

FCC okays \$30 million in station sales

CAPITAL CITIES' BUY OF WKBW, WPAT OUTLETS IS THIRD LARGEST

More than \$30 million in station sales were approved by the FCC last week at its final meeting before the August summer recess, among them the third largest sale in broadcast history.

Among the approved transactions were two acquisitions by Capital Cities Broadcasting Corp. (Lowell Thomas-Frank Smith), totaling \$19.35 million: WKBW-AM-FM-TV Buffalo, N. Y., for \$14 million, and WPAT-AM-FM Paterson, N. J., for \$5,350,000.

The Buffalo sale is the third highest in broadcast annals. CBS paid \$20 million in 1958 for WCAU-AM-FM-TV Philadelphia plus real estate (\$15.6 million for the station property and \$4.4 million for the real estate). Time Inc. paid \$15.75 million for the Bitner radio-tv properties in 1957, including stations in Indianapolis, Minnesota-St. Paul and Grand Rapids.

The 50-kw WKBW (on 1520 kc) was founded in 1925 by the Rev. Clinton H. Churchill, who is the sole owner. The tv adjunct, on ch. 7 with ABC primary affiliation, went on the air in 1958;

it is owned 51% by Dr. Churchill.

Under the terms of the sale agreement, Dr. Churchill becomes a member of the Capital Cities board; Clinton D. Churchill, son of the pioneer Buffalo broadcaster, remains as vice president and general manager of Capital Cities' Buffalo stations.

Capital Cities bought the Paterson, N. J., stations—which in recent years have become a New York area top-rated audience-getter with a good music format—from Dickens J. Wright and associates. Mr. Wright remains as chief of the WPAT stations, which he and his group bought in 1954 for \$300,000. WPAT has 5 kw on 930 kc.

New Lineup ■ Capital Cities, which got its start in tv in 1953 when it acquired what is now WTEN (TV) Albany, N. Y., now has six tv, three am and two fm stations. They include in addition to WKBW-AM-FM-TV and WTEN, satellites WCDA (TV) in Albany and WCDC (TV) in Adams, Mass.; WROW Albany; WPRO-AM-TV

Providence, R. I., WTVD (TV) Durham, N. C.

Chairman Newton N. Minow and Commissioner Robert T. Bartley dissented to both Capital Cities acquisitions on the issue of concentration.

Among the major transactions approved by the FCC last week was the realignment of tv ownership in Rochester, N. Y.—WROC-TV (ch. 5) going to WVET-TV and WVET-TV's interest in ch. 10 going to the other sharetime holder, WHEC-TV (CLOSED CIRCUIT, July 31).

The Rochester actions are being worked out this way:

Veterans Broadcasting Co. (WVET-TV) and WHEC Inc. (WHEC-TV-Gannett) are paying Transcontinent Television Corp. (licensee of WROC-TV) \$6.5 million for the real estate and equipment used in the operation of that station. This includes network affiliation contracts with NBC and ABC and an agreement not to compete for five years within 35 miles of Rochester.

Of this amount, WHEC Inc. is paying \$3,692,500 for 58.7% of TTC's Rochester assets, and Veterans is paying \$2,432,500 for 41.3% of these facilities. After this, Veterans will turn over to WHEC Inc. its license for sharing ch. 10 in exchange for WHEC's interest in the WROC-TV property. This leaves Veterans owning 100% of WROC-TV and WHEC-TV owning 100% of ch. 10.

Ifs and Buts ■ The FCC approval of the sale includes several conditions: that Veterans must agree to use ch. 8 instead of ch. 5 and go through various steps before beginning operation on ch. 8. Ch. 8 has been substituted for ch. 5 in Rochester as part of the FCC's rule-making to add another channel in Syracuse, N. Y. (BROADCASTING, July 31).

In the order approving the Rochester transfers the commission denied objections by WSAY Rochester and the AFTRA and NABET locals.

Chairman Minow dissented to the entire transaction; Commissioner Bartley to that part which involved WVET-TV turning over its license to WHEC-TV. Both dissents involved concentration issues.

Changing hands

ANNOUNCED ■ *The following sales of station interests were reported last week subject to FCC approval:*

■ KAPR Douglas, Ariz.: Sold by David V. Harman (Copper State Enterprises) to William and Katherine Mende for

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