public its "Blue Book" called "Public Service Responsibility of Broadcast Licensees." Much of the report (reputedly written by the same Charles A. Siepmann who criticized broadcasting severely in his Radio's Second Chance) was devoted to the Commission's insistence that the extent of a station's "live" local programs was an important factor in FCC evaluation of the station's service, and that local news programs would receive high rating among local offerings. Though the report rested on a firm base—the provision of the Federal Communications Act that the FCC would be responsible for holding stations to operation in the public interest—it was received with anguished howls

The FCC Blue Book in its original form (dated March 7) defined as a wire program (hence not a local live program) "any program the text of which is distributed to a number of stations by telegraph, teletype, or similar means, and read in whole or in part by a local announcer. Programs distributed by the wire news services are wire programs. A news program which is part wire and in part of local non-syndicated origin is classified as wire if more than half of the program is usually devoted to the reading verbatim of the syndicated wire text, but is classified as live if more than half is usually devoted to local news or comment."

Robert W. Brown, executive news editor of INS, protested to the FCC that "it is arbitrary to force the licensee to devote more than half of all news programs to local news to obtain a local live rather than wire program classification," and that a licensee using a full news service, with editors selecting news of interest to the area, is in reality performing a local live function. Radio news editors were widely in agreement that arbitrary demand that more than 50 per cent of a news show be local was unreasonable and unrealistic (though the FCC language was indefinite enough so that nobody was entirely sure just what it meant). But they also pointed out that the INS request for clarification might result in an interpretation favorable to INS over other news services. If the FCC should rule that a news program rewritten in a station newsroom from a news service wire is a local live program, they said, it would mean that stations using the INS wire would be in safer position than those using AP, UP, or TP radio wires and not rewriting them.

The FCC responded to INS that its language had been misconstrued and misunderstood, but asked that INS suggest changed wording. Early in July the FCC issued revised definitions; that of the wire program was altered only by the insertion of the words "or virtually verbatim" after the word "verbatim" in the last sentence.

On August 1 Brown asked for further clarification; on August 30 the **(continued on next page)**