

ABC, CBS, NBC queried on o&o's

ABC, CBS and NBC were asked by FCC Friday if local programming policies for all their owned tv stations are typical of operations of three owned stations in Chicago. Question is follow-up of March and April hearings in Chicago on local tv programming, forerunner of second such hearing scheduled in Omaha (see page 29).

Specifically, FCC wants to know within two weeks (Dec. 17) whether information networks provided in Chicago hearing on local programming autonomy also applies to stations in other cities. "If you do not regard it as typical, please explain in what ways it differs in each community," FCC said.

Of particular interest, FCC told ABC, NBC and CBS, are (1) extent to which local station management actively seeks out local community needs; (2) authority of local management in program selection; (3) extent of licensee supervision, and (4) provisions made for production of local programs.

Although FCC asks networks if Chicago is "typical," agency never has said publicly whether Chicago programming practices of WNBQ (TV) (NBC), WBKB (TV) (ABC) and WBBM-TV (CBS) met minimum FCC programming standards. Renewal applications of all network owned tv stations have been deferred, with programming issues, among others, unresolved.

Letter as sent Friday was considerably shortened from questionnaire FCC proposed to send to network owned stations (BROADCASTING, Nov. 12).

Nine radio stations join NAB on Nov. 30

Nine radio stations joined NAB Nov. 30, according to announcement by William Carlisle, station vice president. This is one of best membership days in recent months, he said. NAB has not made public announcement of membership gains in many weeks. Mr. Carlisle said eight stations had signed Nov. 30 with NAB radio code structure.

Half-hour program set for Relay satellite

Date for trans-Atlantic exchange of Christmas greetings is now set for half-hour program via new communications satellite, Relay, scheduled to be launched from Cape Canaveral Dec. 11.

Program is slated for Dec. 14 at

Inflation note

That Washington, D.C., parking lot that NAB bought earlier this month for \$425,000 (BROADCASTING, Nov. 12) could have been bought for \$75,000 in 1944—when NAB board first considered purchase and decided to let it go. Price NAB finally paid was omitted from CLOSED CIRCUIT last issue.

approximately 10:30 a.m. EST. Shad Northshield, NBC News producer, heads committee making arrangements for show, which will originate from both sides of Atlantic in cooperation with European Broadcasting Union.

Robert Taft Jr. quits Taft group's board

Resignation of Robert Taft Jr. as secretary and member of board of Taft Broadcasting Co. was announced Friday by Hulbert Taft Jr., president, as result of former's election as congressman-at-large from Ohio.

In other changes, Roger B. Read, Taft administrative vice president, was elected to board to fill vacancy left by recent death of David G. Taft, and Charles S. Mechem Jr., attorney, was elected to vacancy left by Robert Taft's resignation. Lawrence H. Rogers II, executive vice president, and Dorothy S. Murphy, treasurer, were appointed to executive committee. Taft stations: WKRC-AM-FM-TV Cincinnati; WTVN-AM-FM-TV Columbus; WBRC-AM-FM-TV Birmingham; WKYT-TV Lexington, Ky.

'Tunnel' rescheduled

NBC announced today (Dec. 3) it has rescheduled "The Tunnel" for Monday, Dec. 10 at 8:30 p.m. EST. Telecast of 90-minute documentary showing construction of escape tunnel under Berlin Wall, originally scheduled for Oct. 31, was postponed by NBC during Cuban crisis "because of critical international situation" (BROADCASTING, Oct. 29).

Network had been criticized, prior to Cuban crisis, by State Dept. for filming construction of tunnel. Protests also came from West Berlin but were later withdrawn.

Aid to VOA gets Kennedy's thanks

President Kennedy will express his thanks in person this week to officials of 10 stations that canceled regular programming to become part of Voice of America network during Cuban crisis. Station representatives will meet with President in White House at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Officials will also confer with Henry Loomis, VOA director, to discuss reimbursement for expenses incurred in beaming Voice programs into Cuba.

Mr. Loomis said meeting isn't intended to produce dollars-and-cents figure but to develop "principles" on which reimbursement costs can be calculated.

Station representatives who have accepted invitations to meet with President are Frank Gaither, WSB Atlanta; George B. Storer Jr., WGSB Miami; Milton Komito, WCKR Miami; Charles H. Topmiller, WCKY Cincinnati; Jack Nobles, WMIE Miami; Ralf Brent, WRUL New York; Rev. Aloysius B. Goodspeed, S.J., WWL New Orleans; Thomas Bishop, KAAY Little Rock; John M. Spottswood, WKWF Key West, Fla.; and Robert Bowman, KGEI Belmont, Calif.

WMAZ-AM-FM-TV sold; KSYD-TV sale agreed

Sale of WMAZ-AM-FM-TV Macon, Ga., to WMRC Inc. for \$2,094,750 was announced Friday, subject to FCC approval.

Completion of agreement for sale of KSYD-TV Wichita Falls, Tex., by Sidney A. Grayson and associates to Paul Harron for \$2,350,000 (CLOSED CIRCUIT, Nov. 12) was announced Friday. Grayson group retains KSYD radio.

WMRC Inc., licensee of WFBC-AM-TV Greenville, S. C., owns WBIR-AM-TV Knoxville, Tenn., and is 49.8% owned by Greenville News and Piedmont; 14.6% by R. A. Jolley and family; and others. Same group also owns Asheville (N. C.) Citizen-Times (WWNC).

Sellers are George P. Rankin Jr., 71.4%; Wilton E. Cobb, 22.6%; and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Miller, 6%. WMAZ-TV, founded in 1953, operates on ch. 13 and has both CBS and ABC affiliation. WMAZ is on 940 kc with 50 kw daytime and 10 kw nighttime, and is CBS affiliate. WMAZ-FM operates on 99.1 mc with 3 kw.

Hamilton-Landis & Assoc. handled KSYD-TV sale.