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ACTors. Action for Children's Television fifth annual Achievement in Children's Television Awards were handed out last week to 14 broadcasters in ceremonies in Boston. Honors also went to six corporations, which are the first awarded ACT's new Corporate Honor Roll Awards for commitments to children's programming. Accepting awards for their firms and their programs were (seated, l-r): David Braun, General Foods, *Zoom*; Lester Cooper, ABC News, *Kidsworld*; Robert Howard, NBC-TV, *Mugsy* and *Special Treat*; Frederick Pierce, ABC-TV, *Afterschool Specials*; Peggy Charren, ACT; Larry Grossman, PBS, children's programs; Jesus Trevino, Educational Development Corp., *Infinity Factory*; Diane Bloomgarten, WMAO-TV Chicago, *Bubblegum Digest*; Kathy Welsh, KETC-TV St. Louis, *Common Cents*. Standing, l-r: Robert and Betsy Behrens, The Behrens Co., *Kidsworld*; Lester Strong, WSB-TV Atlanta, *Operation Education*; Robert Andrews, Johnson & Johnson, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*; Christine Metcalf, KRON-TV San Francisco, *Kidswatch*; John Loudon, ITT, *Big Blue Marble*; William Bortree, Johnson & Johnson, *Mister Rogers*; John Behnke, KOMO-TV Seattle, *Boomerang*; Topper Carew, WGBH-TV Boston, *Rebop*; James Fish, General Mills, *Rebop*; Sandra Ruch, Mobil, children's specials; Larry Wheeler, Sears, *Mister Rogers*; Norman Axelrad, McDonald's Local Restaurant Association, *Once Upon a Classic*; Jay Ravid, WOED Pittsburgh, *Once Upon a Classic*.

how much reduction they were seeking, but ASCAP sources said the committee asked that the fee rate be dropped by almost 25%. That would cut about \$5.5 million off the stations' annual payments.

ASCAP officials countered that the commercial fee should be increased, as they proposed, not lowered. They contended that ASCAP "is in a stronger position in the charts" than it was when the current contract was negotiated in 1972, and that the ASCAP repertory's value has increased in other ways as well.

The committee, which represents some 1,400 stations, historically has argued that ASCAP music has consistently decreased in value to the stations and that ASCAP's rates should therefore decline.

Mr. Sanger said ASCAP wanted the commercial fee rate, now 1.725% of specified revenues, to go to 2% in the licenses that would take effect March 1. ASCAP sources, in turn, said the committee wanted to cut the rate to 1.3%.

Although he did not specify the size of the proposed cut, Mr. Sanger said the committee also asked for elimination of sustaining fees, the adoption of an incremental formula under which only one-half the rate would apply on revenues above a certain level, the right to deduct agency commissions paid to "religion agencies," an increased optional standard deduction available to all stations, "and other improvements in both the blanket and per-program licenses."

Mr. Sanger said representatives of the two sides would meet again in early March, and that the committee expected

to ask the U.S. Southern District Court in New York to step into the dispute and set "a reasonable fee." This procedure is provided for in a consent decree governing ASCAP's operations.

Mr. Sanger also said ASCAP planned to send letters—and ASCAP officials confirmed that they had done so—to stations, proposing that they sign an extension of the present contract. Mr. Sanger emphasized that stations that have authorized the committee to act on their behalf, or that do so before Feb. 28, should not sign an ASCAP extension because, under the court procedures, they will be able to continue playing ASCAP music, even after the present license expires, "without fear of copyright infringement." When stations take an ASCAP rate case to court, the court sets interim rates—either the old rates or some modification—that remain in effect while the case is being decided.

Members of the all-industry committee in addition to Chairman Sanger are George W. Armstrong, Storz Broadcasting Corp.; Abiah A. Church, Storer Broadcasting Co.; Robert R. Hilker, Suburban Radio Group; J. Allen Jensen, KID-AM-FM Idaho Falls, Idaho; Harold R. Krelstein, Plough Broadcasting Co.; Richard C. Percival, retired executive of Cowles Communications; Lester M. Smith, Kaye-Smith Radio Group; James A. Stabile, Metromedia Inc., and Donald R. Thurston, Berkshire Broadcasting Co. Counsel to the committee are Emanuel Dannett and Bernard Buchholz of the New York law firm of Graubard Moskovitz McGoldrick Dannett & Horowitz.