

# INTERCITY TV LINKS

## AT&T Readies Nine

PLANS for nine new intercity television links tentatively slated for completion by the end of 1950 were disclosed by American Telephone & Telegraph Co. last week.

The disclosure came as FCC neared the end of the first phase of its probe of AT&T and Western Union video network rates.

In addition to facilities included in the 1948-50 program outlined by AT&T at earlier sessions of the rate hearing [BROADCASTING, Oct. 4, 11], Frank A. Cowan, transmission engineer, said the following were planned:

Three channels between Toledo and Detroit; three between Toledo and Cincinnati, with intermediate terminals at Dayton; three between Dayton and Columbus; two between Dayton and Louisville, with intermediate terminals at Indianapolis; one between New York and Boston, with intermediate terminals at Hartford, and one each between New York-New Haven, Philadelphia-Wilmington, Buffalo-Rochester, and Boston-Providence.

Meanwhile, in an application covering a proposed \$9.9 million construction program for 1949, AT&T indicated plans for an intercity video link extending to Lancaster, Pa. (connecting with the Philadelphia-Chicago circuit) and to Erie (connecting with Cleveland-Buffalo circuit). Most of the overall construction program related to telephone service.

### End of First Phase

The rate investigation, resumed last Wednesday through Friday, is expected to reach the end of the first phase this week. This phase deals with the telephone company's policy against inter-connecting its intercity television facilities with those of other companies except to cover areas where AT&T has no facilities of its own.

The question of the legality and reasonableness of that policy—which industry spokesmen denounce as a threat to the development of television—will go to the Commission for decision at the end of the current sessions. The hearing on the rates themselves, it was decided last week, will not be undertaken until FCC has decided the interconnection question.

Meanwhile, Rodney Chipp, engineer for Allen B. DuMont Labs, testified on DuMont's estimate that video relay facilities could be built for \$660,750 (on two-year amortization) to link Washington, New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Haven, and intermediate points between New York and Pittsburgh and between New York and New Haven.

Mr. Chipp said the estimates contemplated three regional networks, each operating separately: New York to New England, New York to Washington, and New York to Pittsburgh.

He estimated that on a four-

year amortization plan the New York-Boston link, for example, might cost about \$20 per airline mile per month if there were few intermediate terminals. With a number of intermediate terminals, he said, the cost might approach \$35.

(AT&T's monthly rate for eight consecutive hours of daily use of an intercity video channel is \$35 per airline mile; where channel use must be shared, as it must in most cases currently, the rate is

\$25 per airline mile per month for four hours daily.)

William A. Roberts, counsel for DuMont, who had introduced the DuMont cost estimate earlier and then had withdrawn it temporarily [BROADCASTING, Oct. 11], pointed out that the figures are more than a year old. He added that he didn't think they would be controlling in comparison with the telephone company's rates.

John J. Hanselman, AT&T assistant vice president, said that



Radi and TV's Big Story.....	23
RTDG May Strike Against ABC.....	28
TBA Lists Speakers for Annual TV Meeting.....	34
TV Academy Names Group to Select 1949 Officers.....	34
Electronics Group Sees Big-Screen TV.....	55
CBC Board of Governors Rules No Immediate TV.....	57
Hotelevision Stock Offered.....	57
KGO-TV Gives Video Preview in Oakland.....	58
Hennock in Television Debut.....	63
Television Code Plan Outlined by TBA.....	66
KRSC-TV Will Sign With Three TV Networks.....	68
Mass FM and TV Bids Are No Bar, FCC Says.....	70
TV Sets Surge—Up 70,000 in September, NBC Says.....	71
TV Studio Design Rights Assigned to Austin Co.....	80

# EAST-MIDWEST CO-AX Service Ready Jan. 12

AMERICAN Telephone & Telegraph Co. last week advised television broadcasters that the coaxial cable linking the East with the Midwest would be ready for network operations Jan. 12.

The historic joining of television stations from the East Coast to the Mississippi will extend network service over AT&T cables or radio relays to at least 13 metropolitan areas with a total population of 11,846,000 families.

Two other cities, connected to networks by privately operated relays—Schenectady and New Haven—bring the total families in metropolitan areas to be served by interconnected television stations after Jan. 12 to over 12,600,000.

ABC, CBS, DuMont and NBC television executives were known to be planning extensive celebrations of the linking of the East and Midwest, but plans were not yet crystallized.

### Schedule to Be Worked Out

A meeting of broadcasters and AT&T representatives has been scheduled for Nov. 15 to discuss the schedules of use of the new cable link. Facilities will not permit indiscriminate use by individual broadcasters, and a schedule of sharing time will have to be worked out among all networks.

Although as yet no network has

more than tentatively approached the planning of special programs in celebration of the network expansion, it seems certain that the inauguration of President Truman Jan. 20 will figure prominently in all program plans.

It was recalled that the opening of the Washington-New York coaxial cable television service was celebrated with the telecast of Lincoln Day ceremonies in Washington Feb. 12, 1946.

The new cable between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh was put into television service last Thursday and is expected to be ready for television use around the first of the year, when installation of terminal facilities is completed. Work is proceeding on the Pittsburgh-Cleveland cable, which will be the connecting link between East and Midwest.

First call on the Philadelphia-Pittsburgh cable, designed primarily for telephone service, was a conversation between the mayors of the two cities. The link is capable of handling about 600 telephone conversations, or two television programs, in each pair of its eight coaxial cables. The project was commenced in October 1947 and cost approximately \$8 million. Cost of the Pittsburgh-Cleveland segment is about \$4.5 million.

Cities which will be intercon-

on reconsideration he didn't think "interconnection" would be involved if a program sent over AT&T facilities were fast-filmed at Philadelphia, for example, and the film then re-transmitted over private relay facilities.

At an earlier session he had indicated it might be considered through service if the film were retransmitted within about five minutes of the time the program was received at Philadelphia.

## Baltimore's WAAM (TV) Opens as DuMont Outlet

WAAM (TV) Baltimore, licensed by Radio-Television of Baltimore, last Monday began telecast operations on Channel 13 (210-216 mc) as an outlet for the DuMont Television Network. The announcement of affiliation was made jointly by Lawrence Phillips, DuMont director, and Fred L. Allman, WAAM vice president in charge of operations. Officers of WAAM include Ben Cohen, president, and Herman Cohen, Sam Carliner and Norman Kal, vice presidents in addition to Mr. Allman. Mr. Kal is also general manager. Studios are located at 217 E. Baltimore St. They reportedly represent a \$750,000 investment. WAAM telecasts nightly to 11 p.m. (EST).

An estimated 26,000 video sets are in the city area, according to the Baltimore Television Circulation Committee.

ected by the AT&T system after Jan. 12 are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Richmond in the now constituted eastern network; and Chicago, Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, St. Louis, Buffalo and Milwaukee, now in the midwestern network.

In addition, Allen B. DuMont Labs is slated to have its WDTV (TV) Pittsburgh on the air before the two networks are joined, which would add Pittsburgh to the cities actually served by AT&T system.

The AT&T's Jan. 12 notification to networks last week exceeded by less than two weeks the date estimated by the company for the completion of East Coast to Mississippi network service early last summer [BROADCASTING, July 19]. At that time AT&T predicted its connection of the East with the Midwest could be ready by the end of the year.

Predictions as to the dates of completion of network links to other areas still vary widely. AT&T has said that its coaxial cable equipped for telephone service will extend from New York to Los Angeles by the spring of 1949. The equipment of this cable for television use, however, would take an as yet unspecified time.

The full outline of AT&T's plan was in BROADCASTING'S TELESTATUS July 19.