



Closed Circuit

ASSOCIATED PRESS directors, having mulled over since last spring ways to put into effect membership action enabling radio stations to become AP associate members, will consider subject again at AP board meeting Jan. 7 in New Orleans. Formula may be announced then, more probably month or two later, almost certainly before next general membership meeting in April.

SEQUEL OF SALE of *Spartanburg Herald & Journal* by Smith Davis, president of Smith Davis & Co., newspaper and radio brokers, to General Newspapers Inc. may be disposition of WORD, Spartanburg 250-watter, to same organization. Joseph B. Bryan, vice president of Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Co., is 50% owner of WORD with Mr. Davis owning other half. They bought station two years ago.

DESPITE stony silence from both White House and Sen. Wallace H. White Jr., it's more than even bet that latter urged appointment of Commodore E. M. Webster to existing FCC vacancy. Irrespective of politics (Webster has had none), Sen. White admires ex-Coast Guard communications chief, having been intimately associated with him at several world radio conferences. White's endorsement isn't tantamount to appointment but it's important because he will be Senate Majority Leader, and also likely will head Senate Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee.

JOT DOWN as practically certain switch in affiliations of Fort Industry stations WGBS Miami, potential 50,000 watter, and WAGA Atlanta to CBS from ABC network as sequel to switch of WWVA Wheeling, 50,000 watter, formally announced by George B. Storer, Fort Industry president and Herb Akerberg, CBS vice president [BROADCASTING, Dec. 23].

FOURTH participant in first "free radio" debate of 1947—scheduled Jan. 8 at Yale Law School—will be Robert K. Richards, editorial director of BROADCASTING. Other participants [CLOSED CIRCUIT, Dec. 23]: Comr. Clifford J. Durr and Charles I. Siepmann, of Blue Book background, and Louis G. Caldwell, senior Washington partner of Kirkland, Fleming, Green, Martin & Ellis.

REORGANIZATION of radio department of Young & Rubicam, a top agency in radio billings, may break around March. While agency has lost some billings, it has increased smaller accounts geared primarily toward radio with reorientation of department said to be desired for handling.

WHEN network-AFM contracts expire Dec. 31, James Caesar Petrillo expected to permit feeding musical programs to FM stations without extra fees. Reason: He's fearful Congress will enact Lea Act into overall legislation (dispelling constitutional doubts). Besides, other union leaders reported prodding him to "take it easy" while labor legislation is pending.

Upcoming

Jan. 3: Eightieth Congress Opens 12 Noon (on all networks and television).

Jan. 5-7: NAB Board of Directors, Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco.

Jan. 8-9: NAB Area A Meeting (Districts 15, 16, 17) Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco.

Jan. 10: NAB Separate Meetings (Districts 15, 16, 17), Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco.

Jan. 10: FM Assn. Organization Meeting, 10 a.m., Hotel Statler, Washington.

(Other Upcomings page 76.)

Bulletins

CBS Friday notified BBDO, Chicago, it was exercising preemptory clause in contract for *The Whistler*, 9:30-10 p.m., CST, Sun., sponsored on WBBM by Peter Hand Brewing Co. Ruthrauff & Ryan (Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.) and Shaw-Levally Inc., Chicago (Household Finance Corp.), reported seeking program for full CBS network, except Pacific Coast, with Household Finance holding inside track.

EDWARD WILHELM, who handles Gillette Safety Razor sportscasts at Maxon Inc., New York, and Harry Wismer, ABC sports director, and their wives received slight injuries in train wreck Dec. 27. They were on Panama Limited on way to New Orleans where Mr. Wismer will describe Sugar Bowl game New Year's Day for Gillette on ABC.

Chicago AFRA Negotiations Break Down

NEGOTIATIONS between AFRA and Chicago Class A stations broke down late Friday when all stations joined WENR-ABC contention that no compromise could be made on station argument that differential between sustaining and commercial staff announcers should be continued. AFRA had demanded elimination of sustaining classification.

Chicago's five Class A stations—WENR WMAQ WGN WBBM WLS—told Ray Jones, assistant national AFRA executive secretary and secretary of Chicago local, there'd be no compromise. Mr. Jones walked out. Following joint statement issued by stations:

"The Chicago local AFRA negotiations have recessed with no definite time set for future sessions. A unanimous front by Chicago station management on the maintenance of the non-commercial announcer classification has resulted in a stalemate. As a result all of the Chicago local AFRA contracts remain open."

Seven of 71 announcers employed by five major stations classified non-commercial. Class A stations expressed regrets that AFRA took "arbitrary stand" when so few local AFRA

Business Briefly

NOMA ELECTRIC APPOINTS • Noma Electric Corp., N. Y., appoints Albert Frank-Guenter Law, N. Y., agency for Estate Heatrola Division. Radio will be used.

RITEPOINT NAMES • Ritepoint Co. (mechanical pencils) names Gardner Adv. Co., St. Louis, as advertising counsel. L. C. MacGlashan account executive.

TWO TV SERIES • Standard Brands, N. Y. (Chase & Sanborn instant coffee), renews sponsorship two television programs, *Hour Glass* and *Face to Face*, on WNBT N. Y. *Hour Glass* broadcast Thurs. 8-9 p.m., and *Face to Face* Sun., 8-8:30 p.m. Agency, J. Walter Thompson Co., N. Y.

NBC 1946 BUSINESS SETS ALLTIME RECORD

NBC business in 1946 set alltime record, network announced Friday in yearend review. Significant 1946 facts: Average number of stations used by evening advertisers was 127; 90% of 1945 commercial programs renewed for 1946, many clients using larger networks; though spot sales dropped nationally, NBC maintained 1945 volume for first three-quarters of 1946; spot improvement predicted in 1947.

Network added six affiliates, with one deleted, bringing total to 160 with WOC Davenport and WFLM Flint scheduled to join Jan. 1. Thesaurus service now has over 300 stations, NBC said, with greater activity in sale of NBC syndicated programs. WRC Washington video outlet will be ready in spring, with FM outlet under construction. Plans complete for Cleveland, Chicago and Hollywood television stations.

members involved, said union demands would result in decreased use of AFRA talent in future.

Stations boosted original 20% increase offer over basic \$66.30 to \$84.70 for sustaining announcers, but refused further concessions even at strike threat.

Meanwhile delay is anticipated in joint network-AFRA announcement of contract-signing which was to have been made in New York this week. Before Chicago breakdown AFRA and network officials said commercial and sustaining codes agreed on, with "minor details" to be ironed out in Chicago and Los Angeles. New contracts to include 20% overall increase for actors, singers, announcers on commercial code; 20% hike on sustaining code for actors, singers [BROADCASTING, Dec. 23]. Increase for sound-effects men, according to New York sources, 25% New York, Chicago; 30% West Coast. George Heller, AFRA national executive secretary, meeting separately with individual networks on further details on sound-effects contract, although AFRA and networks reported in general agreement.