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December 8, 1969

# CATV

*Authoritative Newsweekly of Cable Television*



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# CATV

**Authoritative Newsweekly of Cable Television**

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## Conspectus

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GT&E policy relaxation is spurred by Supreme Court decision and AT&T move. Significant in view of largest independent telco's CATV system holdings.

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NAB files at FCC for stay and reconsideration of origination/advertising rules. Broadcasting group says governmental "guidance" is appropriate.

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The CRTC bars importation of "distant signals" from the U.S. East-West (inside Canada) networking gets approval.

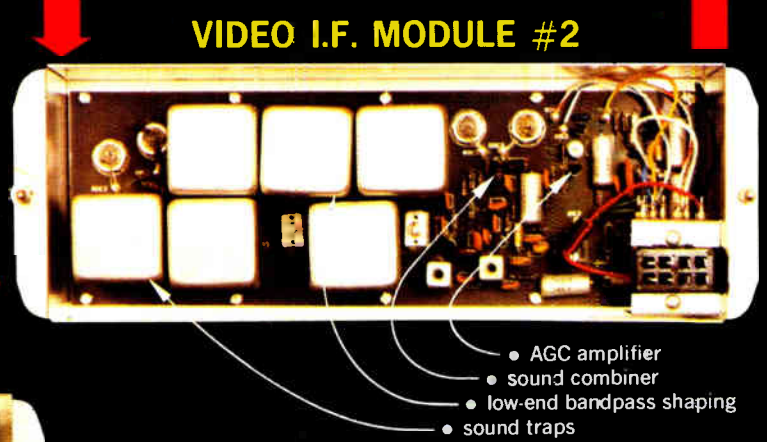
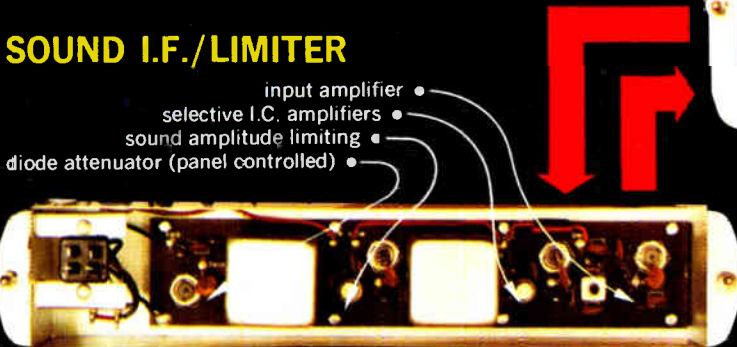
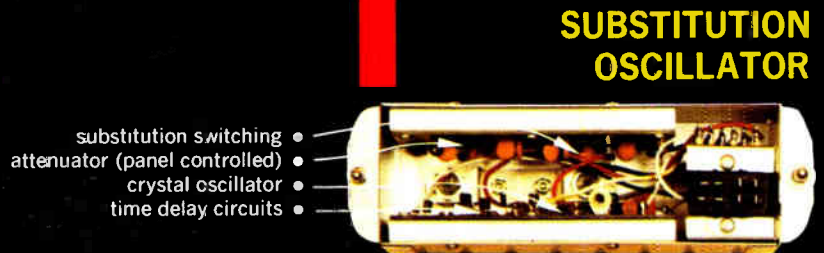
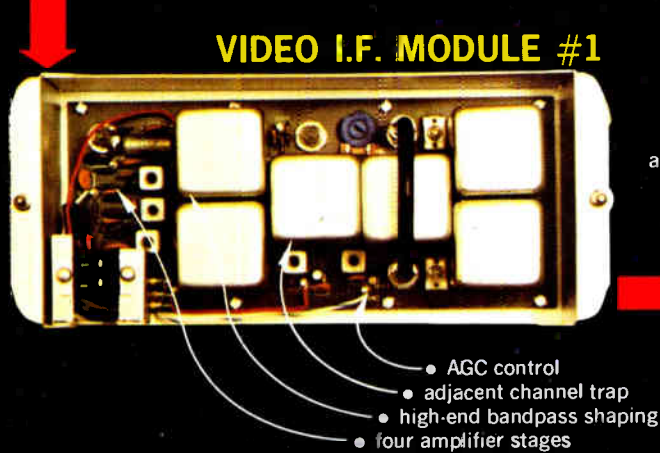
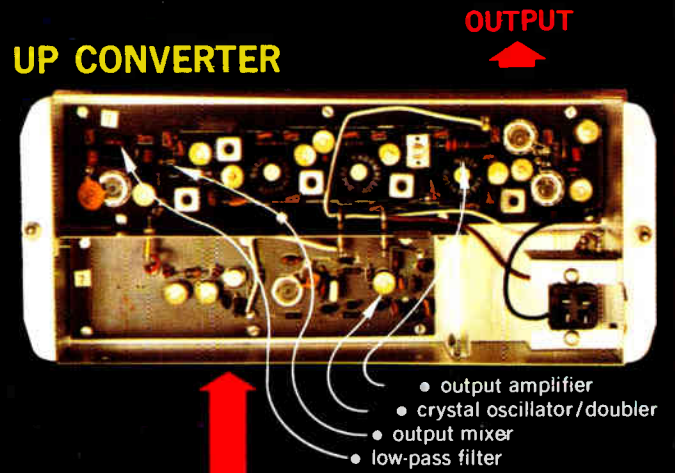
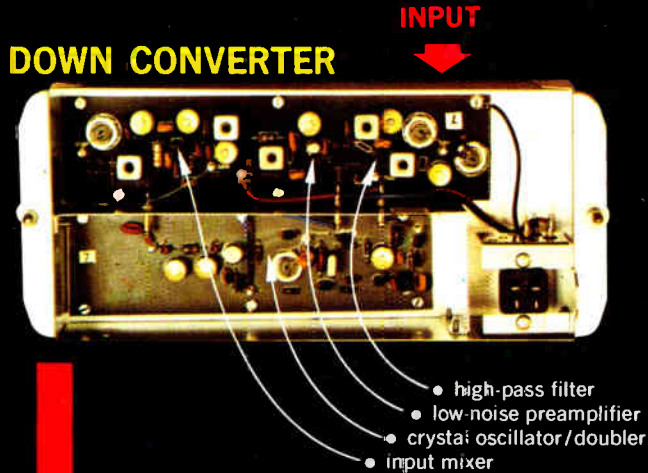
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Scranton franchise is won by novice CATV company, Verto Corp., in hard-fought battle. Objections by other bidder, city councilman, overruled by 4-1 council vote.

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| Spurious signals                    | 60 dB down minimum                            |
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| Weight                              | 19 pounds                                     |



Robert A. Searle  
Editor

## Viewpoint

### Big City Bidding

Another top-100 market has tumbled for cable television. The dispute over the franchise in Scranton, Pennsylvania has been going on for years; but the city council finally scrapped its differences long enough to award a permit. The constantly increasing publicity about CATV, the endorsement of the Justice Department, cable's emerging acceptance at the FCC—and perhaps especially the rapidly advancing technology of the industry make the bigger markets feel the pressure to make decisions on cable television.

The situation in Scranton points up some of the factors involved in those decisions—and although the subject has been discussed in this column before, it seems an appropriate moment to take another look at it. In Scranton, the hotly contested franchise went to the applicant offering the highest franchise fee—an applicant with experience in the coal and highway construction industries, but none in CATV. We do not mean to say that money was the only determining factor for the Scranton city council—or that Pagnatti Industries cannot build and operate a quality cable television system for the city. We do mean to say that, at least on its face, the Scranton award demonstrates some of the problems presented to applicants and city councils alike.

The danger is undeniably there—that a city council will see CATV first and foremost as a source of revenue. Faced with conflicting testimony on a highly technical subject, it is understandably tempting to let the dollar figure determine the winner—or, if all else seems relatively equal, to award the franchise to the “local fellows.” That's not necessarily bad . . . *if* the highest bidder and the local group is also the *best* applicant.

Cable franchise seekers have a dual obligation: responsible bidding and an honest educational effort with city governments. Unreasonable escalation of bids—no matter how desirable the market—only hurts the industry, and the evils of that practice are so widely known that they need no repeating. Just as harmful, although not felt as quickly, is a “bad” franchise award. It can tie up a market literally for years with little or no construction going on but with the city so firmly committed to one “franchise” that no one else can get in. Or perhaps construction *is* under way—but a poor-quality system is the result. (And the industry has enough of a black eye with poor systems in some small communities . . . it can't afford it in the big cities.) Or perhaps the system is technically adequate, but not offering the maximum in services to its subscribers. The new demands of the FCC on local origination are just the beginning; cable systems going in today, especially in major metropolitan centers, are going to have to be run *professionally*. And if any city council doubts it, it is up to responsible cable operators to set the record straight.

To repeat, we are *not* saying Scranton's is necessarily a “bad” award. But the elements that can lead to a bad award were apparent. And they are apt to be factors in future awards in similar markets—unless responsible leadership is exerted from within the industry.

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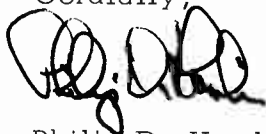
Maintenance is unbelievably low. One failure per hundred installations. Usually a power surge. No Tuner trouble.....much less than with the Set.

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# NAB Knocks Origination Ruling: Asks FCC for Stay, Reconsideration

Regulatory wind and AT&T induce General Telco into bending pole attachment and cable service restrictions. Significant because of GT&E's role as CATV operator.

In a move that had been expected for several weeks, General Telephone & Electronics Corp. last week brought its CATV policies into line with AT&T's new even-handed permissiveness in dealing with pole attachment agreements and telco restrictions on cable service.

AT&T moved and General Telco followed suit, primarily because the U.S. Supreme Court indirectly upheld the FCC's assertion of Section 214 jurisdiction, and the consequent policing of telco CATV policies by the Commission. The telcos have been involved in enough Section 214 challenges already to have read the prevailing regulatory wind and decided to relax their policies.

GT&E's action is doubly significant because it is also a CATV owner—AT&T can't own CATV systems under the terms of a consent decree. The new GT&E policies not only propose to treat all CATV firms the same, but say that the telco firms will not provide channel service or pole attachments to its own CATV affiliate in any area in the telco's operational radius if the facilities would duplicate existing CATV facilities.

## 'Same Opportunities'

GT&E vice president and general counsel Theodore F. Brophy in a letter to FCC Chairman Dean Burch last week said that the telco changed its policy to "assure that the same opportunities will be afforded *all* members of the cable television industry in General Telephone's operating territory whether the CATV operator elects to use pole attachments or telephone company channel services. We believe that adoption of this policy will eliminate the differences which have existed in the past between some members of the CATV industry and the General system and permit us all to move forward on a constructive basis."

GT&E will no longer restrict the use of extra channels for program origina-

tions, two-way communications or other lawful uses. Such restrictions will also be removed from GT&E leaseback tariffs, with the Commission's consent.

Like AT&T, Brophy stressed that pole attachment agreements will be granted to any franchised CATV operator who works out appropriate terms

## GT & E Relaxes CATV Restrictions On Pole Attachments, Cable Service

The National Association of Broadcasters, like the UHF organization All-Channel Television Society, last week asked the FCC to stay the effectiveness and reconsider its order on program origination and advertising by CATV.

## 'Guidance Appropriate'

The NAB said that there should be a "gradual and thoughtful development of CATV under statutes and rules designed to protect the public and to guarantee the continued vitality of free present television." Instead, the NAB charged, the Commission "has chosen to plunge head-long into a whole new system of communications without either the facts or the benefit of Congressional guidance in areas where such guidance is appropriate."

Reviving the claim that broadcasters have been making for years about both pay television and cable operators, the NAB said that the danger of siphoning off of program material "is very real and very immediate" and might mean that "the public will be required to pay for the very programming it now receives free, and certain segments of the public—the urban poor, low-income and fixed income groups, rural populations and persons living in remote areas—may well lose all existing television service."

Repeating some of the arguments it used earlier in attacking the Justice

with GT&E. On the question of cable ducts, GT&E said that CATV firms will be allowed to connect to CATV channel service provided by the telco in cable ducts or else the telco will install the CATV's own facilities in those ducts, subject to the availability of space. The new telco policy also stressed that all CATV facilities must be removed at the cable firm's expense if the CATV operator should lose its franchise or if the facilities cease to be used as bona fide CATV facilities.

The new GT&E policy apparently was worked out at a recent telco board meeting.

Department's encouragement of CATV programming (see *CATV* Dec. 1, 1969), the NAB said that a lack of firm Commission control over CATV ownership and programmers could result in "transmitting into the home borderline pornography, deceptive and irresponsible advertising, subversive propaganda, the outpourings of the lunatic fringe and the appearance of countless others whose appearances and messages have thus far been minimized by the broadcasters' responsibility to program within the public interest standards of the Communications Act and the NAB's Codes of Good Practice."

## Mafia, 'X' Rated Movies

Pushing its imagination to the limit, the NAB said that "if tomorrow the Mafia were to acquire control of a CATV system (or even to lease one of its channels) for the purpose of exhibiting movies rated as 'X,' or for the advertising of some illicit product or service, the Commission would not even know that this was happening, and it would be helpless to stop it."

The NAB said that the FCC "has plunged into the highly complex field of CATV program originations and common carrier operations . . . deferring to some vague future date the adoption of rules and regulatory policies covering a host of problems therein."

# CRTC Bars Immigrant Microwave Signals: Urges Cable TV to Network Programming

Canadian Commission bars distant signal imports from the U. S.; will refuse to grant such license applications. In same move, Commission urges establishment of microwave "networks."

In line with the Canadian Radio-Television Commission's "All Canadian Broadcasting" policy, the agency has refused to approve importation of "distant signals" from the U. S. and has outlawed the use of microwave for relaying "off the air reception."

In the same move, the Commission encouraged CATV systems to network their own programming.

According to a public announcement, the CRTC "will not license broadcasting receiving undertakings (CATV) based on the use of microwave or other technical systems, for the wholesale importation of programs from distant U.S. stations and thereby the enlargement of the Canadian audience and market areas of U. S. networks or stations."

In the opinion of the CRTC the signal importation would represent a "serious threat" to Canadian broadcasting "within a few years."

The Commission noted that it will accelerate its planning studies and will

consult with broadcasters, including cablemen and other interested parties, to determine the most effective way of achieving continuing development of cable TV in Canada in harmony with the rest of broadcasting.

The CRTC said "such a development should include all regions of the country including those where cable broadcasting is not now available such as the interior of British Columbia, parts of the prairies, Ontario and Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces.

This development along the East-West axis is imperative to the public interest, said the agency.

In return for the CATV turn-down the CRTC announced it will give "particular attention" to the question of "creating networks of cable systems to help develop original programming." However, these networks will be for *only* Canadian programming and will exclude off-the-air channel signals.

Cable TV in Canada is a large

industry that has in recent months had rapid growth. Of the 4 million urban households in Canada, 926,000 were subscribing to cable television on Sept. 1, 1969—almost one in four. This represents an annual growth rate of 45 percent since Sept. 1968, according to figures released by the CRTC.

The Commission has noted the uneven CATV growth within the country. In British Columbia, every second household subscribes to CATV, but in Newfoundland, or in Nova Scotia, not one in 200 is on the cable. The average system in the Maritimes or in regional Quebec has only slightly more than 1,000 subscribers. In southwestern Ontario the average is over 5,000. On a nationwide basis, the average system has 2,900 subscribers and grosses \$150,000 a year in subscriber fees.

The CRTC also released other data assembled by *The Financial Post* 1969-70 survey of markets on size of cable systems in Canada. Seven  
*(Continued on page 20)*

## MEETING CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

9-10—Jerrold Technical Training Cable Television Seminar. Holiday Inn, Marion, Ohio. For further information contact J. Lerman, Jerrold Electronics.

### JANUARY

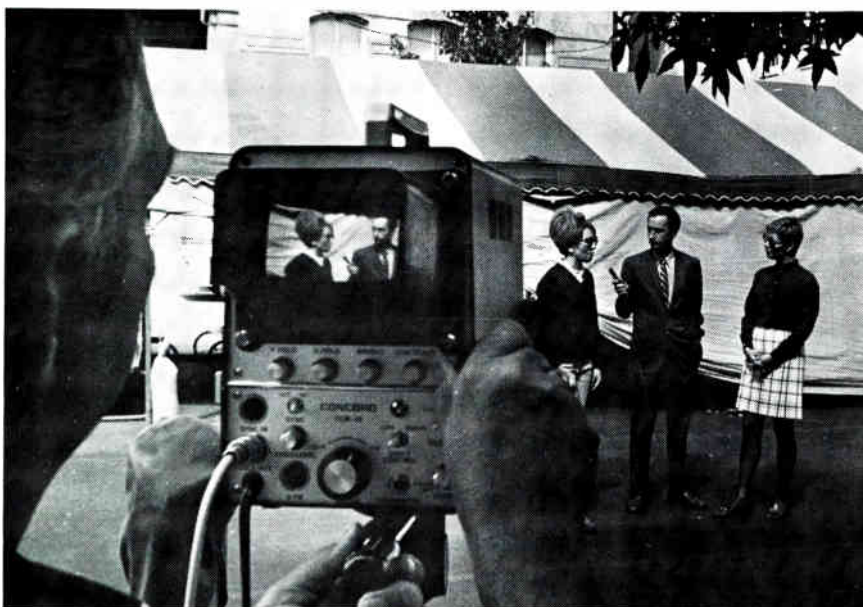
8-10—Rocky Mountain Cable Television Association Annual Meeting. Safari Motel, Phoenix, Ariz.

16-17—Georgia Cable Television Association Annual Meeting. Gordon Hotel, Albany, Ga.

26-30—Seminar on Supervisory Development. National Cable Television Center, J. Orvis Keller Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.

### FEBRUARY

2-4—Workshop for Middle Management Personnel. National Cable Television Center, Pennsylvania State University, J. Orvis Keller Building, University Park, Pa.



First live cablecast by Cable Productions Inc., Crawfordsville, Ind. features "Gatorade Girls" from the Indiana Dept. of Tourism who participate in the Indiana "Mardi Gras Days." Pictured are left to right Myron Pattison, Cable Productions manager, Jack Cunningham, Kathy Hermann and Ellen Record.



# Novice Cable TV Company Acquires Sought-Over Scranton Franchise

Despite objections from opposing firm and councilman, novice Verto Corp. shuts out CATV veterans in hotly-disputed battle over rights of 69th market, Scranton franchise.

The hotly disputed CATV franchise for the city of Scranton Pennsylvania has finally been awarded to Verto Corp. a newcomer to the CATV industry.

Despite objections of Telecable Corp. of Norfolk, Va. the City council has "duly executed and properly approved" the proceeding—which is now all but complete, pending signing of documents. Completion is expected within the next week to 10 days.

## Franchise Fee Incorporated

Aside from formalities, it appears certain that Verto Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Pagnatti Enterprises, and a novice CATV operator, will operate a cable TV facility in the city of approximately 100,000 people. The city has already incorporated the franchise fee of \$50,000, and the minimum first year Verto payment into its fiscal budget.

Scranton is market number 69 on the 1967 ARB listing, which the FCC has adopted as a basis for structuring its decisions. Telecable's first try to nix the franchise award was an injunction, but the objection was refused by the courts. Telecable later filed an equity action which has not yet been before the court.

Also adding fuel to the heat of the battle was the objection of councilman James Doherty who cast the lone vote against Verto. Doherty's prime objection was that a CATV firm would do harm to existing news media. He said that the council had by-passed its own rules and that the Verto bid "failed to include financial information on its parent firm Pagnatti Enterprises" and added that "CATV can lead to pay TV."

Pagnatti Enterprises owns Pagnatti Coal Co. and various construction operations. The Scranton system will be the company's first venture into the CATV business.

James Tedesco, president of Verto, said that construction would begin

within 30 days after the agreements with the city council and with the telephone company for pole attachments are finalized. He said that the city council has given the firm a year and one-half to complete the system, after beginning construction.

The Verto organization is based, along with parent, Pagnatti Enterprises, in West Pittsford, Pa. Officers of the cable firm are Tedesco, Louis Pagnatti Jr., secretary and Robert Fidati, treasurer.

## Top Market Limitations

Because of the top-100 market status, the cable firm will carry only three off-the-air network commercial channels, one ETV channel and of course have local origination. Payments to the city will amount to a minimum of \$10,000 the first year, \$15,000 the second year and \$20,000 thereafter.

Other CATV firms listed in the final bidding were Telecable Corp., Time-Life, and Northeastern Cable TV Company.

## Canadian Government Issues New Ownership Direction

Canadian Secretary of State Gerard Pelletier has announced that the government has by decree abandoned the requirement that Canadian ownership be restricted to three tiers of corporate ownership between the licensee and Canadian citizens, although the government still restricts foreign ownership to 20 percent.

Effect of the direction will hit home with Canadian cable TV since the industry is defined as a "broadcasting undertaking." However, CATVers were not alarmed because much of the forced ownership divestiture has already taken place—the "20 percent" decree having been passed over a year ago.

The government decree was in the

form of a direction to the CRTC and is in keeping with the "all-Canadian broadcasting system," which has become the country's policy. Abandoning the three-tier requirement is intended to make voting shares available to Canadian citizens generally and to broaden the base of Canadian public ownership of broadcasting.

Re-definition of "eligible Canadian corporation", was one major change in the directive. The term was re-defined to permit licensing of corporations without share capital in addition to those with share capital.

The decision of the government was made after a detailed study of the views of the CRTC, holders of broadcast licenses, and spokesmen for investors.

Financial intermediaries such as pension funds, trust funds, mutual life investors, credit associations, certain mutual funds and other non-share corporate entities may be permitted by the CRTC to invest in broadcasting and cable companies, thus increasing the possible sources of funds for the industry.

In order to overcome the difficulty of

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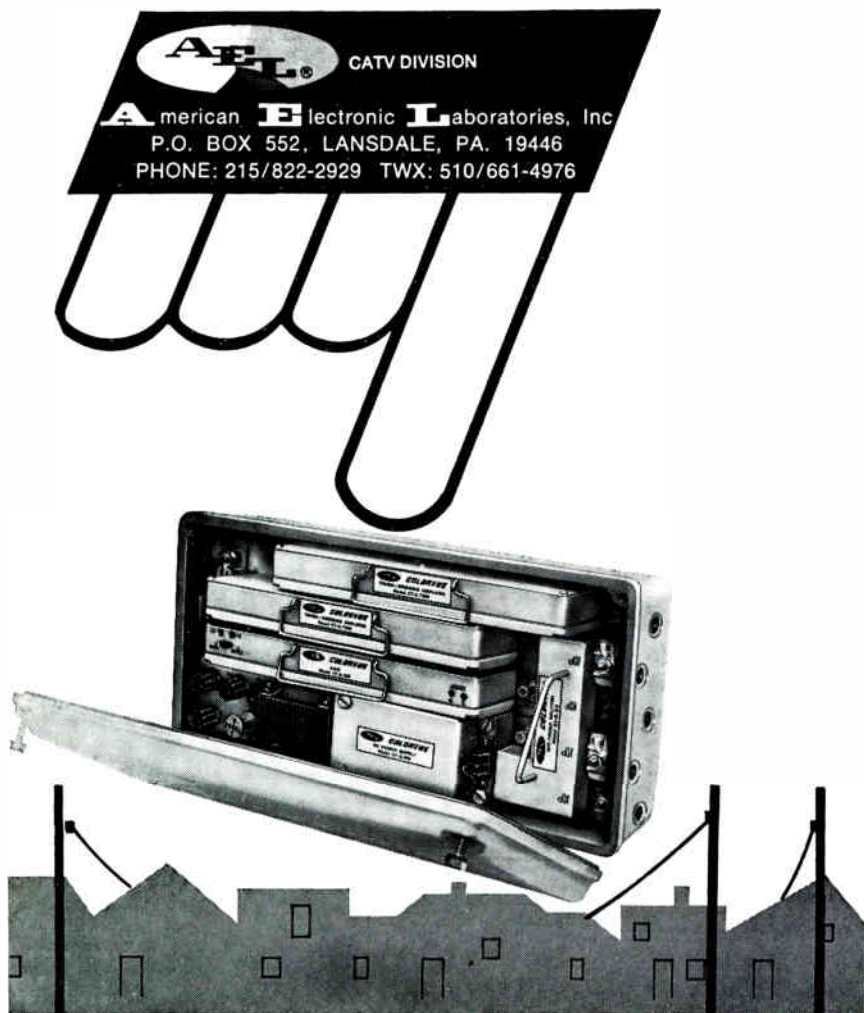
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recording and analyzing small shareholdings. the CRTC will also be allowed to accept just a company statement as evidence of the Canadian ownership of one percent or less of such shares.

"Finally," Mr. Pelletier observed, "the new direction is evidence of the government's continuing determination to maintain and assure Canadian control and ownership in the broadcasting industry, which has been the unswerving policy of Canadian governments for the past 35 years."

### **Commission Allows Signals For Pre-1969 Subscribers**

The FCC has prohibited the carriage by a Toledo, Ohio, CATV system of any Detroit-Windsor, Ontario, television signals on any cable not constructed and put into operation before Feb. 2, 1968.

Buckeye Cablevision Inc., long prominent in cable tangles with the Commission over its regulatory policies, was told, however, that "delivery of Detroit-Windsor signals from feeder and distribution cable built after Feb. 2, 1968, but completed and in operation on or before Dec. 24, 1968, to CATV subscribers whose service began on or before Dec. 24, 1968, may be continued."

In other words, the February 2 cut-off date applies to any subscriber that may be added now, but those subscribers who were given the forbidden signals before December 24 may continue to receive them.

Buckeye Cablevision's chief antagonist in the case is WDHO-TV in Toledo, a UHF outlet owned by D. H. Overmeyer Telecasting Co., which has consistently (since 1967) fought Buckeye Cablevision's importation of the signals.

In requesting a "show cause" order against the cable firm, Overmeyer claimed that the number of subscribers to the CATV system had risen from 5,000 on Nov. 22, 1967, to 9,200 by the end of April 1968, and that Buckeye Cablevision had added a substantial amount of feeder cable after Feb. 5, 1968.

The Commission said that there "no longer remains even the slightest excuse for any further violations."



## On Capitol Hill

### Licensing Testimony, Conference: Glimpse of "New FCC" Character

*CATV Washington Bureau*—Some of the character of the "new FCC"—meaning the Commission under new Chairman Dean Burch and with new Commissioner Robert Wells—began to emanate last week as the Commission gave testimony on broadcast licensing before Sen. John O. Pastore (D-R.I.) and his Senate Communications Subcommittee. Some of those same emerging points were touched on by Burch in a press conference at the FCC the following day.

### Foresight for CATV Recommended

The licensing testimony was on Pastore's S2004, legislation that would forbid competing applications for existing stations until and unless the Commission had found the existing licensee unfit. NCTA president Frederick W. Ford urged the cable industry to support this legislation as bringing a measure of stability to broadcasting. CATV systems, said Ford, might conceivably wind up in a position where they would want the same assurance of operating stability that broadcasters are striving for in the Pastore bill.

Before Burch and Wells joined the Commission, Chairman Rosel Hyde and Commissioner James J. Wadsworth were in the 6-1 majority. A majority still opposes the bill as taking too much power away from the FCC and giving broadcasters too much immunity to public challenge. But now the lineup is 4-3, with Burch and Wells plugging *for* the bill.

### Ownership Divorcement: Not Complete

The situation isn't as clear-cut as that, however. In an extremely unusual, if not unprecedented action, all seven members of the FCC made separate statements, outlining a wide variety of views. In fact, some of those who oppose the bill seem to agree with others who support it—both recommend compromise positions that would allow the FCC to judge whether a challenge application should be accepted for comparative hearing in individual cases. It is a compromise position that may well be adopted by Pastore and his subcommittee.

In many ways, Burch at his press conference made his position even clearer, though he stressed his situation as a relative tyro at communications regulation. He stressed his classically conservative belief in competition as a prime regulator. The question which elicited that response mentioned the Microwave Communications Inc. challenges to the common carrier giants.

While he mentioned CATV only in passing, noting that it is an area that still demands many decisions, he also strongly affirmed his belief that any ownership restrictions on cross-media holdings should be imposed as a matter of Commission rulemaking, and not on a case-by-case basis. He stressed that if one were designing a media ownership plan, one might forbid newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership. But, he insisted, the Commission has to deal realistically with a situation that has grown organically.

### Compromise Positions Recommended

Without saying so, and emphasizing that he hasn't made up his mind, he appeared to lean significantly toward a regulatory attitude that won't demand absolute media ownership divorce-ment. That attitude is extremely important to the cable industry as well as to broadcasting, and the FCC in the not-too-distant future is going to have to decide on ownership restrictions for CATV and other local media.

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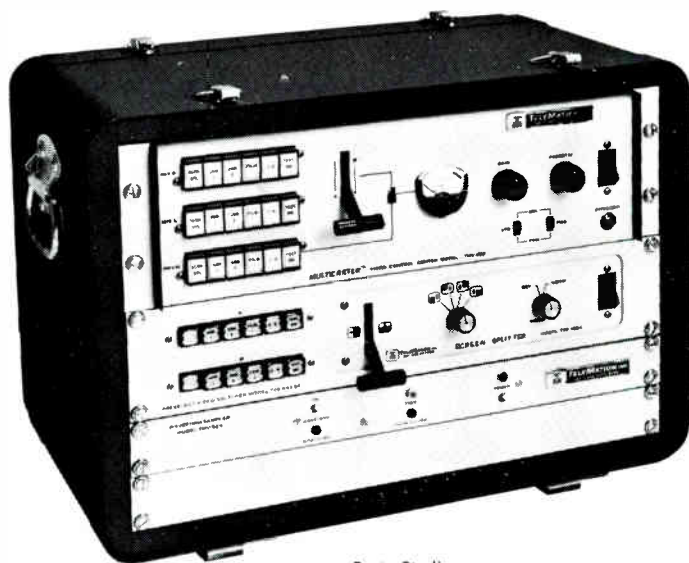


TMM-300 Message Channel

Then there's PORTA-STUDIO™, an easy way to carry a complete EIA studio control package. The case is durable molded

fiberglass with metal frame for maximum portability, and serves as a 19" rack for various components like a video control center, screen splitter, waveform sampler, monitors and audio mixers.

A PORTA-STUDIO™ equipped with a MULTICASTER™ Video Control Center accepts up to six cameras, video tape recorders



Porta-Studio

or other video sources, and permits synchronous switching. MULTICASTER™ can also provide a common EIA sync generator, three outputs at full EIA/FCC broadcast standards, intercom and tally light switching, and master pedestal and gain controls. A

TSE-100A Screen Splitter gives you split screen and corner inserts and the TMV-529 Waveform Sampler lets you set-up your video sources without expensive waveform monitors.

Our line is the most complete. The furthest ahead. As for what's on the board now, we'll tell you in the next few months. **TALK TO TELEMATION. (The Propheteers)**

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## Moving Up

*William N. Johnson*, has been appointed chief engineer of Mobile Television Productions, Inc., San Jose, California, and is supervising reconstruction of that company's color mobile television production unit. Johnson was formerly chief engineer of television at San Jose State College and maintenance engineer with Kaiser Broadcasting KBIK-TV, Channel 44 in San Francisco.

*John Mosler* has been elected chairman and chief executive officer of Bell Television, Inc., which owns CATV and closed circuit TV stations.

Cole, Zylstra and Raywid have announced that *Burt A. Braverman* and *Robert L. James* have become associated with the firm.

*Cliff Boettcher* has been named chief engineer of Ken-Tel Equipment Com-

pany. Boettcher was formerly chief engineer of Midwest Utility Plow & Equipment Corp., Appleton, Wisconsin.



New manufacturer's representatives for the Columbia Electronic Cables, Division of Avnet, lines of electronic wire, cable and cord sets have been appointed. *Louis W. Keller & Associates*, North Bellmore, New York, will represent Columbia in New York City, Long Island, Westchester County and northern New Jersey. The firm of

*Coakley, Boyd & Abbett*, Needham, Massachusetts, will cover New England for the cable firm. In western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, *Nebco Associates*, Monroeville, Pennsylvania, will represent the firm's line of wire cable and cord sets for the electronics industry.

The Idaho Cable Television Association has elected *Johnnie Cline*, Cable TV of Burley, president; *Fred Jenkins*, Alturas Cable TV, Hailey, vice president; and *Albert (Bud) Cain*, Teleview Antenna System, Osborne, secretary. Directors of the new association are *Royce Asher*, *Darrel Brocke*, *Gene Peet* and *Ken Walker*.

The Colorado Cable Television Association has elected *Tom Worster*, Grand Junction, president; *Fred McElroy*, Colorado Springs, vice president; and *Bill Brazeal*, Denver, will complete his two-year term as secretary-treasurer. New directors for the association are *John Morrissey*, Durango; *Richard McDonald*, Sterling; *Ronald Tiguel*, Scotts Bluff; and *Pete Ruiz*, Trinidad.

## Franchise Activity

**FLORIDA:** Okeechobee County: Americable, Inc. has asked the board of county commissioners for a franchise. The firm is offering a 20-channel capacity system.

**GEORGIA:** Cartersville and Bartow County: John Oscher and William Stocks have each submitted franchise bids to the city council for the area.

**INDIANA:** Elwood: The city council has given third and final reading to an ordinance granting a franchise to H & B American Corp. Franchise fee for the proposed 12 video channel system has been set at 3% of the gross revenue. . . .

**Fowler:** The town board has adopted a resolution extending to October 14, 1970, a franchise granted a year ago to Total Communications Co.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Leicester: The town selectmen have granted a franchise to Parker Cablevision, Inc. of Worcester.

Rates have been set at \$5 installation; \$5.95 monthly. . . . **Milford:** Greater Milford Cable Antenna TV, Inc., a subsidiary of Amvideo Corp., has been awarded a franchise by the town selectmen.

**NEW JERSEY:** Mansfield Township: The township committee has tentatively agreed to grant a non-exclusive franchise to CATV Service Co. of Hackettstown. Franchise fee has been set at 3 percent of the gross revenues with rates at \$10 installation; \$4.85 monthly.

**NEW MEXICO:** Aztec: The San Juan county commission has given tentative approval to Farmington Cable TV to run its cables across county streets to enable the firm to initiate a pilot project. The commission pointed out that an actual franchise must be obtained from the community before a system could be operational there.

**OREGON:** Coburg: The city council has granted a 20-year franchise to Liberty Television Cable Co., a division of KEZI-TV.

**CRTC LICENSES:** (All for two years) **British Columbia:** Telesis Development Co., Ltd. for Gold River and Tahsis . . . National Cablevision, Ltd. for Maple Ridge and Mission . . . Merritt Cablevision, Ltd. for Merritt . . . Alberni Cable Television, Ltd. for Port Alberni.

**Ontario:** George E. Young, M.D. for Chapleau . . . Geroy Radio and Television, Ltd. for Manitowadge . . . Noram Cable Construction, Ltd. for Orangeville . . . Quinte Cablevision, Ltd. for Picton.

**Quebec:** Cablevision de l'Est, Inc. for Ayers Cliff . . . Transvision Cookshire, Inc. for Cookshire . . . Transvision de Danville, Inc. for Danville . . . Transvision Disraeli, Inc. for Disraeli . . . Transvision (East Angus), Inc. for East Angus . . . Cablevision de l'Est, Inc. for Hermitage Club . . . Electro-Vision, Inc. for La Tugue . . . Transvision Magog, Inc. for Magog.

## System Construction

**ALABAMA:** TV Cable of Alabama, Inc. has announced plans to add two independent Atlanta channels to its previously 9 video channel system which serves Piedmont.

**CALIFORNIA:** Imperial Valley Cable Co. has announced plans to rebuild its 32-mile system which serves Brawley. The \$78,000 project is scheduled to be completed by March, 1970.

Community TV has announced that construction is scheduled to begin soon in Ft. Morgan.

WGN Televents of Palmdale has announced that construction is continuing in Lancaster. A relay station nearby is nearing completion so that Televents can offer subscribers 11 video channels.

**FLORIDA:** Florida Cablevision Corp. has reportedly spent more than \$350,000 since May to rebuild its sys-

tems which serve Indian River and St. Lucie counties. When completed with the project, about February, 1970, the firm will offer subscribers 9 video channels instead of the present five.

**INDIANA:** Logansport TV Cable Co. is nearing completion in the rebuild of its 10 video channel system which serves Logansport.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Greater Milford Cable Antenna TV, Inc. has announced that construction is presently under way in Milford.

**MISSOURI:** Hannibal Cable TV, Inc., an affiliate of General Communications, Inc., has announced plans to add five St. Louis channels to its system which serves Hannibal.

International Telemeter Corp. has announced that its system in Moberly will soon be energized.

**NEW MEXICO:** Lovington Antenna Co. has announced the addition of two independent Los Angeles channels to its previously 10 video channel system which serves subscribers in Lovington.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Telesonic Associates of Brookville has announced that hook-ups are presently under way in Emlenton. The firm is offering subscribers 9 video channels.

**WASHINGTON:** Teletronics, Inc. has announced that hook-ups are under way in Covington. Rates are \$10 installation; \$5.50 monthly.

**ONTARIO:** Burlington Cable TV, a division of Metro Cable TV, has announced plans to initiate local programming on its system which serves Burlington.

Macleam-Hunter Cable TV Ltd., parent firm of Guelph Cable TV, has offered free cable service to all Guelph public and private schools. The firm offers 11 video channels.

Construction is continuing in Hamilton according to Northgate Cable Co.

## Digest of Earnings

### ENTRON INC.

|               |           |           |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Year Dec. 31: | 1968      | 1967      |
| Share loss    | \$2.24    | \$1.30    |
| Net sales     | 2,018,828 | 1,848,683 |
| Net loss      | 1,361,468 | 789,579   |

The Plan to merge Entron Inc. and Spedcor Electronics Inc. are expected to be voted on this year by shareholders.

It has been reported that the Boston Herald-Traveler Corp., Entron's principal creditor, agreed to convert \$1.8 million of Entron debt into 79,200 new Entron shares.

Presently issued Entron shares are traded over the counter with recent shares worth \$350. New Entron shares are expected to be traded on the American Stock Exchange where Spedcor is traded.

Entron will be the surviving name of the merged organizations, but the present Spedcor board will make up the board of the surviving concern. Joseph Ross, president of Spedcor, will become president of the new Entron.

Terms of the merge as previously announced, in effect, call for an exchange of three Entron shares for one Spedcor share. In actual practice, each Spedcor share would be exchanged for one newly authorized Entron Common share. Holders of presently issued Entron shares would exchange three such shares for one newly authorized share.

## Industry Stocks

| Stock                 | Stock Exchange | This Week | Last Week | Year High | Year Low | Shares Outstanding |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| Ameco                 | AM             | 11 3/8    | 12 3/4    | 19 1/2    | 7 1/2    | 1,200,000          |
| Amer. Elec. Labs      | OTC            | 6 3/4     | 7 1/4     | 16 1/4    | 5 5/8    | 1,516,432          |
| Amer. TV & Comm.      |                | 18        | 18 5/8    | 19 1/2    | 11 7/8   | 1,775,101          |
| Avnet                 |                | 12        | 12 7/8    | 36 1/2    | 12       | 9,909,054          |
| Cable Info. Systems   | OTC            | 2 7/8     | 2 3/4     | 4 5/8     | 2 1/2    | 955,000            |
| Cablecom General      | AM             | 17 5/8    | 18 1/4    | 19 1/4    | 8 3/8    | 1,605,000          |
| Citizens Fin. Corp.   | AM             | 13 3/4    | 15        | 28 3/4    | 13 1/8   | 994,689            |
| Columbia Cable        | OTC            | 13 1/2    | 13 1/2    | 14 1/2    | 9        | 876,000            |
| Comm Properties       | OTC            | 8         | 7 3/8     | 10        | 4 1/2    | 644,621            |
| Cornelia Corp.        | OTC            | 7/8       | 7/8       | 6 1/4     | 7/8      |                    |
| Cox Cable Comm.       | OTC            | 19 1/2    | 16 1/4    | 24 3/4    | 13       | 3,550,000          |
| Cypress Comm.         | OTC            | 11        | 11 1/2    | 19 1/2    | 10       | 839,000            |
| Entron                | OTC            | 4 1/2     | 5 3/8     | 11 1/4    | 3 1/8    | 600,900            |
| Famous Players Ltd.   | C              | 13 3/4    | 14 3/4    | 19 1/4    | 13       | 6,948,000          |
| General Inst.         | NY             | 32        | 34 3/4    | 50 1/4    | 27 5/8   | 6,026,000          |
| Gulf + Western        | NY             | 19 3/4    | 20 5/8    | 53 1/2    | 19 3/4   | 15,120,860         |
| H&B American          | AM             | 24 3/4    | 25 1/8    | 27 3/8    | 13 5/8   | 4,972,589          |
| Kaufman & Broad, Inc. |                | 49 1/2    | 49 1/4    | 49 7/8    | 29 1/2   | 3,900,909          |
| Lamb Comm., Inc.      | OTC            | 6         | 5 3/8     | 10 1/2    | 3 1/4    | 2,468,284          |
| LVO Corp.             | NY             | 8 7/8     | 9         | 15        | 7 3/4    | 5,692,078          |
| Macleam-Hunter        | C              | 17 1/4    | 17 5/8    | 18 7/8    | 13       | 2,000,000          |
| Reeves                | AM             | 16 1/4    | 15 1/4    | 36        | 12 7/8   | 2,163,000          |
| Scientific-Atlanta    | AM             | 7 3/4     | 8         | 17 7/8    | 6 1/2    | 903,442            |
| SKL                   | OTC            | 4 3/4     | 5 1/2     | 8 1/4     | 3 1/2    | 550,000            |
| Sterling Comm.        | OTC            | 6         | 7 1/8     | 12 1/2    | 5 1/4    |                    |
| TeleMation Inc.       | OTC            | 24 1/2    | 30 1/2    | 30 1/2    | 14 1/2   | 1,086,735          |
| TelePrompTer          | AM             | 95        | 99 1/4    | 100       | 42 1/8   | 1,006,000          |
| TeleVision Comm.      | OTC            | 15 1/4    | 18 1/4    | 21        | 10 3/4   | 2,645,046          |
| Vikoa                 | AM             | 32 1/8    | 31 1/2    | 37 1/2    | 21 5/8   | 2,183,382          |

These are Wednesday closing prices supplied by Dempsey-Tegeler. AM = American Exchange; NY = New York Exchange; OTC = Over the Counter; C = Canadian Exchange.

## ATC Enters Top 40 CATV With System Acquisition

American Television & Communications Corp. has announced that it has agreed in principle to acquire, for an undisclosed amount of common stock, a "major investment position" in Capital Cable-Vision Systems, Inc., the company owning the franchise to construct and operate a cable television system in Albany, New York.

With a population of approximately 130,000, Albany, the capital of New York State, is considered one of the country's top 40 television markets.

Under terms of the agreement, ATC, which is the country's fourth largest cable television company, will become the largest stockholder of Capital Cable-Vision, which will continue to operate under the direction of Mr. Harold Gabrilove.

ATC recently announced the acquisition of operating cable television systems in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and in Sarasota County, Florida. Within the past month, it also was awarded franchises to construct and operate such

systems in Kissimmee, Florida, Stillwater, Oklahoma and Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

## Metro Stock Exchanges Approve Cable Listing

Lamb Communications, Inc. has announced that it will become a listed company on December 9th. The stock will be admitted to trading on the Philadelphia-Baltimore-Washington Stock Exchange, and on the associated Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Boston Exchanges. Presently, stock is traded in the Over-The-Counter market and it has approximately 3,000 stockholders.

The firm is a Toledo-based television station and multi-CATV system operator. It owns community antenna television systems in Flint, Hillsdale and Jonesville, Michigan, and WICU-TV in Erie, Pennsylvania, NBC affiliate.

For the fiscal year ending May 31, 1969, the firm showed a net profit of \$347,800 or 13.9 cents per share. Its income for the calendar year 1968 amounted to \$230,000.

## Equipment Firm Acquired By New Jersey Company

William H. Oler, president, Ken-Tel Equipment Company, a subsidiary of The Okonite Company, has announced the acquisition of Midwest Utility Plow and Equipment Corp. of Appleton, Wisconsin.

Ken-Tel Equipment Company manufactures the "Stitcher", a self-propelled, hydraulically-controlled vibratory plow. Midwest produces a line of heavy duty plows for underground cable and utility installation.

Standley P. Balcomb, vice president and general manager of Midwest, has been named vice president and general manager of Ken-Tel and Clifford T. Boettcher, also of Midwest, will be chief engineer. David O. Creasman has been engaged as a consultant and Grady G. Marler will continue as the national independent sales representative.

## \$3 Million System Planned by Texas MSO

Communications Properties Inc., has filed an application with the Jackson, Miss., (pop. 175,000) City Council for a franchise to build a CATV system in this city.

The Austin, Texas, based MSO's proposal stated that the company was in partnership with a group of six Jackson businessmen.

John W. Barksdale of Jackson, has been named president of Jackson Communications Services Inc., which will be held 50 percent by CPI and 50 percent by the local group.

Local personnel will be used for operation of the \$3 million project, if the council approves the application, CPI president Jack R. Crosby stated.

The Mississippi application, Crosby said, is the first of a series of franchise applications by the firm.

The firm recently acquired ten systems in Texas, adding them to three it held when the company was founded in 1968. It also holds a 51 percent interest in the franchise to build a CATV system in Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas.

It also owns 32 percent of Crosswick Industries, Inc., which is building a CATV system in Eastern New Jersey.

Ship To: Cable T.V. Inc.

| QUANTITY | PART NO. | DESCRIPTION          |
|----------|----------|----------------------|
| 500      | DX-5     | Matching Transformer |
| 250      | D-59GB   | Grounding Block      |
| 1000     | DF-59    | "F" Connector        |
| 200      | DF-81    | "F" Splice           |
| 100      | DF-59T   | "F" Terminator       |

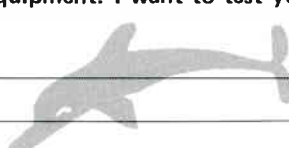
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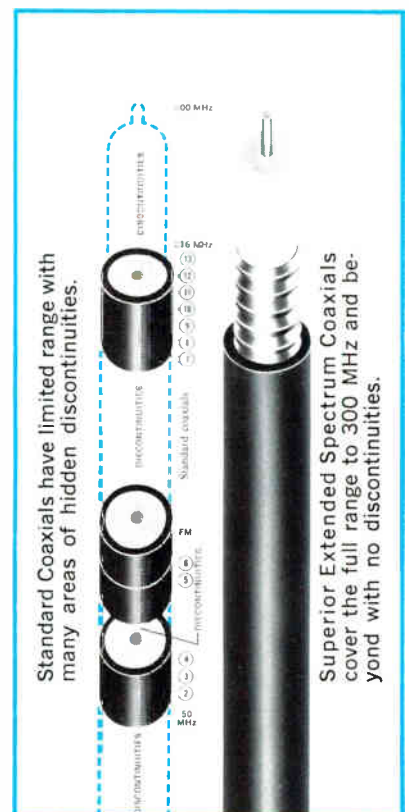
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## CRTC Bars Signal Import

(Continued from page 8)

Canadian systems have over 30,000 subscribers—larger than any U. S. system. At least 20 systems gross over half a million dollars per year. A wide range has been noted by the CRTC which said, "If 63 of the 317 systems are above the national average of 2,900 subscribers, 254 are below average and 87 have less than 200 subscribers."

At present, 35 systems are offering locally originated programs by cable. Programs carried by the systems include films, bingo games, local educational TV programs provided by local authorities, studio disc jockey shows, council meetings and talks by the mayor.

## FCC's CATV 'Policy Reversal' Slight UHF, Says Acts

The All-Channel Television Society last week asked the FCC to reconsider its First Report and Order encouraging program origination and advertising by cable television.

In a filing signed by the UHF tele-

vision organization's general counsel, Martin Firestone, ACTS argued that the Commission adopted "one of its momentous decisions within the past decade" without proper research and evaluation. The society claimed that the FCC is effectually "reversing its prior policy of encouraging the development of free, over-the-air television services; particularly, UHF television service in the medium and small television markets."

The filing continued: "Of great and immediate concern to ACTS is not only what the Commission has authorized but the manner in which it has issued its authorization. Despite the momentous impact the First Report and Order will have on the development of the entire national television distribution system, it is a document based on limited factual data (as the Commission itself admits), replete with unsupported conclusory statements." ACTS said the Report and Order "either fails to really consider recognized immediate issues and questions or fends such consideration off to some future and unspecified period of time."

ACTS did make this concession: "Admittedly, the discussion of the impact of CATV program and commercial origination on free, over-the-air television has been heretofore hypothetical and somewhat conjectural. But, this has been due to the fact that although some 200 CATV systems were engaged in such practices even before the Commission authorized such activities, the experience of most broadcasters, the public and the Commission with the consequences of these activities was limited."

The filing mentioned the San Diego case, in which program origination was authorized but advertising forbidden. ACTS said the FCC apparently has abandoned that experiment.

ACTS said that the FCC's "regulatory behavior toward CATV systems has been that of reaction rather than action, hesitancy, lack of initiative and action which is not only too little and too late but which merely confirms and legitimates that which had previously occurred without Commission authorization, direction or supervision."

The filing stated that "it appears that

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The Originator of Time/Weather Equipment for Cable Television.

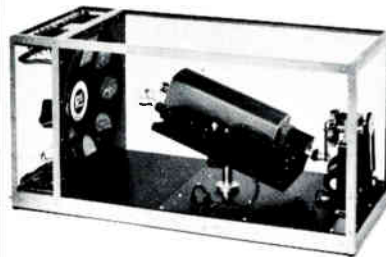


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The economy-minded all-purpose unit. Available with up to 7 gauges, plus many camera and message options. Specify it to suit your budget. Base price (less stand) is \$2,475.

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the Commission has become bemused, if not blinded, by the technology of the CATV industry. The technology is there, the channel capacity of CATV systems is there, thus they must be used, and used quickly. All other considerations can be deferred and dealt with later."

## FCC Allows Microwave To Feed Illinois System

The FCC review board, upholding an initial August, 1968 decision by hearing

examiner Gifford Irion, has granted applications by Video Service Co. for microwave stations to transmit the signal of WGN-TV in Chicago to Danville Community Antenna System Inc. in Danville, Ill.

The Commission itself originally granted the applications in May, 1966, but allowed a request for reconsideration that was filed by Midwest Television Inc., licensee of WCIA in Champaign, Ill.

Midwest said that neither Video Service nor Danville Community

Antenna had been granted a waiver of the Commission's top-100 rules, in effect at that time. Midwest disputed the cable firm's contention that its service had begun before the rules became effective, and were thus grandfathered, and that the signal of WGN-TV was nonetheless visible off-the-air in Champaign, part of the country's 75th largest TV market.

Hearing examiner Irion ruled in favor of the CATV firm on the issues, and now the FCC review board has backed his decision.

## Classified Advertising

Rate for classifieds is 25 cents per word for advertising obviously of a non-commercial nature. Add \$1.00 for Box Number and reply service, per issue. Advance payment is required; minimum order is \$10.00. Deadline for all classifieds is two weeks before publication.

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### NORTHWEST MSO

New Pacific Northwest MSO possessing 4 franchises with 10,000 subscriber potential requires expansion capital. First portion of plant operating. Substantial construction started. Write CATV Weekly, Dept. W-129-2. Telephone: 206-631-4255.

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Requires ability to organize and direct the activities of others and administer technical phases of system operations along corporate guidelines.

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### SYSTEM MANAGER FOR LONG ISLAND

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### CHIEF TECHNICIAN

New system under construction in medium sized southern Alabama resort town needs chief technician to supervise construction and work into manager's position. Excellent growth opportunity for aggressive young man, including eventual ownership interest. Reply to CATV Weekly, Dept. W109-3.

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### CATV FRANCHISE

The city of Winfield, Kansas, is accepting proposals for a CATV franchise until 8:00 a.m. December 15, 1969, at which time all proposals will be opened publicly by the Mayor. Additional information may be obtained by writing to the Office of the City Manager, P.O. Box 646, Winfield, Kansas 67156.

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## profile of a leader



### SCOT WALLACE BERGREN

*Born in Seattle, Washington, March 11, 1941. He attended the University of Washington, graduated in 1963; earned his M.B.A. from the University of California in 1965. For eight years was a partner in a landscape irrigation enterprise in Seattle. Became involved in CATV as a student. After graduation and six-month active stint with Coast Guard, joined Tele-Vue Systems, Inc. which was later sold to CBS. At present is General Manager, Television Signal Corp. in San Francisco; responsible for Tele-Vue marketing; Vice President of young MSO Com-West. Active sportsman and sports fan, he is "Big Brother" to David, 12.*

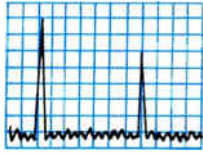
Mountain skiing and ocean fishing . . . flying to Lake Tahoe and hiking in the Canadian San Juans. A California home, and bachelorhood. Responsibility for an important segment of an aggressive young industry . . . and the titles and prestige that go along. It sounds like the good life . . . and you would not likely get an argument on that score from Scot Wallace Bergren, who lives it.

But those are just the high spots. Behind the image of smooth success is the forceful personality and ambition that brought Scot to where he is and which ensure his future. He lightly dismisses the many CATV hats he wears; "in many young, small industries, titles are not hard to come by," he says. But the respect accorded him by his older colleagues in the industry—and the very real successes of his ventures—are proof enough that Scot's position is no fluke.

Son of CATV pioneer Homer Bergren, Scot's early interest in cable television was a natural. In fact, he wrote his master's thesis on the subject. But ivory towers will never be his *forte*; besides the desk-work research, he was out on the job "grunting for a fiery black-haired foreman by the name of Bob Brown." He learned still more about CATV basics while assisting Bill Schiller as he took over operation of a system at Thousand Oaks, California. While most of his fellow classmates were still thinking exclusively about their books, Scot and some capable partners joined forces to seek franchises in the Bay area. And by the time he had graduated and served a six-month stint of active duty in the Coast Guard, he had an operating cable system. He and his partners did "come close to starving," he is careful to note; but they reached break-even at 600 subscribers.

Shortly thereafter he joined Tele-Vue Systems, Inc. (now a wholly owned subsidiary of CBS network), with the responsibility for the Antioch-Pittsburg, California operation . . . and with the opportunity to try out new ideas in billing, in marketing, in personnel, in paper flow and in many other areas of business operation. Scot's marketing techniques (which he claims originated in eight years of selling landscape irrigation to Seattle residents) proved out experimentally, and he has now been assigned marketing responsibility for all of Tele-Vue's West Coast operations. In addition, he is General Manager of the San Francisco system, Television Signal Corp., charged with finding the answers to the familiar problems that plague a major metropolitan market with strong off-air reception. Still another hat he wears is that of Vice-President of Com-West, a young MSO composed primarily of Tele-Vue employees. With Com-West, he's developing franchises in Minnesota and Oklahoma . . . and a joint venture with CBS and McClatchy Broadcasting in California's Sacramento Valley.

Rising Aries is his zodiac sign; and if the astrology books can be trusted, Scot Bergren is the perfect example of the energy and enthusiasm of that sign.



# It Beats As It Sweeps As It Cleans

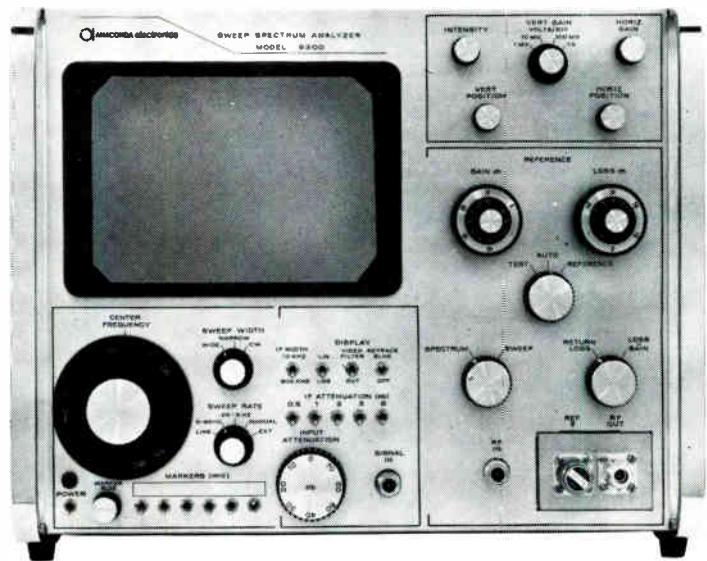
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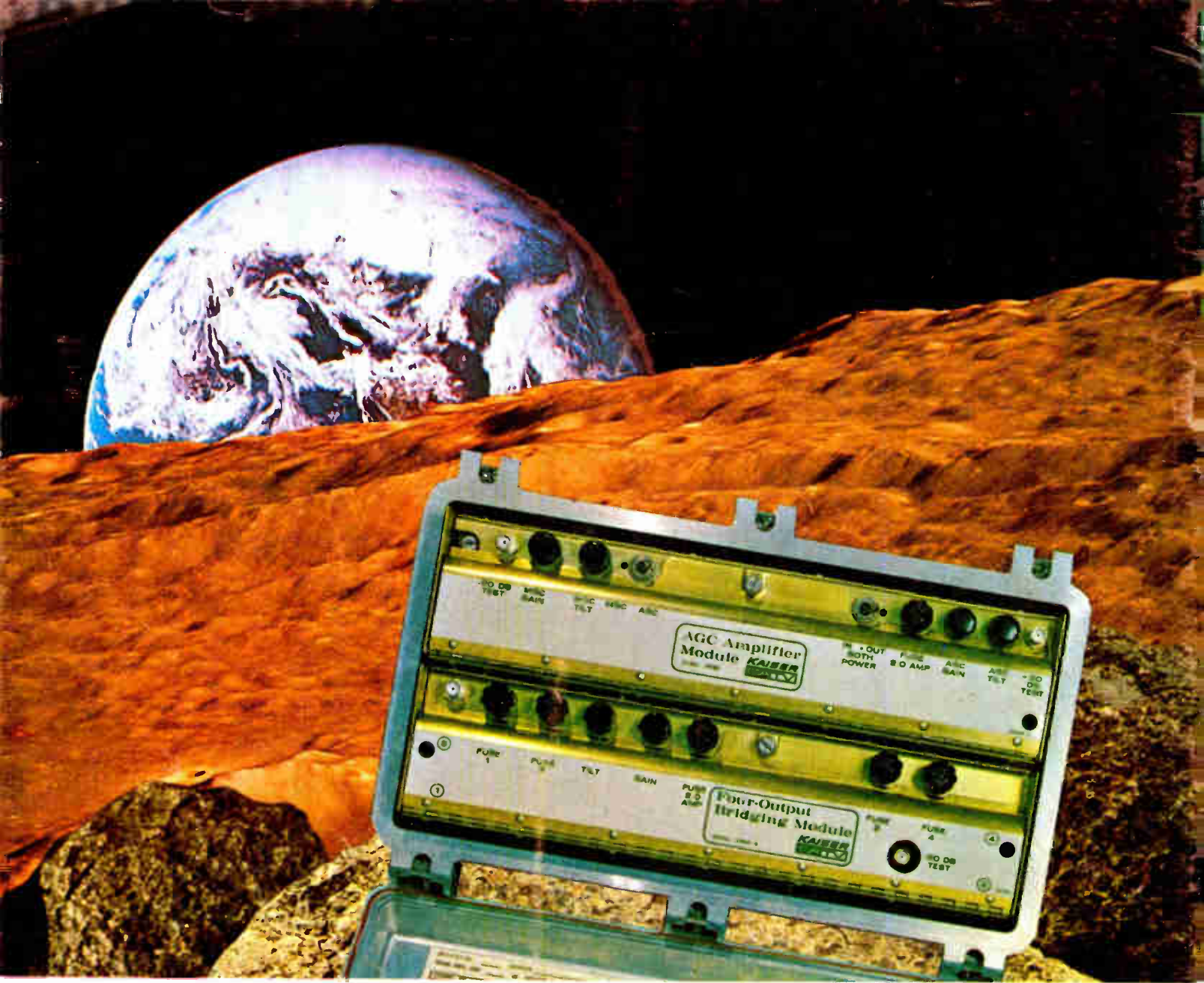
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