mark the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and has been pealed on every important state occasion since, now hangs in the steeple of the Middle Collegiate Church, Second Avenue and Seventh Street.

As the 224-year-old bell sounded, prayers for the new Administration were offered in the church by the Rev. Dr. Ernest R. Palen, minister.

At the same time, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Broadway and Wall Street, Bishop Horace W. B. Donegan and Suffragan Bishop Charles K. Boynton of New York led a short service of "intercession." The men's choir chanted a "Te Deum."

The Little Church Around the Corner held its Inaugural service at 8 A. M. for the convenience of business men and women.

While striving to avoid World War III, President Eisenhower will "flinch from no sacrifice of blood or treasure to stop the Communist menace," Dr. Julius Mark, senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, said in his sermon at a special service yesterday morning in the temple at Fifth Avenue and Sixty-fifth Street.

Rabbi William F. Rosenblum asked God to bless both President Eisenhower and former President Truman in his prayer at special services in Temple Israel, 210 West Ninety-first Street.

Observances were similar in other cities throughout the Nation. Legislatures in Massachusetts, Colorado and Georgia recessed to watch the event.

In the vast audience was a quiet, elderly woman with her memories of Washington on Inauguration Day of yesteryear. Mrs. Grace Coolidge heard it all on a radio in her home at Northampton, Mass. She does not have a television set. The Inauguration of her husband, the late President Calvin Coolidge, in 1925 was the first to be broadcast nationally by radio.