Elmer Davis, veteran commentator, announced last night that he had discontinued his news broadcasts over the American Broadcasting Company's radio network because of poor health.

Mr. Davis had not been heard on the air for the last week and other commentators had been filling in on his nightly broadcast period from 7:15 to 7:30 o'clock, Mondays through Fridays. Yesterday it was revealed that Austin Kiplinger of the A. B. C. staff would take over the time on a regular basis.

The commentary by Mr. Davis over the years consistently had been on the liberal side and, in announcing his withdrawal, the news analyst emphasized that it was his own decision.

"I want to assure all my friends that I am not leaving on account of political pressure or economic pressure, only on account of blood pressure and my own at that," he said. "Lately it has been climbing till it is about as close to the ceiling as the national debt," he added, "and my doctors tell me that can't go on."