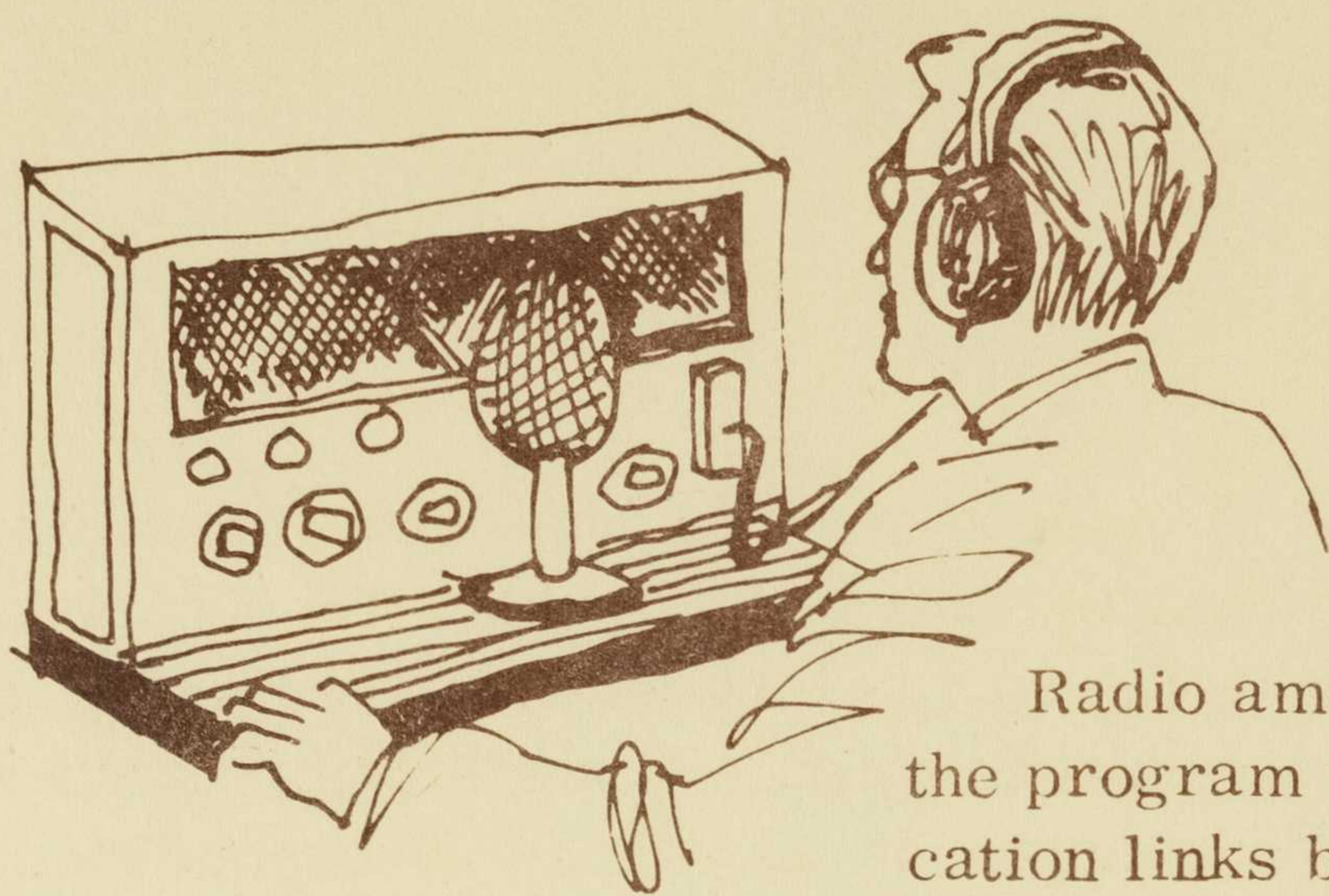




Ham Operators

Radio amateurs have been active in the program to some extent as communication links between Sister City Committees, but this is an area that could and should be expanded. Ideally, if there is an amateur radio operator in each of your cities willing to cooperate with your committee and there are no legal restrictions on the use of this communications link, regular weekly or monthly sessions could be arranged at which program plans could be discussed, joint projects worked out and quick answers obtained to questions and problems.

The radio link has particular pertinence to affiliation programs with Latin America where countries generally permit radio amateurs to pass messages and serve as a link between third parties. The phone companies in most European countries are responsible for regulations that prohibit this use of the amateur radio for private messages among others than the operators themselves. Full rates for phone conversations are charged if monitoring discloses this kind of traffic. The amateur abroad will know to what extent he can assist in regular communications and as noted, there is no difficulty with Latin America.

TV Exchanges

These are costly and require considerable organizational and fund raising skills as well as a high degree of cooperation among the TV stations in the Sister Cities. Where they work, TV videotape exchanges on local subjects are an outstanding communications tool. They involve eye and ear and attract a mass audience in the community. Their effective role in maintaining community commitment to the affiliation and the ways stations have gone about arranging for the exchange of TV crews that result in documentaries about each others' cities are discussed in the preceding chapter. TAA Washington can get you the details, or put you in touch with the committee chairmen for a description of the mutual arrangements and the shows they yielded. Great interest in maintaining contact and helping with projects in the Sister City can be generated by the instant participation offered through the television medium.

