

MARTIN CODEL'S

AUTHORITATIVE NEWS SERVICE
OF THE
VISUAL BROADCASTING AND
FREQUENCY MODULATION
ARTS AND INDUSTRY

Television Digest

and FM Reports

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May 3, 1947

AM 'FREEZE' ENDS, 1,712 STATIONS: This week, FCC wound up all of its Line 2 AM cases (those involving complex engineering). In addition, it completed disposal of some 200 of its 350 Line 1 cases (relatively simple applications). Thus, end of Feb. 7-May 1 "freeze" period found United States and its possessions with 1,712 licensed or authorized AM broadcasting stations -- nearly 200 more than our 1,520 count of Jan. 1, 1947 and an approximate 70% increase since the official 1,004 count of Jan. 1, 1946. This crowded week alone, hell-bent to catch up, Commission granted 57 CPs for new AM stations, 45 changes in facilities, set scores of cases for hearing.

Our new AM Directory, dated May 1, thus goes to the printer this week (will be mailed to you in about 7 days) with all these grants included, listing all stations in North America by states and frequencies, all still pending U.S. applications by states and frequencies. Our log of 1,712 U.S. stations compares with 1,561 in the last directory printed in the trade. It also includes the 128 stations in Canada, 240 in Mexico, 87 in Cuba, and those in Newfoundland, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Haiti, Dominican Republic.

Pleased as punch over meeting deadline, breaking up log-jam, Chairman Denny said broadcast routine should be normal henceforth, foresaw few actions next week as Commission prepared for May 15 opening of International Telecommunications Conference at Atlantic City. Only fly in ointment is plethora of hearings yet to come. These spell additional complications as doors open for new applications, amendments, petitions for reconsideration. But biggest enigma among broadcasting fraternity -- whose older timers view with manifest but helpless alarm the huge increase in stations, crowding of wavelengths, advent of new competition -- is just how much more traffic the standard band can bear.

TV READY FOR THE THEATER, TOO: Watching television images being projected onto a small theater-size screen -- and in color, at that -- one cannot refrain from reflecting on what must be the state of mind prevailing among the higher levels of the motion picture industry, executive and financial. Whether it's smug complacency, lack of comprehension, preoccupation with other problems, or simply a rejection of what they'd prefer not to see and hear, they seem to have a blind spot for TV. Even their technicians, aware as some of them are to TV's potential (Vol. 3, No. 17), apparently are only whispering in the wilderness.

For theater TV, let alone home TV, plainly forecasts another revolutionary "threat" to the movies. Anyone who saw RCA's demonstrations this week at Franklin Institute in Philadelphia could see that.

What we saw RCA scientists disclose there, color TV on a 10x7½ foot theater screen, was not very important per se -- it's too far in advance of itself by RCA's own admission. Indeed, color TV for theaters isn't any nearer than it is for the home, an issue settled by Federal fiat only a few weeks ago (Vol. 3, No. 12). The significance of the demonstration, to this observer at least, lay in the fact that theater TV in black and white is ready -- and in Gen. Sarnoff's assertion

that, if an order for monochrome equipment were placed now, delivery could be made within a year.

But Gen. Sarnoff added his regrets over the "lack of enthusiasm on the part of the movie people." Only Warner Brothers, he said, has thus far worked with RCA on theater TV. In his view, the movie people simply aren't alert to TV, even though it was the sound engineer who saved their industry once before, even though TV for home or theater will encourage new art forms, develop more creative talent, provide more healthy competition.

RCA itself, said Sarnoff, owns no theaters, plans none, does not contemplate that TV will replace theaters any more than radio did, has and will have no exclusive arrangement with anyone. When equipment is ready, it will be available to any theater that wants it -- to pick out of the air (or off wires) and project on its screen news events as they occur, sports contests, even feature films. He foresaw networks of 1,000 to 5,000 theaters "fed" from a central source.

The color TV images were about as good (or bad) as early Technicolor -- nothing to get excited about yet but promising great things within perhaps 5 or 6 years. Red-blue-green combinations were fuzzy, though colors were rich. Electronic system permits color transmissions to be received also in black and white so that, as in the case of home receivers, there is no question of obsolescence (Vol. 2, No. 44). Indeed, the same color pictures -- Kodachrome slides and films covering skiing, skating, horse racing, hand-painting -- were much more enjoyable on the 10-inch screen of an ordinary black-and-white receiver operating simultaneously alongside the big screen. Only when a Looney Tune cartoon film was run off was the color consistently effective.

Projection apparatus used looked much like an oversize movie theater projector, operated by dial controls. Transmitter in the same auditorium was like an ordinary radio setup. Transmission was via short cable, though same could be done over the air and apparatus can be adjusted for full-size theater screen. Pickup equipment remains to be developed, uhf color propagation studies conducted.

Occasion was preview for newsmen of an illustrated paper on all-electronic color TV which Dr. Zworykin was to present before Franklin Institute Wednesday night (copies available from RCA). IRE and movie folk saw same demonstration next day. Expressed attitude among latter was: "Let's wait and see."

NOBODY KICKING ABOUT FM PLAN: There's little or no opposition to proposed new FM reallocation plan (Supplement No. 51), so far as we can discern -- but whether it will be ordered into effect without hearing was still undecided at week's end. Only 2 petitions have been filed for oral argument, set for May 8-9 -- from 3 Baltimore applicants who want additional channel assigned so all can get grants; from Richard Field Lewis Jr., WINC-FM, Winchester, Va., seeking assurance Class B rural stations will not have another rural on same channel less than 400 miles away.

As for plan itself, about dozen minor changes have been made in specific channels and locations and it may be promulgated pretty much as announced. More than 100 operating FMers have already applied for new channel assignments in accordance with the plan.

Other FM highlights of week: (1) Commission's "get tough" attitude (Vol. 3, No. 17) spilled over into FM in dismissing application of Pryor Dillard, Raymondsville, Tex., for not submitting program analysis after "repeated requests." (2) It dismissed WOKO application for Albany FM, having ordered AM license revoked as of Aug. 31. (3) It granted extension of 1942 CP to Bremer, Newark (WAAW), even though request came in fortnight after CP expired, after ascertaining bona fide CAA troubles and delivery delays. Some of rejected New York applicants (Vol 3, No. 17) can still attack decision on legal ground Bremer channel was open at time decision was rendered. (4) Once denied on overlap grounds (Vol. 2, No. 44), Liberty Broadcasting Co. got its grant in Pittsburgh, 11 others got conditionals (Supplement No. 50-D herewith).

TV AND FAX IN PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia comes up with first to ask for TV station since color decision of March 18 -- the re-application this week of Gimbels (WIP and WIP-FM) after having dropped last year. Manager Ben Gimbel filed just in time to preclude expected grant-without-hearing of city's sole remaining channel to Daily News Television Co. Inc., recently formed with Harron-Kelly-WIBG backing (Vol. 3, No. 9) whose application is in FCC engineering dept. awaiting certain amendments. So it looks like hearing ahead, with these 2 (and any other possible late comers) fighting it out.

Gimbels seeks Channel No. 12 (204-210 mc), with 33.1 kw visual, 34.86 kw aural power, 555-ft antenna, transmitter in Gimbel Bldg. It proposes to spend \$360,238 on plant, \$25,000 per month on operation. (Higher cost-of-living note: In its earlier application, Gimbels proposed to spend \$211,250 on plant, \$3,000-\$12,000 per month on operation.)

Meanwhile, city's other 2 TV grantees, Bulletin's WPEN and Inquirer's WFIL, both with FM adjuncts, leaped into facsimile. Bulletin displayed Alden 18-inch machine in operation in Gimbel window all this week, faxing newspapers, photos, etc. before big crowds. Inquirer begins similar promotion next week. Bulletin's TV plans are stymied pending radio-newspaper dispositions (Vol. 3, No. 5, 6). Inquirer is awaiting RCA equipment, meanwhile setting up studio, hopes to get going this summer. WFIL's new video chieftain, Kenneth Stowman, is chairman of newly formed Television Assn. of Philadelphia, which agency-advertiser-utility interests are boosting as in Chicago.

Next TV grant probably will go to Sarkes Tarzian, Bloomington, Ind. (Supplement No. 18-C); application now being scrutinized by FCC lawyers is unopposed. There's still lots of talk about additional applications, 2 now appearing in prospect for Chicago's 3 remaining channels. Note: For TV channels by cities see page 8 of TV Rules (Supplement No. 17).

TECHNICAL HONEYMOON'S OVER: Easy-going days of FM regulation, on the technical side, are about over. FCC engineers and fieldmen, who up to now have been overlooking bad operating techniques while the infant service was feeling its way, think it's time to tighten up, say they now intend doing so. Proper operation, they say, is to FM's advantage, too, for public must not be disappointed after all it has heard about FM's superiority. In fact, Chief Engineer George E. Sterling has letter from a major manufacturer, expressing disappointment with present technical operations, advancing that as reason for not going into high-fidelity receiver production. Some faults, besides the obvious ones created by weak signals permitted under STAs: overmodulation, hum on carrier, extraneous modulation (noise from needle scratch on recordings, rumble of turntable motor, etc.). To make sure technicians are up to date on modern techniques, FCC is revising operator's examination, hopes to ensure higher calibre operators in all services -- AM, FM, TV especially.

LAST WORD ON THE 'BLOOPER': Yes, that "blooper" devised by Pug Marquardt of WIBW, Topeka, tiny gadget attachable to an AM receiver to convert it to FM (Vol. 3, No. 11), is pretty much as disclosed, with diagram, by Frank Shopen of KOAD, Omaha (Vol. 3, No. 13). Nothing we've published in recent months has created quite so much interest, and many subscribers wrote us for copies of the diagram. So we asked Marquardt to remark on Shopen's comments. Here's his reply:

"The diagram of Frank's blooper is very similar to ours. Of course, we use only one tube....and have several improvements. [But] the limitations pointed out by Frank hold true, in most cases. We have found that a special 300 ohm folded doublet antenna is a must when trying to use the blooper successfully....I made no claims of having invented anything, but stated we have taken an old principle and adopted it for use to receive FM on any AM receiver....I [still] feel the blooper can be used to good advantage by a lone STA operator to immediately increase his FM audience. It would naturally be antiquated as soon as FM sets become plentiful."

Approved FM equipment was listed by FCC in order released Friday (too late for textual publication but we'll send you copy if you want it), amending Sec. 16, 17 and 18 of FM Standards (Supplement No. 9). Transmitters approved were: Collins' 250w and 1 kw (final), 3 and 10 kw (tentative); Federal's 1, 3, 10, 20, 50 kw (tentative); Gates 250w and 1 kw (final); GE's 250w (final), 1, 3, 10, 50 kw (tentative); Harvey's 250w (final); RCA's exciter, 250w, 1 kw (final), 3 and 10 kw (tentative); REL's 250w and 1 kw (tentative); Raytheon's 250w, 1 and 3 kw (tentative); WE's 250w, 1, 3, 10, 25, 50 kw (2 models of each, tentative); Westinghouse's exciter and 1 kw (final), 3, 10 and 50 kw (tentative). Frequency and modulation monitors approved: Doolittle, GE, REL.

Taking issue with RMA's statement several weeks ago that 3 and 10 kw FM transmitters won't be fully available until the end of 1948 (Vol. 3, No. 15), Federal's Norman Wunderlich told us this week he can deliver 1, 3 and 10 kw units "so fast it would make your head swim." That goes for 2-bay to 12-bay antennas, too, as well as for speech input equipment and transmission lines, he said. Federal has a couple of 10 kw transmitters already operating — WELD, Columbus, Ohio, and WEW-FM, St. Louis. Federal also has made up its mind to drop out of domestic field for its radio and TV receivers, and concentrate (through IT&T) on the export market.

NBC's capable Phil Merryman, who rose from station engineer to manager of planning and development, quits network next week to go into consultant partnership with H. V. Anderson, New Orleans consulting engineer with a Washington association with Chambers & Garrison. Merryman will head New York office, site not yet found, will specialize in station planning and policy, has NBC as first client. Firm will be known as Anderson & Merryman.

Petrillo's ban on FM duplication of AM music programs, among other activities, is expected to be subject of inquiry by Rep. Carroll D. Kearn's House Labor subcommittee when music czar appears before it "second Monday after Supreme Court hands down Lea Act decision." Rep. Kearns (R-Pa.), himself an AFM member, said Petrillo hearing will be exploratory—"to get all the facts." AFM inquiry is part of Committee's look-see into question of union leadership.

All the publicity pother about Senator White's bill on broadcasting, which he may introduce this month, narrows down to this: that bill in not investigatory, deals about 70% with procedural matters, follows closely previously proposed legislation along lines of 1943 Wheeler-White bill (S-814, 78th Congress). Veteran Maine GOP majority leader isn't out to "get" anyone.

Proposed reduction in TV's 480-920 mc experimental band drew only one objection — from RCA-NBC. TBA attorneys indicated they intend conferring with FCC engineers to try to ameliorate TV's 50 mc loss. Proposals also clip 5 mc from fax, add 50 mc for industrial, scientific and diathermy equipment. New allocations, which may be made final before month is up, propose 470-475 mc for fax, 475-500 to be divided among fax, TV, developmental on an individual area basis, 500-890 for TV, 890-940 mc for industry devices.

Next big FMA regional confab is scheduled May 28 at Cincinnati's Hotel Gibson — for FM broadcasters from Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia. Second meeting with RMA committee on FM production (Vol. 3, No. 15), is planned for May 21 at Statler Hotel, Washington.

Radio's Little Ironies: Sad, isn't it, that ownership of both stations ordered to turn in their licenses next Aug. 31 for misrepresentations to FCC — WOKO, Albany, and WORL, Boston — should be identified with ex-radio commissioners, who certainly should have known better? Funny, too, that everyone got a laugh out of Fred Allen cut-off episode, which NBC deftly turned into a swell publicity gag — everyone, that is, except the blundering v.p. involved and the industry trade journal that editorially saw something sinister in Allen's flouting of "authority and discipline"? And, contemplating the bleeding heart of New York Timesman Jack Gould, the prophecies of doom by FCC Comr. Cliff Durr, the industry-can-do-no-wrong outpourings of NAB and its spokesmen — it does seem curious how well radio gets along, holds faithful audiences, still does good business at old and new stands.

Latest top-flight TV advertisers to be signed: Nash-Kelvinator Corp., presenting Alma Kitchell demonstrating kitchen equipment Wednesday, starting May 7, 8:30-8:45 p.m., on hookup of WNBT, New York; WPTZ, Philadelphia; WTTG, Washington; WRGB, Schenectady. And 35-week series of original dramatics, "Kraft Television Theater," starting May 7 on WNBT for Kraft Foods Co., 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Nash agency is Geyer, Newell & Ganger; for Kraft, J. Walter Thompson Co.

Detroit Tigers have agreed to allow Detroit News' WWDT to telecast games twice a week during home stands, starting in June. And St. Louis Cardinals and Browns have both signed with KSD-TV for all home games, Purity Bakeries sponsoring. Now every city with TV outlet has baseball video schedules (Vol. 3, No. 15, 16), save Washington whose Senators' management allowed opener to be carried, none since.

RCA delivered first 5 kw TV transmitter this week to NBC's WNBW, Washington, which ought to be ready for tests within month. Camden plant's W. W. Watts said production line is now operating to produce several transmitters monthly. Technical description is available on request from RCA Victor Division, Camden, N. J.

Raytheon got 4 experimental grants this week, in 3700-4200 mc band, to link Los Angeles-San Francisco in microwave relay net of stations at Mt. Pinos, Mt. Hamilton, San Gordino Mountain, San Benito. Big Waltham (Mass.) company, also holder of CP for TV in that city, is also testing New York-Boston and New York-Chicago microwave chains — looking to development for FM and TV as well as other communications.

WFIL's Roger Clipp, who is in TV up to his ears (*Philadelphia Inquirer's* RCA equipment due for delivery this summer, construction in Widener Bldg. starting immediately thereafter), calculates TV will cut heavily into AM's evening listenership, may even force AM night rates down, but won't hurt daytime AM. On TV's part, he told Philadelphia Poor Richard Club recently, it must tailor its rates to budgets of local advertisers.

Although still in very preliminary stages, FCC's streamlining of broadcast applications asks for detailed breakdown of proposed program structure for all services but TV. Tentative TV program query just lists 3 questions, all general.

Straws in the wind: Electronics Inc., Bowen Bldg., Washington, D. C., advertising in trade press to FMers to invite inquiries about its distribution plan for new FM-only table model set, wholesale price \$39 (Vol. 3, No. 14).

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May 10, 1947

AM DIRECTORY NO. 1 ON ITS WAY: Your subscription copy of our AM Directory No. 1 is about to go into the mails, should reach you in a few days. It's the only thing of its kind available -- complete to AM freeze end May 1. It comprises 100 pages, lists 1,712 existing or authorized stations in the United States alone (as compared with 1,561 in 1947 Broadcasting Yearbook, 1,373 in Radio Daily Annual). It includes separate listings by states, frequencies and call letters of all AM stations in the North American countries party to NARBA (U.S., Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Newfoundland, Haiti, Bahamas, Bermuda, Dominican Republic). It also contains listings by states and frequencies of all pending U.S. applications for new stations (694) or for changed facilities of existing stations (200) -- the only such lists ever compiled for publication. The Directory will be kept current with weekly addenda sheets, also designed for loose-leaf binding, so that subscribers can know at any time the exact status of AM stations in any given community on any given frequency at any time. This is a service to subscribers only; they may obtain extra copies of AM Directory No. 1 at \$10.00 each.

NOT-SO-QUIET SUMMER FOR FCC: Having unburdened itself of heaviest workload in its history (Vol. 3, No. 18), FCC looked forward to relatively quiet, routine summer when, lo, it was stuck with another major hearing issue -- problem of daytime sky-wave interference. So even though 3 commissioners -- Denny, Jett, Webster -- must perforce spend most of their time at International Telecommunications Conference in Atlantic City from May 15 until probably mid-September, there will be hearing June 2 on that subject. Otherwise, no major hearings requiring full Commission are contemplated. Even clear channel hearings, first set to resume June 2, are postponed until after mid-October due to illness of Counsel Louis G. Caldwell.

Daytime-only grants on clear channels, exceedingly numerous of late, have big AM boys worried. Clear Channel Broadcasting Service's Jack DeWitt (soon returning to WSM, Nashville, as president) claims he can substantiate existence of daytime skywave interference, even though Commission's standards don't admit there's any such thing. FCC said Friday it won't grant any more daytimers on any Class I-A or I-B channels until issue is resolved, gave parties in interest until May 26 to file appearances, promised quick decision.

Vice Chairman Walker and Comrs. Durr, Wakefield and Hyde will handle summer routine. Chairman Denny and Jett will return from Atlantic City from time to time to participate in meetings. Webster, expert on international and safety communications, will stick to world conference job almost entirely.

FM PLAN JUST ABOUT WRAPPED UP: Only minor legal snarls prevent finalization of FM reallocation plan (Vol. 3, No. 18) after FCC called off'en banc hearing. Pending final action, we are listing, in Supplement No. 50-E herewith, all changes which have been made in the proposed allocation. These, incorporated in Supplement No. 51, give you the picture of channels as they stand today. FCC engineers are now drafting reassignment of channels to licensees and CP holders to bring them in line with new plan. They estimate only some 10% will retain present channels.

AMS STILL DOMINANT IN FM: Cross-checking final galley proofs of our new AM Directory with our FM Directory (Supplement No. 50 to 50-E), we find AMers still the big guns of FM. Of 1,712 AMS listed, 726 (43%) are in for FM. They comprise 69% of the 1,048 FM grants and applications. Thus, only 322 FMs are without AM affiliations, though many of these "independents" are applying for AM. When we compared AMS and FMs back in October (Vol. 2, No. 42), AMS and AM applicants held 65% of FM.

Sparsely-populated western states and new CP-holders are the major holdouts. For example, not one New Mexico AM, not even 50 kw KOB, Albuquerque (though it holds TV grant), has applied for FM. Only one of Nevada's 10 has applied, 2 of Arizona's 24. But 51 of Texas' 127 AMS (largest number in any state) are in there. As for the hesitant CP-holders, we've noticed their reluctance doesn't persist for long. Generally, after they've been on the air a few months, they join the FM bandwagon, particularly if their competition is already aboard.

CROSLEY'S \$375 TV SET READY: Next brand-name receiver to hit market will be Crosley's table model, with 10-inch tube. It will retail at \$375 plus installation and warranty -- same as RCA's 630-TS, most numerous model yet produced. Crosley reports production starts May 15, planned at rate of 1,000 per month for remainder of year. Dealers in all cities having TV service will get small quotas. Crosley console set with AM-FM-shortwave-phono added, to sell at \$800, is due in September.

Meanwhile, Stromberg-Carlson, Farnsworth, Stewart-Warner and Majestic have been showing distributors their TV models, soon to be ready for shipment. And small Remington Radio Corp., White Plains, N.Y., announced a \$995 ensemble consisting of master unit housing TV-FM, plus 2 matching units -- one for AM, other for automatic phonograph. TV-FM unit can be bought separately for \$795. Remington will concentrate distribution of its 50-per-week production in New York area. United States Television Corp., marketing higher priced (up to \$2,495) projection-screen models chiefly to taverns, etc., announced it's about ready to market 10-inch tube model, including AM-FM-phono, to sell at \$895.

TIMETABLE FOR NEW TV STATIONS: What's the prospect for more TV stations in more cities this year? Only fair, it would seem. A scant dozen among the 54 holders of CPs for new stations (Supplement No. 18-C) tell us they expect to be on the air, with test patterns at least, within the next 7 or 8 months. But we'll settle for a half dozen, besides the 4 already operating with temporary equipment under STAs (KTLA, Los Angeles; WTTG, Washington; WWDT, Detroit; KSD-TV, St. Louis).

Primary reason given for delay -- unavailability of equipment -- won't be valid very much longer, for transmitters are now on production line. RCA said last week it is now producing several transmitters monthly, and DuMont and GE say they can deliver. Up against actuality of being required to utilize their assigned frequency or give up their CPs, several grantees are almost certain (by this time next year) to feel that FCC ax. Before then, FCC expects many more eager applicants.

Next station to go on the air will be NBC's WNBW, Washington, whose transmitter in Wardman Park Hotel should be ready for tests by June 1. In same city, Washington Star's WTVW began construction of transmitter building a few weeks ago, expects to be telecasting in September. Likewise, in nearby Richmond, Havens & Martin's WTVR is already under construction, should be ready by fall.

Philadelphia Inquirer's WFIL-TV has been promised summer delivery of equipment, is building studio and transmitter in Widener Bldg., expects to get going before year's end. Westinghouse says "sometime this fall" for its WBZ-TV, Boston. Crosley's experimental W8XCT, Cincinnati, is already operating on test from Carew Tower, can and probably will be transposed into commercial WLWT within next few months. Scripps-Howard's WEWS, Cleveland, looks for "opening in October, if all goes well."

Chicago Tribune's WGNA reports construction will start this summer, be completed this fall. Milwaukee Journal says its WTMJ-TV should have transmitter on

hand by October, get on air by Christmas. Fort Worth Star-Telegram's KCPN is having "site troubles," but Harold Hough says "we hope to be testing on the air by fall." W. L. Gleeson says "late fall" for his KARO, Riverside, Cal., with its exceptionally well located transmitter site on Cucamonga Peak in San Bernardino County. And Earle Anthony's KFI-TV reports its Mt. Wilson building available, negotiations under way for a sound stage in Hollywood for studio, present plans calling for test operation last of this year or first part of 1948.

Also, the Baltimore Sun has already started on construction of transmitter house and studio, says it will get going by December or January next "if RCA is able to deliver our transmitting equipment."

All of the others responding give no prospective starting dates, due to equipment delays, construction difficulties or other reasons. At FCC they reckon that about 20 grantees seem to be content to proceed at "walk gait," using various artifices for stalling and as excuses for extensions of completion dates.

As for equipment, RCA has most orders so far reported. From best available sources, we learn that RCA has firm orders for all the foregoing stations, except for Richmond, Cleveland and Riverside, Cal. outlets (DuMont); Crosley Cincinnati station (company built); Chicago Tribune station (order not yet placed). In addition, RCA has orders for all of NBC's 4 projected stations, 2 of ABC's 5 projected stations, and for the TV outlets to be built by WBAL, Baltimore; WTCN, Minneapolis; KSTP, St. Paul; KDYL, Salt Lake City; KOB, Albuquerque, N.M.; KRLD, Dallas; KLAC, Los Angeles.

THE PARAMOUNT-DUMONT TV STORY: It doesn't look now as though there's going to be any "forced sale" of Paramount's big stockholdings in DuMont (Vol. 2, No. 51), simply because FCC has decreed there is enough Paramount control over DuMont, so that they should not get more than limit of 5 TV stations between them (Vol. 3, No. 3, 4, 5). Rather, movie company will probably allow May 18 "divorce deadline" to pass (60 days after color TV decision), hold onto its DuMont stock (at least until better market offers itself), let FCC drop its pending applications for new TV outlets in Boston, Detroit, Dallas. Likewise, DuMont's Cincinnati and Cleveland applications would go by default.

There have been flurries of interest in depressed DuMont stock on part of certain financial groups, but nothing came of them. Though DuMont lost \$1,472,270 in 1946, its manufacturing prospects for this year look good, as reported to stockholders last week. This, plus lack of good offer, seems to impel close-mouthed Paramount to hang on rather than be forced to sell in low market. Paramount already has TV stations in Chicago, Los Angeles; DuMont has them in New York, Washington, with CP for Pittsburgh (Supplement No. 18-C). That's all they're entitled to, FCC ruled -- this despite Commission's manifest eagerness to get TV going as quickly and in as many cities as possible.

If Paramount-DuMont applications are dropped, only ones left will be Don Lee's for Los Angeles, San Francisco (held up pending hearing decision on another matter involving Don Lee); and Philadelphia's 2 seeking city's sole remaining channel -- Daily News Television Inc. and Gimbels (Vol. 3, No. 18). This week Commission granted one of Indianapolis' 5 channels to Sarkes Tarzian for community station in Bloomington, Ind. (Vol. 3, No. 11). He got Channel No. 10 (192-198 mc) with 1 kw visual and aural power, 215 ft. antenna height. Tarzian says he expects to build station for only \$38,270.

EDUCATIONAL FM--TRYING HARD: "No advertising," is the rule in Government publications -- but U. S. Office of Education's School Life for May devotes back page to nicely illustrated ad puffing FM that compares with best any commercial advertiser has done. Its key line is, "Nobody ever does anything about the weather. But FM does." Then, after extolling FM advantages, it addresses this appeal to Mr. Educator: "Are you prepared to take advantage of this new tool? Perhaps you plan to buy new equipment as it becomes available. Be sure your new receiving set per-

mits you to hear FM." For all their enthusiasm, however, the educators are still able to show only this boxscore on the business end of FM: 6 licenses, 29 CPs, 15 applications pending (Supplement No. 50).

GE, meanwhile, is still pushing its tailor-made FM 2½ watter for campus use (Vol. 3, No. 13). It claims useful (5-6 mile) coverage, low initial cost (\$4,000-\$5,000), simplicity of power increase if desired. Question such minute power raises in FCC engineering quarters, which must yet approve idea of such low power, is whether coverage is adequate, warrants occupancy of a channel. GE will seek to clinch argument when FCC entourage, including Comrs. Durr, Wakefield and Hyde, arrive May 20 in Syracuse where Syracuse U station WJIV has been operating for some weeks. Announcement of new transmitter has precipitated flood of inquiries.

SIGHT AND SOUND

Network-AFM deal for wage increases for some 300 staff musicians at 4 New York key stations was announced this week, retroactive to Feb. 2. Staff musicians on sustaining and commercials get raise from \$126-\$165 to \$151-\$191; rehearsal rate on individual program goes up from \$6 to \$7.50; half-hour broadcast rate goes up from \$14 to \$18, one-hour from \$18 to \$23. Local 802 dropped demand for vacations.

Constitutionality of Lea Act, argued before Supreme Court Monday, should be known before end of high court's mid-June term. Government stressed monopoly aspect of musician's union and power of Petrillo; AFM attorneys said anti-Petrillo law denied free speech, imposed involuntary servitude, was too vague and general. Justices interrupted arguments frequently with pointed questions on meaning of "coercive" and other provisions of the Act.

Looks like a buyers' market in radio, all right. Witness rash of price slashes, and slowdowns that caused some 4,000 factory layoffs in New York, Chicago areas alone. Even small sets aren't moving fast. Which leads FM enthusiasts to say FM offers best new sales appeal. Stromberg-Carlson reports that by mid-summer all its table models as well as consoles will be FM-equipped. Majestic's new line includes 6 sets with FM. Production bottleneck in some plants is still wood; Zenith and Freed, for example, are said to have thousands of chassis stacked up waiting for cabinets.

NBC cut off Bob Hope for 5 seconds Tuesday, then issued a press release reaffirming "clearcut policy banning cross-reference to programs on other networks." Hope was about to call attention to Sinatra program on CBS. Episode, like l'affaire Allen (Vol. 3, No. 18), got lots of publicity, but this time NBC wouldn't admit "mistake" which President Trammell told RCA stockholders' meeting was made in cutting off Fred Allen.

Out of closed appropriations subcommittee hearings, presided over by arch FCC critic Rep. Wigglesworth (R-Mass.), came word this week that Chairman Denny did "masterful" job in pleading for \$7,300,000 budget, held goodwill of committeeman, got few kickbacks. But in light of GOP economy drive, it's almost certain budget will be slashed. FCC itself will have to wield ax after final figure is determined; scuttlebutt has it Economics Division probable heaviest loser.

Keith Kiggins, ex-ABC v.p., has organized Keith Kiggins & Co., 527 Lexington Ave., New York City, consultants on management, financing, appraising and industrial problems of radio. He's also a principal in grant last week of new fulltime 5 kw on 1330 kc in Erie, Pa.

Radio Consultants Inc., Washington, has scheduled second clinic on problems of FM management and operation in Washingtons Hotel Statler June 26-28.

Notable about this week's 3 STAs (which now total 169) is the power they're achieving. WEW-FM, St. Louis (42.6 kw) and WLVA-FM, Lynchburg, Va. (3.7 kw) go on with full CP power. Except for KSBR, San Bruno, Cal. (Vol. 3, No. 17), former is probably highest-powered high-band station going. WMRC-FM, Greenville, S. C., will start with 10 kw transmitter and 4-bay antenna. In race for highest ultimate power, KSTP-FM, St. Paul, again loses lead—this time to WBRC-FM, Birmingham, which this week was granted modification hiking output to 560 kw with 625 ft. antenna.

Big question in Philadelphia FM is what happens now that Commission has approved sale of WDAS to theaterman William Goldman. Since Goldman was not licensee of WDAS when FM hearing was held last September, change of ownership poses question whether FCC can grant WDAS application for FM if station is one of those found qualified in hearing decision still awaited. The several alternatives include (1) reopening record in order to put Goldman's qualifications in record, or (2) straight denial of WDAS application on grounds new owner was not among those seeking 4 available channels. Goldman has petition at Commission asking for grant or reopening of hearing record so he can enter his qualifications.

In applying to rejoin TBA, which it quit in 1945 because of association's opposition to color TV system, CBS indicated this week its intention of working with budding industry on black-and-white. Network has laid off some 40 technicians, however, is planning chief attention on news and sports events.

No very great enthusiasm for FM was evinced at NAB's District No. 2 meeting in New York early this week. Scant 50 attended FM panel first day—although NAB reported 125 registrants—and heard NAB's Bob Bartley on FM's status today, WBCA's Leonard Asch on FM rate structures, WABF's Ira Hirschmann on need for AMers to exert leadership in FM, WQXQ's John Hogan on FM programming. Question period drew a complete blank.

If you want names of chief engineers of most of the FM stations listed in our FM Directory (Supplement No. 50), we call your attention to list published in May issue of Tele-Tech (Caldwell-Clements Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York), based on its own survey.

GE has promoted Philip G. Caldwell, heretofore handling TV equipment, to manager of transmitter sales. James D. McLean, former manager of GE transmitter sales, has joined Philco's WPTZ, Philadelphia, as commercial manager.

Maj. Gen. Henry C. Ingles, recently retired Army chief signal officer (succeeded by Maj. Gen. Spencer Akin), has been named president of RCA Institutes Inc., training school subsidiary of RCA.

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May 17, 1947

THE LATEST ON FM TUNERS: You hear all sorts of talk these days about imminent availability of FM tuners, adapters, converters, etc. -- and we've been able to verify: (1) That Airadio's "Combinette" (previously called "Minuette"), table model that can be used for FM-only or as tuner attachable to an AM set (Vol. 3, No. 14, 16), is now in production. Sales are being handled by Electronics Inc., Bowen Bldg., Washington, D.C. Set costs \$34.55, plus 10% tax, f.o.b. Stamford, Conn., with deliveries promised 60-90 days. For most part, FMers are arranging distribution through local dealers or new companies they themselves are setting up. (2) That Engineer Pug Marquardt's "blooper" (Vol. 3, No. 11, 13, 18) may shortly be manufactured under auspices of WIBW, Topeka, Kansas, with thought of selling it directly to STA holders for their own distribution. Final price hasn't been determined, but hope is to sell it in quantity to FM promoters at between \$4 and \$6. It is a little attachment to AM sets enabling them to tune in nearby FM under certain conditions. (3) That Pilot Radio, reportedly preparing to market a \$25 tuner, has "investigated the technical and commercial possibilities of a tuner [but has] made no definite decisions in this matter," quoting executive v.p. E. L. Hall's response to our inquiry.

WHERE ARE THEY PUTTING THE AMs? Mulling over our newly issued AM Directory to find out just what that 70% increase in total stations during past 16 months amounts to, we've compiled some rather vital statistics. For example, how clear are the clear channels?

If you will study Part II of the Directory (log of stations by frequencies), you will note that only WOAI, San Antonio, has a frequency (1200 kc) all to itself. But then if you look at Part V (log of applicants by frequencies), you will see that even its space is being eyed by 5 applicants for limited or daytime stations. Looking over some of the other so-called clears:

670 kc (WMAQ, Chicago) has a 1 kw daytime grant (WLAQ) in Rome, Ga., a potential station in Cuba, plus 4 applications pending; 700 kc (WLW, Cincinnati) has a similar grant in St. Paul, 2 applicants; 720 kc (WGN, Chicago) has same situation in Richmond, Va., plus 3 applicants; 760 kc (WJR, Detroit) has KGU, Honolulu, plus grants in Clanton, Ala. and Tarboro, N.C., plus 2 applicants.

As for the most occupied channels, the locals run pretty close: 1340 kc has 163 stations on it, 58 applications; 1450 kc has 163 and 49; 1400 kc has 165 and 40; 1490 kc has 168 and 44.

Texas has most stations licensed or authorized (126, gain of 60 in 16 months); most applicants for new stations (69); most applicants for single city (Houston's 7). Next is California, with 116 stations, 65 applicants; then Pennsylvania, 86 and 34; New York, 83 and 19; North Carolina, 76 and 16. Vermont is tail-end with only 6 stations, 1 applicant. Rhode Island has 8 and 3. Among states showing heaviest percentage gains were Arizona, which jumped from 10 to 24 stations; Colorado, 14 to 28.

Perhaps most striking is what has happened in specific communities, some

rather obscure. There were no stations 16 months ago in Havre, Mont. (pop. 6,427) and Odessa, Tex. (pop. 9,573); now they have 3 and 4 respectively. Great Falls, Mont. (pop. 29,928) and Durham, N.C. (pop. 69,683) both burgeoned from 1 to 5. Formerly one-station towns, these now get 4: Gadsden, Ala. (pop. 36,975); Fort Smith, Ark. (pop. 36,584); Utica, N.Y. (pop. 197,128). Altoona, Pa. (pop. 114,094). These are but a few cases that can be cited by those who view with alarm "uneconomic" grants by FCC, and prophesy inevitable mortalities.

On the other hand, Detroit proper had 6 stations on Jan. 1, 1946, has 6 now -- but 5 applicants are knocking on the door. Cleveland had 4, now has 7 plus 3 applications. Baltimore had 5, now has 6 and 5 more want in. And consider these big-city "clusters" of stations: Havana, 30; Mexico City, 29; New York City area, 25; Los Angeles area, 18.

NOTE -- Extra copies of AM Directory No. 1 are available, to subscribers only, at \$10 each. You get your addenda supplement (AM Directory No. 1-A) with this week's newsletter; extra copies of these weekly addenda will be mailed to subscribers at \$1 each. Binders are available at \$2.10.

90-AHEAD FOR NEW YORK TVs: No opposition from rejected WEVD, so New York's 4 TV grants (Vol. 3, No. 16) were finalized this week -- leaving no more channels available there. As expected, FCC also ordered hearing, date not yet fixed, on applications of Daily News Television Inc. (WIBG) and Gimbels (WIP) for Philadelphia's sole remaining channel (Vol. 2, No. 18). It also granted 90-day extension from May 18 of 3 Paramount, 2 DuMont pending applications (Vol. 3, No. 19).

Your file copy of our TV Directory (Supplement No. 18-C) should now include these assignments for New York area grantees: In Newark, N.J., Bremer Broadcasting Corp., Channel No. 13, 17 kw visual power, 8.3 kw aural power, 575 ft. antenna height. In New York City, American Broadcasting Co., Channel No. 7, 16.5 kw visual, 8.25 kw aural, 485 ft. antenna; Bamberger Broadcasting Service Inc., Channel No. 9, 30.25 kw visual, 24.5 kw aural, 600 ft. antenna; News Syndicate Co. Inc., Channel No. 11, 16.3 kw visual, 8.17 kw aural, 575 ft. antenna. New York News, incidentally, plans antenna atop its big building on E. 42nd St., Clifford Denton manager.

PUTTING IT ON THE LINE: The where and wherefore of coaxials, microwave relays, or both, to link cities for TV networking, should be resolved at an engineering conference scheduled by FCC June 9. As FCC notice puts it, purpose is "to formulate a schedule which will set forth the expected installation dates of common carrier facilities for the relaying of television programs between cities."

FCC lists 64 licenses or grantees in 36 cities (it's 65 now, with last week's grant; see Vol. 3, No. 19). These common carriers, experimenters in microwave relay, are expected to report: AT&T, GE, Philco, Raytheon, Western Union. TV licensees and CP holders are asked to tell (1) their immediate inter-city needs, (2) when they expect to get on air. New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington and San Francisco, says Commission notice, "might be assumed as initial program origination points, and cities having 3 or more television broadcast stations might be assumed to require at least 3 or more network programs available simultaneously." Information is also needed, it says, so that allocations between 1,000 and 13,000 mc (Vol. 3, No. 6) can be made after current International Telecommunications Conference adjourns.

Meanwhile, hard on heels of Philco request for intercity TV relays (Vol. 3, No. 17), GE this week asked permission to transform its New York-Schenectady experimental links into a TV net. System starts in New York City, jumps 40 miles to Mt. Beacon, N.Y., then 45 miles to Round Top Mountain near Cairo, N.Y., then 20 miles to New Scotland, N.Y., site of WRGB transmitter. At present GE picks up New York's WNBT at Hillsdale, N.Y., about 85 miles away, then relays to New Scotland.

Possibly in intercity class, though now it's considered a remote relay, is Capt. Bill Eddy's recently announced WBKB link from South Bend to Chicago. This

jumps from South Bend to New Carlisle, Ind., 10 miles; to Michigan City, Ind., 15 miles; to Chicago, 26 miles -- and thus will permit telecasts of Notre Dame games; may be extended for Indianapolis Speedway races. WBKB also is considering linking with Champaign, Ill., 85 miles, for U of Illinois games; Lafayette, Ind., 75 miles, for Purdue games. Other developmental microwave links for TV are: AT&T, New York-Boston and New York-Philadelphia; GE, New York-Chicago; Raytheon, New York-Boston and New York-Chicago; Philco, Philadelphia-New York.

FM AND A FRIENDLY MR. PETRILLO: When ABC's Mark Woods says he thinks James Caesar Petrillo will soon come to a "satisfactory agreement" on duplication of AM programs via FM, you can feel pretty well assured that something's astir. As far as we can discern, it's this: Petrillo has been persuaded (in informal talks with Mark Woods and others in radio with whom he has maintained friendly relations) that FM draws its listeners away from AM, hence does not enlarge audience, hence does not depreciate employment opportunities for his musicians. Mark Woods told reporters on the Coast last week that the AM czar was open to reason -- and, indeed, that's what we hear from other quarters, too.

Everything awaits Supreme Court's decision on Lea Bill, of course; also outcome of current labor legislation on Capitol Hill, which likewise outlaws Petrillo's type of "made work." If Lea Act is declared unconstitutional (as many attorneys think it will), Petrillo will be most amenable to parleys on AM-FM duplication -- at least, so he has indicated.

But not with NAB. To NAB's requests for further talks on whole music situation, he has not even deigned to reply. But to overtures on behalf of FM, he has been quite friendly -- particularly when informed FMA and NAB are separate and distinct organizations. He makes no bones about his dislike of NAB, which he blames (not entirely justly) for the drastic Lea Act. So, though promotion of FM is FMA's primary raison d'etre, don't be surprised to find Petrillo discussing AM-FM duplication with FMA soon after Supreme Court decision.

CUTTING INTO THE FM BACKLOG: That aged grandpappy of all FM hearings, the Boston cases, finally came to focus when FCC issued proposed decision Wednesday to grant all but Northern Corp. (WMEX). Seven grantees are listed in Supplement No. 50-F herewith. WMEX counsel indicated appeal, auguring more delays -- probably beyond July 1 when 2 more "reserved" channels are available. FCC made up mind full year and 6 weeks after FM enthusiast Comr. Durr opened hearing in Boston, and after 2 of original 10 applicants got cold feet. Among factors contributing to delay were: (1) Durr's decision to bow out of case; his secretary is understood to be related to a WMEX principal. (2) FCC only recently decided what to do about overlap; Yankee had one (Vol. 3, No. 15). (3) One-to-a-customer rule had to undergo breakdown (Vol. 2, No. 52).

Finalization of FM reallocation plan (Vol. 3, No. 19), which may come next week, should precipitate flock of decisions, since some 60 applications are tied up in cities which will then have enough channels to go around (Vol. 3, No. 15). Then, backlog will consist mostly of new applications which will need only about 3-week "incubation" period before being granted. Holding up reallocation is determination of what ratios should be established between desired and undesired signals for 400 and 600 mc separation. Experiments next week with WINX-FM, Washington, and WGAY-FM, Silver Spring, Md., should give some answers. Also holding the thing up is difficulty of getting the Commission together nowadays.

REPORT ON TV RECEIVERS: Latest from the TV manufacturers: Philco's hush-hush receivers (Vol. 3, No. 7) will be unveiled very soon now; its distributors will get first showing at Atlantic City meeting, June 17-19. Stromberg-Carlson's 2 models, one a TV-only consolette, the other a combination TV-FM-AM phono, won't get to dealers before early fall, prices still undetermined, says President Ray Manson; they will be shown, along with company's full line of radios, all with 2-band FM,

at National Assn. of Music Merchants show in Chicago June 2-5. Raytheon's subsidiary, Belmont, now plans limited production, starting next month, of \$250 model, to be marketed first in New York, Philadelphia, Washington. And that new \$375 Crosley table model (Vol. 3, No. 19), called the 307-TA and looking very much like RCA's 630-TS, is actually being produced by RCA Camden, according to trade reports which RCA won't confirm or deny.

No one has yet come forth with really cheap TV, and prospects aren't good yet. This week RCA showed what it calls "most versatile instrument" it ever produced -- its Model 641-TV, which combines in one console TV, FM, AM, shortwave, automatic phono. It has 19-inch tube, uses new automatic brilliance control for uniform brightness. "Suggested retail price" is \$795, not counting installation, which compares with GE's projected No. 802 (Vol. 3, No. 11). RCA also plans other super-doooper models this year. U.S. Television Corp., in high price field with projection-screen sets, has cut price of \$2,540 model to \$2,275, but hikes installation fee from \$85 to \$100; it also has new \$1,995 and \$895 models with TV-FM-AM phono. Telicon Corp., also appealing mostly to taverns, clubs, etc., prices its new Town Club model with big screen at \$1,995.

SIGHT AND SOUND

Confusion of FM dial numbering bothers oldtime FM operator Lester Nafzger of WELD, Columbus, O. He urges that problem (megacycle or channel-number designation), which is about as old as FM itself, be resolved by universal use of channel numbers. He finds fractions involved in megacycle designations unnecessarily confusing to layman. Also, he suggests that listeners' job of tuning FM sets be eased by building tuning indicator into all sets until push-buttons are common. RMA expects to get industry unanimity on this question of marking dials with channels or frequencies at June 10-12 convention at Chicago.

In light of WOKO precedent, chances are slim WORL, Boston, will win new lease on life—but Attorney Ben Fisher this week filed exceptions to FCC's decision-ordering it off air Aug. 31 for alleged misrepresentations. Since FCC will doubtless stick to decision, court appeal is certain, assuring present ownership perhaps another year's grace. Meanwhile, 2 applicants seek its facilities (AM Directory No. 1), several more are known to be planning to apply.

A really tough code for broadcasters is in prospect, judging from temper of this week's meetings of NAB committee on standards in New York—but it won't be ready for submission to NAB board (which meets in Washington May 21) until October convention. NBC's Ken Dyke heads subcommittee rewriting drafts, which must again be okayed by full standards committee (MBS's Robert D. Swezey, chairman) before action by NAB hierarchy.

"Upstairs" TV took a cut this week, when the Commission finalized its 470-960 mc allocations (Vol. 3, No. 18). TV's experimental band was reduced from 480-920 mc to 500-890 mc, although another 25 mc band (475-500 mc) is made available on a share basis with fax and developmental broadcasting. New allocations included 915 mc for industrial and diathermy equipment.

Biggest contract in radio history (\$5,200,000 time sale) was closed Thursday by ABC, covering 4-sponsor hookup for "Paul Whiteman Club," daily Mondays through Fridays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., starting June 30. Joint sponsors are National Biscuit, Camels, Southern Cotton Oil Co., Nestle's Milk Products.

Nathan H. David has withdrawn from partnership, is setting up own offices, leaving Washington law firm's name Courtney, Krieger & Jorgensen. All are former FCC counsel. Change your file copy of Attorney Directory (Supplement No. 11A) accordingly.

To have chapters in every city with TV outlets—Washington, Philadelphia, Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago next—is aim of American Television Society, which last week elected as new officers: Don McClure, N. W. Ayer & Son, president; Bert Taylor, DuMont, v.p.; Dian Dincin, Pictorial Research Inc., secy; Archibald Braunfield, treasurer. Directors are: George Shupert, Paramount, retiring president; Charles Alicoate, Charles J. Durban, Jack Levine, Paul Mowrey, Ed Sobol, Edward Stasheff.

Not broadcasters, but users of FM nevertheless, operators and imminent operators of mobile radio equipment are earmarking huge sums for equipment says FCC. Cab operators alone plan to lay out some \$15,000,000. Telephone companies already expect to buy \$10,500,000 worth. Since all these mobile operators are still experimental, although FCC has permitted some to charge for service, they'll be out in force to protect investment during hearings on commercial rules starting Sept. 8.

NBC's Washington TV station, WNBW, should be on the air in next few days. This week it got STA to begin commercial operation anytime after May 23; it is shooting for grand opening early in June. NBC got its first post war FM going this week—an STA to WRC-FM, Washington.

Next NAB study of FM operations will be on KOZY, Kansas City. In the hands of members are first two—about WBCA, Schenectady, and WSYR-FM, Syracuse. Meaty and valuable studies will be continued from time to time as FM picture changes.

FCC has set July 7 for resumption of clear channel hearings—but CCBS still has hopes it can get deferment until mid-October due to doctor's orders that Counsel Louis G. Caldwell take it easy all summer.

GE is making available its new Technicolor film, "Naturally It's FM," recounting advantages of FM over ordinary type of broadcasting. It will be shown at FMA's district meeting in Cincinnati, May 28.

Philadelphia bolstered its bid this week for 1948 Democratic national convention by citing accessibility to TV, which was factor in getting it GOP convention starting June 20, 1948 (Vol. 3, No. 17). Democrats must decide.

FMA-RMA meeting on FM set production, scheduled for May 21, has been postponed until sometime in June. Some RMA committeemen couldn't make it for next week.

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May 24, 1947

SOARING FM SET PRODUCTION: Maybe turning point in FM set production has come -- for April total of 112,256 is best yet by far. Best previous month was March's 67,264. But the figure still doesn't bulk large against April total for all makes and kinds of radios, 1,759,723, surprisingly large in view of cut-price activity of last month or so, attributed mainly to slowdown of purchases.

April FM production broke down as follows: console AM-FM combinations with phonograph, 92,804, up from 56,150 in March, indicating trade predictions that all consoles with include FM are fast coming to pass; table AM-FM models, 13,088, up from 4,215 due probably to accelerated production of these by Zenith, Pilot, Emerson; AM-FM consoles without phono, 4,033; table combinations with phono, 2,331. Cumulative post-war FM output to date now totals 284,432. (For recapitulation of previous months, see Vol. 3, No. 15).

MORE RADIO IN THE HEMISPHERE: Flux in AM stations and assignments is by no means limited to U. S. Among NARBA signatories, Canada, Mexico, Newfoundland have reported 19 changes since May 1; these are included in Supplement 1-B, herewith, to our AM Directory. The growth in the other NARBA countries hasn't been so much in number of stations as in increases of powers. Some of the countries, particularly Cuba, have been hard to keep track of because of sudden changes belatedly reported. In fact, one NARBA expert says that if he publicized some of shenanigans going on he'd probably lose his job. Apparently, those things are left in delicate hands of the State Department's diplomats.

As is inevitable, some errors have cropped up among the 8,000 plus items of our AM Directory No. 1. When they turn up, we'll correct them for you; those discovered to date are listed in Supplement 1-B, which, incidentally, brings total count of U.S. stations to 1724.

WHERE ARE THE TV SETS? We've been asked by several advertising agencies to report on where TV set production is going -- to tell them, if possible, how many video receivers there are in each of the 8 communities now enjoying telecasting service. Since the set manufacturers, though reporting monthly production figures confidentially to RMA auditors, won't disclose how they're channeling distribution, we did next best thing: we asked an authority in each city to give us his best estimate as to latest local TV "set population." Theirs, at least, would be educated guesses. Here's what we found out:

New York City area, 30,000, according to estimate by NBC research dept., which ought to know inasmuch as parent RCA is biggest manufacturer of all. Philadelphia, about 4,000, according to E. B. Loveman, Philco v.p. in charge of its WPTZ. Schenectady area, at least 550, possibly 600 in view of known recent sales of 350 new TV sets, says G. Emerson Markham, manager of GE's WRGB. Chicago, 2,350 as of April 25, according to Chicago Electric Assn., which keeps close tab week by week. Washington, about 1,400 to date, according to DuMont's WTTG manager, Leslie G. Arries. Detroit, about 2,000, according to Detroit News' Harry Bannister and

Dick Love, who have checked boom sales even while WWJ-TV was merely running test patterns. St. Louis, about 600 up to mid-April, with KSD-TV's baseball telecasts increasing sales steadily, reports Post-Dispatch's Bob Coe. Los Angeles, about 5,000 home installations, 300 in bars and restaurants, according to Klaus Landsberg, West Coast director for Paramount's Television Productions Inc. (KTLA).

These add up to 44,200 -- jibing pretty well with estimated pre-war sets still in use (10,000) plus RMA's calculated post-war production through April (32,691). April TV production figure, incidentally, was 7,026 -- best month yet.

TV's FLYING START IN DETROIT: Always one to do things in a big way, Detroit News plans elaborate fanfare opening June 3 week for its WWJ-TV (changed from WWDT), formalizes end of test and start of commercial operations with imposing list of sponsors, plans exceptionally long regular schedule of operation -- 2:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Ebullient Bill Scripps, who as a kid pioneered with WWJ, reports tieups with local and nearby sports stadia, is already televising Detroit Tiger home games, plans U of Michigan gridcasts from Ann Arbor this autumn. Among sponsors using Detroit's first TV station are Ford, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, U.S. Rubber, Bulova, J. L. Hudson Co. Dept. Store, Detroit Edison, Grinnell Norge, Industrial National Bank, Goebels beer. Revenues already assure inevitable commercial success of project, enthusiastic staffmen assert.

That's latest of TV entrepreneurs to report, adding cheery news to roundup on TV station timetable we recently published (Vol. 3, No. 19). This week, also, we've heard from: (1) NBC Washington, that its WNBW has actually begun tests, will be formally inaugurated in matter of weeks; (2) Bamberger, New York (WOR), that it has budgeted \$1,000,000 for installation and first year's operation of its New York TV station, about half that for its Washington outlet, both now on drafting board, equipment not yet ordered; (3) Scripps-Howard, Cleveland, that construction of Du-Mont transmitter on State Road, Parma, and studios at 1816 E. 13th St., is now under way, tests hoped for by October or November; (4) Los Angeles Times, that RCA equipment is ordered, transmitter-studio buildings in drafting stage, actual construction planned in July, tests by early 1948; (5) Milwaukee Journal, that WTMJ-TV closed circuit demonstrations up to May 15 had played to 455,000 persons, aroused intense public interest, giving staff valuable experience.

No new applications to report -- yet; but counsel tell us of several being prepared, not ready to release for fear of exciting quick competitive applications. We'll report them as fast as we can. Meanwhile, our TV Directory (Supplement No. 18-C) is latest listing, except that Bloomington, Ind. application is now a grant (Vol. 3, No. 19), and Gimbel's WIP is additional applicant for Philadelphia's single remaining channel (Vol. 3, No. 18).

THE LAWMAKERS LOOK AT RADIO: Now you'll be hearing and reading lots about White-Wolverton bill to modernize radio regulation, spell out FCC procedures and authority more clearly -- Senator White's S. 1333 and Rep. Wolverton's H.R. 3535 going into Congress hoppers Friday. Prospects of passage, especially with FCC's spark-plug Chairman Denny away most of summer at International Telecommunications Conference in Atlantic City, are another matter. Except for high position of bills' sponsors (each being chairman of Interstate Commerce Committee of his respective house), radio legislation would seem to have little chance this session. But Wolverton, at least, has moved toward hearings by immediately appointing GOP members of subcommittee headed by Rep. Howell, Illinois; Democratic members will be named next week.

It's too early to appraise long (41-page) and technical bill, which really is veteran Senator White's. He said it is result of consultations with FCC, broadcasters and other experts, plus 7 years of Congressional investigations and studies. One section requires FCC to keep hands off business management and program content of stations. Another virtually writes into law FCC's chain regulations. Another lifts present limits on station ownership by single entities, but adds proviso

networks will inevitably oppose -- that no one "shall own or control or be the licensee of broadcast stations in any single band which in the aggregate provide a primary service....for more than 25 per centum of the population of the continental United States...." Much of bill has to do with Commission and appellate procedure. It's described as "fairly conservative" by at least one lawyer who had hand in its framing; NAB and most other radio attorneys said they had not yet studied it. If you want a copy, we'll get it for you.

* * * * *

Not much secret about motive behind Wisconsin GOP Senator McCarthy's bill (S. 1309) to prohibit Congressmen and Senators or their wives from owning or having financial interest in broadcasting stations. Though he may disclaim personal reasons, fact is that ex-Senator Bob LaFollette, whom he defeated, has long held 25% interest in WEMP, Milwaukee; and that GOP Rep. O'Konski, of Mercer, Wis., has just filed for AM-FM outlets in Mercer and Merrill. During campaign, Senator McCarthy pledged such a bill. It hasn't got much chance, for solons like lucrative investments no less than the other fellow. O'Konski said he saw nothing illegal or dishonest about applying; so did Ohio's Senator Bricker, who's one of group seeking outlet in Cleveland.

Among sitting lawmakers, these have corporate or family radio holdings: Senator Taft, Ohio (WKRC, Cincinnati); Senator Capper, Kansas (WIBW, Topeka, and KCKN, Kansas City); Senator Knowland, California (KLX, Oakland); Senator Robertson, Wyoming (a principal in Montana Network, seeking 1560 kc in Butte); Rep. Ellsworth, Oregon (KRNK, Roseburg); Rep. Rogers, Florida (WFTL, Fort Lauderdale); Rep. Lyndon Johnson, Texas (KTBC, Austin). Observe that all but last 2 are Republicans.

Among ex-politicos, there are quite a few more: Former Senator Worth Clark, Idaho, 10% stockholder in KJBS, San Francisco; former Senator Wheeler, Montana, interested through family in Craney stations in Montana, Washington, Oregon; ex-Sen., ex-Gov. Elmer Benson, Minnesota, seeking 3 FM stations in that state; ex-Rep. Wene, New Jersey, who controls WTNJ, Trenton, and WSNJ, Bridgeton; ex-Gov. Rivers, Georgia, owner of 3 small stations there; ex-Lt. Gov. Noe, Louisiana, owner of 2 stations in Louisiana, 1 in Pine Bluff, Ark.; ex-Gov. Kerr, Oklahoma, principal in recent Peoria, Ill. grant and Tulsa application; ex-Gov. Murphy, New Hampshire, owner of station in Manchester; ex-Gov. Landon, Kansas, seeking stations in Independence and Fort Leavenworth, also in Englewood, Colo. There are others, too.

NAB HIERARCHY MEETS AND ACTS: Petrillo and FM -- these were only passingly discussed at NAB's quarterly board meeting Wednesday-Thursday. Nor was there anything new reported by Standards Committee (Vol. 3, No. 20) or by Mutual's Ed Kobak on Broadcast Advisory Committee (Vol. 3, No. 11), both concerned with proposed codes of practice. Next moves in musician situation await Supreme Court decision on Lea Bill. Even Blue Book got little or no attention, beyond issuance to directors of NAB's newly published Little Blue Book (with "bleached" cover) containing compendium of President Miller's legal and policy contentions but including tribute by Miller to FCC and Chairman Denny for doing tremendous task well -- "within proper scope of its authority."

This is what NAB board did: (1) revised bylaws to make networks associate instead of active members, which requires membership referendum, reduces fees to about \$5,000 each in lieu of nearly \$65,000 present 3 members contribute; (2) admitted ABC as associate member; (3) agreed networks won't have directors unless an M&O station manager should be chosen at district election; (4) recommended BMB Study No. 2 be postponed to 1949, instead of 1948 as planned, BMB President Hugh Feltis being present to report 120 subscribers now, predict 1,000 when study is ready to be made; (5) appropriated \$15,000 for another U of Denver-National Opinion Research Center poll on what public thinks about radio; (6) authorized 4 station representatives to sit with AFRA-Industry Committee; (7) approved Sept. 15-18 dates for next convention in Atlantic City; (8) approved more than 100 new station members, bringing total membership to nearly 1,300.

ANDREA, GE, PHILCO SHOW TVs: TV sets unveiled this week: 3 models by Andrea, one a table unit with AM-FM priced at \$695, the other 2 consoles at \$795 and \$995, latter with phono, all with 12-inch tubes, all scheduled for July delivery to dealers: GE's No. 802 console (Vol. 3, No. 11), including AM-FM-phono, 10-inch tube, which Paul Chamberlain, manager of receiver sales, said is now in production and will sell at between \$750 and \$800, starting in June -- with July production planned of projection model with 18x24-inch screen; Philco's still "very secret" sets (Vol. 3, No. 7), given private showing to Philadelphia dealers Thursday, all pledged to refrain from publicity -- this as preliminary to showings June 17-19 to distributors at Atlantic City.

SIGHT AND SOUND

It wasn't likely FCC Chairman Denny, who heads U. S. delegation to International Telecommunications Conference now in session in Atlantic City, would resign before that assignment was finished—and it looks as though conference will last beyond September. And to our query on repeated rumors and published reports he intends quitting Commission, he wired us Thursday: "No truth to report I have plans to leave Commission after conference."

April was best month yet for TV set production, 7,026—broken down by RMA auditors as follows: table models, 3,971, down from March's 5,346 (Vol. 3, No. 15); consoles, 2,329, which includes 87 projection-screen models; console combinations with AM-FM-phono, 726, including 40 projection models. RMA also lists 860 "converters" but nature of these is undisclosed.

New York FM decision, as expected, has really turned out to be a lawyers' field day (Vol. 3, No. 17). Virtually every angle, and there are a lot of them, is being exhausted by most of the 12 proposed denyees. Examples: Division of channels between New York and New Jersey; qualifications of ABC and WPAT; belated grant of extension to CP-holder WAAW, Newark, imminent availability of 4 reserved channels, etc. Looks like one of the sweetest skilletts of fish FCC has ever been expected to uncook.

Renomination of FCC Comr. Wakefield for 7-year term went to Senate Wednesday, approved by both California Senators Knowland (Rep.) and Downey (Dem.)—so there won't be any opposition to confirmation. He's acting chairman of Commission while Chairman Denny is at Atlantic City conference, Vice Chairman Walker home ill (though due back for part-time work next week). Comr. Durr also was out this week, with back injury, but is due to return next week.

Daily radio column in New York Times started Monday, devoted to notes about programs, stars, trade news—first by that newspaper in dozen years, bellwether of re-emergence of radio editors' columns in more and more newspapers. Looks like Times' WQXR, which it calls "longhair station" because it specializes in quality music and programs, will achieve \$1,000,000 gross for 1947, reports Variety.

Tallest man-made structure in world, tower of KRNT-FM, Des Moines (Vol. 3, No. 10), got FCC go-ahead this week when station was granted modification of CP. Guyed tower, 1530 ft. high, will rise from 160 acre plot. Cowles v.p. T. A. M. Craven says he still doesn't know exactly what it will look like, since architects have yet to submit complete plans. Tower is for FM, ultimately for TV and FX, but not AM, he says.

FM-AM table model production should soon get welcome boost from RCA, which will give first showing of 4 models as part of extensive receiver display at National Assn. of Music Merchants convention in Chicago, June 2-5.

Air safety being such a hot subject, the proposal to reallocate the solid block 960-1600 mc for air navigation shapes up as a pretty tough proposition for TV people to buck in Monday's hearing. Proposal by Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics, would move proposed TV pickup band 1295-1425 mc to 1750-1880 mc. We know of 4 companies (RCA, Philco Federal, GE) which have been developing equipment for the lower band. Philco, at least, is planning to object. RCA, which has 1295-1425 mc equipment already 90% developed, is willing to move out if air safety demands; it would, however, like to use low band equipment until air aids are developed (some 2-3 years, RCA estimates). RCA's big objection to RTCA's proposal is that it's too restrictive to allow use of company's own navigation aid, Teleran. Another angle, kind of fuzzy, is whether RTCA intends STL's for TV on 1880-2100 mc; present allocation proposals don't.

Interference with TV is subject of FCC engineering conference June 10-11 to discuss fixed and mobile operation in 72-76 mc band, amateur operation in 50-54 mc band, channel-sharing, mobile non-governmental operation in 42-88 mc, receiver selectivity, harmonic suppression. Statements from interested parties are called for by June 2. On previous day, Commission holds inter-city TV network conference (Vol. 3, No. 20).

On air commercially only few months, Paramount's Los Angeles TV outlet KTLA (Klaus Landsberg, director) has already had 16 sponsors: Tupman Motors Inc. and Elgin Watch Co., thru J. Walter Thompson; Sears Roebuck, thru The Mayers Co.; Pep Boys, thru Weinberg Agency; Botany Worsted Mills, thru Silverstein-Goldsmith Inc.; Leroy's Jewelers, thru Glen Gordon Adv. Agency; Acme Beer, thru Brisacher, Van Norden & Staff; Douglas Aircraft, General Electric Supply Corp., RCA Dealers, Stewart-Warner, American Television Laboratories, Barker Bros., Music City, Price Brothers, Richards Radio.

CBS officially rejoined TBA Friday, represented by Lawrence W. Lowman and Leonard H. Hole. Meanwhile, TBA was congratulating itself on breaking anti-antenna front of New York real estate interests—City Investing Co. having accepted TBA interim plan for its 14 apartment houses Monday. TBA now hopes other realtors will see light.

Scrumptions, is the word for NAB's new 4-story Washington quarters (former Canadian Embassy Annex, 1771 N St., NW., phone DEcatur 9300)—as befits trade association with \$650,000 budget and representing \$425,000,000 industry. It was dedicated with housewarming Tuesday.

New TV sales manager in GE's transmitter division is A. F. Wild, who reports to Phil Caldwell, division manager recently upped from that job.

Tulsa U's newly opened FM station KWGS is gift of 50 kw KVOO's W. G. Skelly.

MARTIN CODEL'S

AUTHORITATIVE NEWS SERVICE
OF THE
VISUAL BROADCASTING AND
FREQUENCY MODULATION
ARTS AND INDUSTRY

Television Digest

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May 31, 1947

CLEARs SEEK LEGAL SHOWDOWN: Clear channel stations aren't overlooking a bet in current drive to protect dominant positions on their frequencies. Not only have they succeeded in getting FCC to set hearing June 4 on daytime skywave (Vol. 3, No. 19), but they're throwing the lawbooks at Commission in efforts to get daytimers on clears cut down in power or eliminated altogether. Reargument in U.S Court of Appeals in Washington is set for June 11 in 2 bellwether cases -- appeals by WJR, Detroit (760 kc), on whose frequency are daytime grantees WKLF, Clanton, Ala., and WCPS, Tarboro, N. C. (now on air); also by WCKY, Cincinnati (1530 kc), which got stay order against 10 kc daytime grant to WJMJ-CP, Philadelphia. WJR also got stay orders, so FCC temporarily assigned WCPS to 570 kc.

Essence of litigation is meaning of "objectionable interference" provisions of AM standards. Rule says clears must be protected from such interference within their primary groundwave areas. Clears contend (1) there is daytime skywave interference, and (2) this substantially modifies their licenses without hearing -- contrary to due process. Question for courts to decide is whether, if there is daytime skywave, interference is "objectionable." Heretofore, courts have shied away from Commission technical edicts. Other cases pending in court involve: WSM, Nashville (650 kc) and daytimers WSVS, Crewe, Va., and WJSW, Altoona, Pa., both now operating; WLW, Cincinnati (700 kc) and KYDS-CP, St. Paul; WGN, Chicago (720 kc) and WFFV-CP, Richmond, Va.; WHAS, Louisville (840 kc) and KOAG-CP, Stillwater, Okla. (10 kw). For lists of all frequencies with present occupants, grantees and applicants, see our AM Directory No. 1 and addenda to date.

KEEPING AM LOGS UP-TO-DATE: We hope you'll pardon us for doing a bit of boasting this fair-weather Thursday -- with FCC holding no meeting this week and news running light as we go to press on eve of long Memorial Day week-end. It's about our AM Directory No. 1, mailed to you May 12. So far, we've found a gratifyingly small incidence of error, considering amount of detail (some 8,000 items) that went into it, let alone fact we frequently had to correct errors at FCC sources. That's not to say there are no errors; as a matter of fact, we published corrections in last week's addenda and again this week (AM Directory 1-B and 1-C).

We've had lots of congratulatory letters and calls from subscribers, also some pertinent suggestions. One good one we're glad to pass on to you; it's how we ourselves are keeping our desk copy of the Directory up-to-the-minute and handy for quick reference. In view of lack of space between lines, you can remove staples, cut pages apart, insert white sheets between pages to write in weekly additions, changes, etc. opposite to particular State or Frequency listings. This takes some doing, but it's worth the effort if you have need for the data handily and quickly.

ON TRAIL OF FM LAGGARDS: It's a tough job to track down those so-called "hip-pocket" FM broadcasters (Vol. 3, No 16), but FCC is getting rougher on those suspected of dilly-dallying. Principal form Commission action is taking is in slicing down extensions of time requested to complete construction. CP holders asking for 6 months frequently get 3. So far 112 FM grantees have gotten extensions; none has

ever been denied. FCC was never specifically asked to deny any until last week, when 2 New York applicants jumped WAAW, Newark (Vol. 3, No. 21).

Commission doesn't expect most grantees to fulfill specifications of CPs immediately, but it points to the 171 STAs as satisfactory evidence of good faith. Further, FCC believes that a low-power STA operator (whose signal is often disappointing) has much more incentive to complete construction in order to improve signal. As regards new grants, few applications can be worked up for FCC action pending proposed reallocation (Vol. 3, Nos. 19, 20). That fact and the holiday resulted in no grants this week, hence no FM Supplement.

COUNTING UP THE FM SETS: Now that so many FM stations are publishing rate cards and selling time, advertising agencies want to know where the FM sets are, by markets. But the simple fact is no one knows exactly -- except a few live-wire FMers in a handful of communities who actually have canvassed local distributors. Their figures are usually eyed askance as self-serving (like those radio censuses of broadcasting's early days).

So we asked key manufacturers if they would tell us their postwar distribution by cities. Only 3 agree to divulge this obvious trade secret -- and these only after we had pledged not to publish individual figures, only totals. All 3 are major producers, one in mass field, one in class field, one a big but relatively late comer in mass field. Their grand total of sets with FM (all models) was 75,704 up to April 1, 1947; this is only 21.4% of known postwar FM set production up to that date (353,661) as reported by RMA. (Through May 1, incidentally, the figure is 465,917, thanks to April's record production of 112,256, detailed in (Vol. 3, No. 21.)

So, for whatever these figures are worth, here's at least part of the FM set distribution up to April 1 in these major centers: New York City area, 13,814; Chicago, 11,977; Los Angeles, 6,284; Philadelphia, 6,553; Boston, 3,936; Detroit, 5,265; San Francisco-Oakland, 3,451; Pittsburgh, 3,840; Cleveland, 3,957; St. Louis, 4,080; Minneapolis-St. Paul, 3,111; Washington, 2,307; Baltimore, 2,627; Cincinnati, 1,863; Atlanta, 2,639. Understand, now, these aren't full figures, nor are they probably even 21.4% (maybe more, maybe less) but they're the only figures we can get -- except for the old FMBI's additional figures on pre-war FM (low-band) set distribution, which totaled 395,000, broken down thus: New York, 120,000; Chicago, 80,000; Boston, 35,000; Detroit, 25,000; Milwaukee, 21,000; Philadelphia, 20,000; remainder scattered (Vol. 3, No. 1).

REACTIONS TO RADIO BILLS: One aspect of White-Wolverton bills (Vol. 3, No. 21) not discerned at last week's first quick reading is this: Proviso limiting ownership of single entities to stations covering not more than 25% of country's population would automatically supersede present FCC limitations on TV station ownership (5), FM ownership (6).

General reactions to bills may be summed up by smiles at FCC, where cocky officials feel it generally endorses current policies; frowns at NAB, where brass are obviously disappointed, call bill "dangerous and full of ambiguities," say they keenly regret lack of clearcut prohibitions on FCC's powers to look into programming, etc. Said Judge Miller: "Broadcasters will not be satisfied with White-Wolverton bill as now written." He indicated NAB will seek tightened regulations at hearings; NAB legislative committee has been called to Washington, June 5.

Hearing dates for separate Senate and House subcommittees haven't been set, are expected to be fixed next week for sometime this session -- though Miller suggests no hearings until FCC Chairman Denny, Comrs. Jett and Webster are through with International Telecommunications Conference, possibly in mid-September. Senator White himself heads Senate subcommittee, which includes: Tobey, N.H.; Moore, Okla.; Johnson, Colo.; McFarland, Ariz., latter 2 Democrats. House subcommittee comprises Reps. Howell, Ill., chairman; Hall, N.Y.; O'Hara, Minn.; Dolliver, Iowa; Scott, Pa.; Harris, Ark.; Harless, Ariz.; one more to be named, latter 3 Democrats.

THE IDLERS AND THE TOILERS: There's something curious, not to say suspicious, about some of the CPs for TV issued by FCC (Supplement No. 18-C), held by grantees who apparently neither toil nor spin in video field. Several presented nice "paper cases," got CPs, yet haven't done a thing about ordering equipment or otherwise preparing to get going. The Commission pretty well knows who they are, can readily get checkups through its field offices, might get some interesting dope too from equipment manufacturers whose agents really could tell them the score. It's our guess a few of them won't hold their CPs very long after scrutiny.

Meanwhile, no more new TV applications, though quite a few still promised -- 2 we know of being prepared for major newspaper publishers. Fact that engineers from 4 non-applicant stations (William Clancy, WTIC, Hartford; Robert A. Fox, WGAR, Cleveland; Lester L. Gilbert, WNBC, Binghamton, N.Y.; L. L. Caudle Jr., WSOC, Charlotte, N.C.) attended TV engineering clinic at RCA Camden last week, would seem to indicate that those stations (WTIC and WGAR are former applicants who withdrew) are at least contemplating filing. Thirty others at clinic were all from networks and other TV grantee firms, who spent 5 days at classes and demonstrations on practice and theory, came away with 200-page book of texts for later use as reference.

ONSLAUGHTS ON TV BANDS: As if it didn't have enough of a job just getting going, TV now must dig in to fend off onslaughts from several sectors. At FCC hearing this week, air navigation interests bid for entire 960-1600 mc band (which includes 1295-1425 mc for TV pickup and relay), urged that pickup-relay be moved to 1750-1880 mc. This was strongly opposed by TBA and Philco's Dave Smith, who cited Philco's pickup-relay equipment developments on 1295-1425, told about plans for Philadelphia-New York system (Vol. 3, No. 17), reaffirmed low cost of radio relay links compared to expected coaxial cable charges (Vol. 3, No. 6), stated that many TV broadcasters, CP holders, applicants had expressed interest in Philco equipment.

Next comes engineering conference June 10-11 on TV interference (Vol. 3, No. 21), with fixed and mobile services, hams and aero interests again proposing TV bear brunt of shifts. It's even been suggested TV relinquish Channel No. 2 (54-60 mc) in favor of fixed-mobile; argument is that this would end co-channel and adjacent channel interference on No. 2 (Vol. 2, No. 47), would eliminate TV receiver interference from hams (Vol. 3, No. 14), also TV's interference with aero radio systems. But that's only a suggestion -- one of many FCC engineers must consider, and one that present occupant (CBS-TV New York) and others assigned to No. 2 (Baltimore Sun; Raytheon, Waltham, Mass.; Fort Industry Co., Detroit; KDYL, Salt Lake City) might not like at all. Another suggestion is that TV give up Channel 1 (44-50 mc), so far assigned to only KPRO, Riverside, Cal. That would preclude need for sharing, but would not eliminate other interference. Deleting any TV channels is "the last thing we want to do," said one FCC official.

And compounding the onslaughts on TV, FCC two weeks ago finalized reduction of experimental uhf video band from 480-920 mc to 500-890 mc (Vol. 3, No. 20).

PROGRESS IN INTERCITY TV: Not much publicity was given it, but some rather significant dope on AT&T's coaxial cable installations was revealed by Bell System's W. E. Bloecker at recent Cincinnati IRE meeting. It may furnish basis for AT&T's presentation at FCC June 9 inter-city TV relay conference (Vol. 3, No. 20), at which projected rates for TV use of coaxial may also be disclosed. Said Mr. Bloecker: Not only are 4,000 out of projected 12,000 miles of the cable already installed, but New York-Los Angeles southern route will be ready for phone service early in 1948, mid-continent route (New York-Chicago-St. Louis) by end of next year. He added: "Television service if required can probably be made available on most of these routes some time after the opening of telephone service, the date depending to some extent upon the demand." All 12,000 miles of coaxial should be completed by 1950, as should a New York-Chicago microwave relay system. Radio relay is also due to link New York-Boston this year; New York-Philadelphia is under construction. And under development is a coaxial system that, with closer repeater spacing, will permit 7 mc video transmission (present New York-Washington line permits 2.8 mc).

HAVING TROUBLE WITH CAA? Those irksome, time-consuming bouts with Civilian Aeronautics Authority, which almost everyone planning antenna sites has experienced, may be obviated soon -- for FCC and CAA are now working out codification of standards on what constitute air hazards. Lawyers Plotkin and Boyle, of respective agencies, have been working on it last 3 weeks, plan code that will let you know specifically what conditions to meet regarding antenna sites, tower heights. They frankly admit they want to cut out guesswork, hasten approvals. Procedure will remain same, though there's some talk that paper work within CAA may be shifted to airways group in lieu of air hazards section (whose Wm. J. McKenzie has been responsible for approvals up to now).

POPULAR GRIPES ABOUT TV: If anyone should know what public expects of TV, it's the dealer -- some 800 of whom in New York area have been canvassed by "The Televiser" Magazine with interesting results. Main gripe is price. Half the dealers said \$200-\$300 table model would be preferable to \$250-\$400 present range, though public will spend \$500 if set also contains AM-FM-phone; such models now run \$800-\$2,500.

What impels most TV set purchases is sports. Otherwise, public doesn't think much of most of today's programs, kicks about their paucity, especially deplores lack of daytime shows. Among other obstacles to selling sets cited: refusal of some apartment house owners to permit antennas; cost of antenna and receiver installations (\$45 up, with year's service warranty); inability to get immediate delivery; small size of screens; fear of obsolescence; color.

SIGHT AND SOUND

FM networking was top subject at Cincinnati FMA Region 2 meeting this week. C. M. Jansky told more than 150 that only in radio relay was FM's high fidelity characteristics possible today. Everett Dillard told FMers to get in touch with him re extension of Continental Network to midwest. FCC's Vernon Wilkinson reported requests for extensions of completion dates were being "carefully, very carefully, scrutinized," suggested more varied programming (instead of recorded, longhair music). David G. Taft, WCTS, Cincinnati, was elected regional chairman; Paul E. Wagner, WCSI, Columbus, secretary. State chairmen elected: Robert F. Wolfe, WFRO-FM, Fremont, Ohio; Foster Fudge, *Crawfordsville Journal-Review*, Indiana; E. J. Hodel, WCFC, Beckley, West Virginia.

Philadelphia's big newspaper-radio story (Vol. 3, No. 5, 6) is entering final phases. The *Bulletin* (purchaser of WCAU, *Record, Camden Courier-Post*) has now disposed of Camden newspapers and WPEN, latter sold this week for reported \$750,000 to Phillip Klein, former local ad agency man, and Al Sylk, drug chain owner. Next step is FCC authority to sell WPEN, so *Bulletin* can take over WCAU.

NBC's Washington TV outlet WNBW is telecasting New York NBC programs several evenings a week—they began last Saturday—but the formal opening won't be till after mid-June. Capital TV fans are already reorienting their antennas.

Gulf Oil's TV renewal for 13 weeks on WCBS-TV of news telecasts has interesting twist. It's going to include a few minutes of Washington news now and then, will have Washington coaxial pickups by *Washington Star* cameras (newspaper holds CP, has some equipment, construction just starting) and DuMont's WTTG.

Fantastic role of TV, in event of atomic war, with government officials keeping in touch with one another's underground installations via video, got big news play this week when AP carried story from FCC hearing quoting TBA Attorney Thad H. Brown Jr., son of the late radio commissioner, member of law firm of Roberts & McInnis.

WOW, Omaha doesn't have a video CP, isn't even an applicant, but is going ahead full steam with TV. Owning 2 image orthicons, it has been conducting closed circuit demonstrations in conjunction with local Creighton U, this week applied for experimental portable relay grant so it can use newly acquired 100 watt RCA relay equipment. Budget of \$33,000 is for staff training and program experiments against day it will apply for full-fledged commercial TV (for which it once applied, but withdrew at height of color TV controversy).

If FM can cure many radio ills, high-powered FM can cure even more. Take this neat bit of showmanship by WTCN-FM, Minneapolis, which radiates some 25 kw: It installed a Philco AM-FM console on a street car and took a number of guests, including members of the Minnesota Assn. of Professional Engineers, on a tour. At no time, says station, was there static, fading or lack of full limiting. This was true even through tunnels and between high buildings. Further, AM was at no time considered satisfactory.

FM reservation plan (Vol. 2, No. 29), with only a month to go (June 30), apparently hasn't attracted applications as expected. Last minute may see a flurry, but so far only 4 (all AMers) have requested the frozen frequencies (Vol. 3, No. 17).

Broadcast call letter pinch (which had many broadcasters sweating out combinations not in use) has eased; Commission this week got 1,000 new call sets (in both W's and K's) back from Army.

John McNeil, ex-manager of ABC's WJZ, New York, this week took over managership of DuMont's WABD, post formerly held by Sam Cuff, now with Allied Stores Corp.'s "Television Caravan" (Vol. 3, No. 16).

Extra copies of our AM Directory No. 1 are still available to subscribers at \$10 each, the weekly addenda (1-A, 1-B, 1-C so far) at \$1 each. We also have some more embossed binders, \$2.10.