

# New v for 11 markets, 8 will lose

## COMMISSION SAYS NO NEW CITIES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR DROP-INS

A brilliant "go" sign in deintermixture and vhf drop-ins was turned on by the FCC last week.

By a bare majority of one, the commission decided to ask for comments on rulemaking which would add a third commercial vhf channel in eight major markets and delete the single low band channel in eight intermixed markets (BROADCASTING, July 17). These cities will gain a vhf channel under the proposal:

Baton Rouge, La. (ch. 11); Dayton (ch. 11); Birmingham, Ala. (ch. 3); Jacksonville, Fla. (ch. 10); Knoxville, Tenn. (ch. 8); Johnstown, Pa. (ch. 8); Charlotte, N. C. (ch. 6), and Oklahoma City (ch. 5 KOCO-TV Enid, Okla.). Most if not all of the new allocations would be added at reduced mileage separations. Comments are due Oct. 2.

And, the commission added, these are ALL the cities where it is prepared to consider vhf drop-ins now and in the future.

The following vhf channels would be deleted from present uhf-vhf markets: Ch. 12 Erie, Pa. (WICU [TV]); ch. 13 Rockford, Ill. (WREX-TV); ch. 3 Madison, Wis. (WISC-TV); ch. 10 Columbia, S. C. (WIS-TV); ch. 3 Hartford, Conn. (WTIC-TV); ch. 3 Champaign, Ill. (WICA [TV]); ch. 12 Binghamton, N.Y. (WNB-TV), and ch. 12 Montgomery, Ala. (WSFA-TV).

No announcement of the commission's decision, reached in a special meeting last Thursday, was made pending notification of the Federal Aviation Agency of the new allocations.

This was an effort by the commission to improve relations with the FAA, somewhat strained at times in the past (BROADCASTING, July 10), by giving that agency advance knowledge. It also is in line with a new FCC-FAA agreement on tall towers calling for closer liaison (BROADCASTING, July 24).

**The Voters** ■ All seven commissioners participated in the decision to issue the deintermixture-drop-in rulemaking, with Commissioners Rosel H. Hyde, T. A. M. Craven and John S. Cross dissenting. The majority was composed of Chairman Newton N. Minow and Commissioners Frederick W. Ford, Robert T. Bartley and Robert E. Lee.

At the same time the new comments were invited, the FCC dropped in ch. 13 to Rochester, N.Y., and finalized rulemaking which adds ch. 13 to Grand Rapids, Mich., and ch. 9 to Syracuse, N.Y.

These changes were accomplished by shifting ch. 5 from Rochester to Syracuse and ch. 8 from Syracuse to Rochester, substituting ch. 9 for ch. 13 in Cadillac, Mich., ch. 6 for ch. 9 at Alpena was moved to ch. 11 and ch. 13, WWTW (TV) Cadillac was shifted to ch. 9. Chairman Minow dissented to this phase. In Rochester-Syracuse, Commissioners Lee and Ford dissented. WHEN-TV Syracuse, ch. 8, was shifted to ch. 5 and WROC-TV, ch. 5, Rochester to ch. 8.

The FCC has had various phases of deintermixture under consideration for several years trying to reach a solu-

tion on the uhf-vhf problem. Last week's action is a culmination of a January 1960 rulemaking seeking comments on a proposal to break down mileage separations to permit vhf drop-ins (BROADCASTING, Oct. 3, 1960, Jan. 9). Congress has been highly critical of the FCC's failure to reach a decision, "whether it's right or wrong," as one senator put it.

**The Criteria** ■ Among criteria listed by the commission as reasons for selecting the 8 cities to get a third vhf: (1) all are in the top 75 markets; (2) two commercial stations already are in operation in each; (3) a minimal dislocation of existing stations will be caused; (4) all meet international agreements, and (5) reduced separations will be held to 120 miles for co-channel assignments (presently 170 and 190) and 40 miles for adjacent channels (presently 60).

As part of its plan, the commission will continue its all-out push to encourage uhf development. This will include such facets as all-channel legislation; encouragement of vhf assignments for both commercial and educational operators and opening of a uhf preserve on a first come, first served basis.

ABC, which has been striving for years for a third v in principal markets, stands to benefit most from the commission's proposal. There still are several cities where the network does not have a fulltime primary affiliate because of the allocation shortage.

**The Vital Statistics** ■ Each of the eight cities losing vhf channels currently have uhf stations in operation. This is the lineup:

Madison—losing ch. 3, has WKOW-TV (ch. 27), WMTV (TV) (ch. 33) and educational WHA-TV (ch. 21).

Rockford—losing ch. 13, has WTVO (TV) (ch. 39).

Columbia—losing ch. 10, has WNOK-TV (ch. 19).

Binghamton—losing ch. 12, has WINR-TV (ch. 40).

Hartford—losing ch. 3, has WHCT (TV) (ch. 18), slated for pay tv test, WHNB-TV (ch. 30) (New Britain), plus a New Haven vhf and Waterbury uhf.

Champaign—losing ch. 3, has educational WILL-TV (ch. 12) and WCHU (TV) (ch. 33), plus other uhfs in the immediate area.

Erie—losing ch. 12, has WSEE (TV) ch. 35.

### FCC inquiry involves Mrs. Lyndon Johnson

Is the wife of the vice president of the U. S. attempting to gain an "undue concentration of control" in Texas tv stations?

That is one of the questions the FCC said it wants answered last week in setting for hearing the application of KWTX-TV Waco to increase power from 107 kw to 225 kw and increase antenna height from 520 to 1,140 feet.

The LBJ Co. (of which Mrs. Lyndon B. [Lady Bird] Johnson, wife of the vice president is board chairman and 60% owner) owns 29% of KWTX-TV. LBJ Co. also owns KTBC-TV Austin and KRGV-TV Weslaco. KWTX-TV in turn owns 50% of KBTX-TV Bryan and 75%

of KXII (TV) Ardmore, Okla.

The commission ordered the hearing to determine whether KTBC-TV and KWTX-TV are under common control, to the extent of overlap between the two stations if the KWTX-TV application is granted and whether the proposed Waco power increase and taller tower would result in undue concentration of control.

Commissioners Rosel H. Hyde, Frederick W. Ford and T. A. M. Craven voted for a grant of the KWTX-TV application. Voting for the hearing here Chairman Newton N. Minow and Commissioners John S. Cross, Robert E. Lee and Robert T. Bartley.