

detailed information would be commercially prejudicial.

The network staff maintained that the information was required for a true economic study of the tv film industry.

Many of the film producers and syndicators involved in the present subpoena fight were among the group which met with the network study staff over a year ago and charged that they were being frozen out of desirable station time because of "restrictive" network practices.

The FCC's network study committee officially took under advisement the requests of the film companies to withdraw the subpoenas. The Commission's network committee comprises Chairman George C. McConnaughey and Comrs. Rosel H. Hyde, Robert T. Bartley and John C. Doerfer. Present at last week's meeting were Dean Roscoe R. Barrow, Louis H. Mayo and Ashbrook P. Bryant, of the network study staff, and the following attorneys:

Paul A. Porter and Daniel Glass, Screen Gems; Harry M. Plotkin, Entertainment Productions Inc.; A Frank Reel and Adrian W. DeWind, Ziv Television Productions; Murray Schreier and Edwin L. Weisl Jr., Music Corp. of America and subsidiary Revue Productions; Milton Kayle, Television Programs of America, and Lee Moselle, Official Films. Mr. Porter, also represented the Assn. of Tv Film Distributors (Ziv, Screen Gems. TPA and Official).

Scripps-Howard Radio to End Efforts to Stay Ch. 10 Grant

SCRIPPS-HOWARD RADIO Inc. (WNOX Knoxville, Tenn.) last week ended its efforts to have the January 1956 grant of ch. 10 there to WBIR-TV set aside.

The FCC last month denied petitions by WNOX (one of the losing applicants for the channel) for a stay of the grant and for a rehearing. Scripps-Howard announced that it plans no further appeals and will withdraw its request for a stay, pending before the U. S. Court of Appeals in Washington. The reason for the action, Scripps-Howard said, was the long period of time its petitions were pending before the FCC acted on them (they were filed in February 1956).

In addition to WNOX, Scripps-Howard owns WCPO-AM-TV Cincinnati, WEWS-AM-TV Cleveland, WMC and WMCT (TV) Memphis and a chain of newspapers.

Still pending before the appeals court is a protest of the grant by a third applicant, Tennessee Tv Inc.

FCC Extends KTVI (TV) STA

KTVI (TV) St. Louis was assured of the use of ch. 2 that city for many months to come when the FCC last week extended its temporary authority to telecast on that channel to Feb. 1, 1959, or until an applicant is awarded a cp for the facility.

Ch. 2 was assigned to St. Louis in late February by the FCC and KTVI (then on ch. 36) was awarded temporary use of the vhf channel. Applications for a permanent grant of ch. 2 are pending by KTVI and Louisiana Purchase Co.

San Francisco-Oakland Gets FCC Ch. 2 Grant

CH. 2 in Oakland-San Francisco will be awarded to San Francisco-Oakland Tv Inc., according to instructions the FCC gave its staff last week.

The Commission directed that a final decision be prepared favoring that applicant over Ch. Two Inc. (recommended for the grant in an examiner's initial decision) and Tv East Bay Inc. The Commission stated that the staff instructions, reportedly the result of a 4-3 vote, are not final and can be changed.

According to reliable reports, Comrs. McConnaughey, Hyde, Doerfer and Lee voted for San Francisco-Oakland Television Inc., and Comrs. Bartley, Mack and Craven voted for Television East Bay. There were no votes for Channel Two Inc.

Comparative hearings among the three applicants began July 9, 1954, and the record was closed the following January. Ch. Two's proposal to locate its only studio in Oakland and concentrate its programming and advertising toward residents of the East Bay area (Oakland) was a deciding factor in Examiner Thomas H. Donahue's initial decision (released in June 1956). This plan was attacked vigorously by the other applicants, who claimed the proposal is contrary to Commission policy set forth in the Petersburg, Va., ch. 8 grant, in oral argument before the Commission last March.

Ward Ingram (general manager of the Don Lee Network) and William Pabst (former General Teleradio and Don Lee executive and current general manager of KFRC San Francisco) each own 47½% of San Francisco-Oakland Tv Inc. The remaining 5% is held by consulting engineer Harry Lubke.

With the disposition of the Oakland-San Francisco case, applicants still awaiting final decisions by the Commission are those for ch. 7 in Buffalo, N. Y.; ch. 9 in Orlando, Fla.; ch. 7 in Seattle, and ch. 2 Biloxi, Miss.

Tampa-St Petersburg Gets Ch. 10; Commission Acts on Five Others

THE FCC last week directed its staff to prepare an order assigning ch. 10 to New Port Richey, Fla., Tampa-St. Petersburg area as a "drop-in," giving that area its third commercial vhf channel.

The assignment, requested by Suncoast Cities Broadcasting Corp. of St. Petersburg, has been pending before the Commission for over three years. Ch. 36 WJHP-TV Jacksonville, Fla., had sought the same facility for Bunning, Fla. Commercial stations presently operating in Tampa-St. Petersburg are ch. 8 WFLA-TV, ch. 13 WTVT (TV) and ch. 38 WSUN-TV.

Finalized by the Commission last week was the addition of ch. 12 to Lamar, Colo., effective June 20.

Channel shifts denied by the FCC:

To replace educational ch. 11 Lexington, Tenn., with ch. 49 and assign ch. 11 to St. Joseph, Tenn., for commercial use. Proposed by Aaron B. Robinson of Jackson, Tenn.,

and Gregory Broadcasting Co., Muscle Shoals, Ala.

Proposal by ch. 26 WTVK (TV) Knoxville, Tenn., to delete ch. 7 from Spartanburg, S. C. (WSPA-TV), and assign it to Knoxville and Columbia, S. C., or Augusta, Ga. Comrs. Robert E. Lee and Robert T. Bartley dissented.

Proposal by Philipsburgh-Clearfield Tv Co. that ch. 3 be assigned to Clearfield, Pa. Comr. Bartley dissented.

To shift ch. 5 from Raleigh, N. C. (WRAL-TV), to Rocky Mount, N. C.; shift ch. 50 from Rocky Mount to Raleigh and reserve it for commercial use; delete the educational reservation on ch. 22 Raleigh and add ch. 44 to Raleigh. These changes were requested by ch. 28 WNAO (TV) Raleigh.

Senate Cuts USIA Budget, Asks Agency's Return to State Dept.

IN a rare move expressing the current Congressional drive for economy, the Senate Appropriations Committee last week slashed the U. S. Information Agency 1958 fiscal appropriation by 37% from the \$144 million requested by President Eisenhower. The cut reduced even further the \$106 million approved by the House of Representatives last month.

At the same time the Senate group unanimously recommended that USIA be returned to the State Department (USIA was made an independent agency in August 1953).

The Senate committee voted by more than two to one to approve \$90.2 million for USIA for the fiscal year beginning July 1. It is uncommon for the Senate to cut an appropriation below a House-passed figure; usually the Senate restores House slashes. The committee recommendation was submitted to the full Senate late last week.

But the committee said it was impressed with the Latin American broadcasts which it believes warrant expansion. It suggested extension of WRUL Scituate, Mass., radio broadcasts into Brazil to insure more complete network coverage of all Latin America.

The committee also restated again this year that no less than \$350,000 shall be utilized for contracts with private radio licensees, leaving their selection to USIA discretion.

WWBZ Finally Gets Renewal

AFTER five years of trying, WWBZ Vineyard, N. J., last week got a renewal of license from the FCC. The FCC finalized a Feb. 11 examiner's initial decision recommending the renewal.

The station first applied for a new license in February 1952. The application was set for hearing of charges that horse race information broadcast by WWBZ was being used for illegal purposes. The favorable initial decision found this programming had been eliminated and the Commission, noting that there had been no objections filed to the examiner's recommendation, made the decision final.