27 October 1960

Dear Bill:

I have read Lecture No. 4 with great interest and
have made some minor suggestions which are indicated in
red pencilled notes. Other comments are as follows:

1. Re the relationship between dots, dashes and
spaces, William Maver, Jr., in his "American Telegraphy
and Encyclopedia of the Telegraph," published in 1912
states, "In length, or duration, one dash is theoretically
equal to three dots. The dots and dashes are separated
by intervals of time. The space between the elements of
a letter is equal to one dot; the space between letters
of a word to 3 dots; the space between words to 5 dots;
the interval in "spaced" letters is equal to 3 dots."
This is slightly different from your statement, so you
see, authorities differ.

2. As regards the application of the 5-element code
to telegraphy, H. H. Harrison, in his "Printing Telegraph
Systems and Mechanisms," published in 1923 states on page
2, "Neither the five-unit code nor the multiple principle
were invented by Baudot. The five-unit code was proposed
for telegraphy by Gauss and Weber (1833); was used by
Whitehouse (1853-1854); and proposed by W. H. Burnett
for a multiple system in 1860.

3. It is difficult for me to accept your explanation

for the character selections in the Baudot code on the
basis of power considerations. Since polar telegraphy
with power "on" for marks and spaces was in vogue when
Baudot made his selections of combinations to represent
characters, it would seem that this aspect could not have
been much of a factor. This applies to transmissions over
the line circuit. However, it is possible that this
feature applies to the local circuits of the early Baudot
apparatus. I would add something about the wear and tear
on the mechanical parts, as indicated in red on your draft.

An early paper, "The Baudot Telegraph System," by
A. C. Booth, and read before the Institution of Post
Office Electrical Engineers in 1907, should answer this
question. I am trying to find a copy of this paper.

I sincerely hope these comments are helpful.

R. D. PARKER