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BBC-MOVIE PACT Theatre Telecasts Are Possible

A CLOSER alliance between the BBC television department and British motion picture theatre operators may result from discussions now in progress in London. Agreement may enable the BBC to telecast sporting events now priced beyond its financial reach and allow the theatre people to receive theatrical reproduction rights.

If the desired outcome is achieved, BBC would authorize large-screen reproduction of its telecasts of outstanding sports and other special events by the motion picture theatres. For such events the theatres could increase admission charges. A percentage of the increased revenue from the theatre box offices would be turned over to the BBC for use in paying for the television rights.

As a non-profit organization licensed by the government as the exclusive broadcaster of aural and video programs and supported by taxes on receiving sets, the BBC has only limited funds available for rights.

It is understood that \$2,000 is the most ever paid for video sports rights in England, an infinitesimal sum in comparison to telecasting sports fees in America.

BBC also will use the discussions to try to obtain certain newsreel privileges it now lacks. Unwillingness of the British newsreel makers to make any of their products available to the BBC has forced it to set up its own newsreel

department, which currently produces two quarter-hour news programs a week for BBC telecast.

Competition between theatre and broadcast newsreels has made it difficult and in some cases impossible for BBC cameramen to cover some events. BBC would like to secure full rights for its cameramen. Deal may also include permission for the BBC to televise some feature films for its home viewers.

Appointment of Norman Collins, BBC controller of television, to the board of governors of the National Film Institute of Great Britain was taken by industry observers to indicate that the present discussions are being taken seriously by both sides and may produce important results in the not too distant future. The appointment was announced last Monday in London.

Mr. Collins learned of his appointment in New York where he spent last week observing American television and, incidentally, viewing the premier showing in the United States (at New York's 72d St. Translux Theater) of the film made from his best selling novel, *Dulcimer Street*.

Confirming reports from London, Mr. Collins said:

"Discussions concerning the future of large screen television in British cinemas are taking place at this moment in London, under government auspices.

"A committee has been formed which consists of the renters, exhibitors and producers and the BBC. The committee sits under the Post Office chairmanship. The discussions have centered mainly on public televising in cinemas of remote broadcasts, including big sporting and national events.

"The BBC has emphasized that it does not wish to become a 'home cinema' but would like, in return, to be able on occasion to avail itself to British and American

feature films and documentary films of top-line importance.

"Details of settlement are not anticipated immediately but the discussions are progressing in a mood of optimism and mutual confidence."

WAAM'S BIG DAY New TV Outlet Was on Air —23 Hours Nov. 2-3—

SECOND day of WAAM (TV) Baltimore's operation (election day) turned out to be not just an ordinary one, but the station was equal to the task. WAAM was launched Nov. 1 [BROADCASTING, Nov. 8], and began its election day programming at 5:30 p.m., expecting to sign off at its regular time. Instead it stayed on the air 23 hours.

In addition to presenting election returns, the station aired ten live shows and several film programs. Programming provided by ABC, with which WAAM is affiliated, was supplemented by a number of DuMont shows.

WAAM operates on Channel 13 (210-216 mc).



Turntable

Technical



WILLIAM WAGNER has been promoted to technician at WCAU-TV Philadelphia. He is assigned to TV station's field crew. **MARTIN GOLDEN** has joined station as floor man, **RICHARD KANE**, formerly with WILM Wilmington, Del., joins station as technician.

HOWARD L. CARLSON has joined KAYL Storm Lake, Iowa, as staff engineer.

STEPHEN GASPAROVITCH, formerly of Magnetic Recorder Division, Brush Development Co., Cleveland, has joined WEOL Elyria, Ohio, as transmitter engineer.

ANDREW Corp., Chicago, has announced production of a new automatic dehydrator, type 1900, and new line of RF inductors, designed for broadcast phasing and tuning networks.

SPECIALTY DIVISION, General Electric Electronics Dept., Syracuse, N. Y., has announced production of five new types of germanium diodes, featuring a welded whisker which eliminates contact variation.

ALTEC LANSING Corp., New York, has announced production of new FM-AM tuner, type ALC-101, designed for home use, and an associated high fidelity amplifier, type A-3230.

THREE NBC Hollywood engineers have been transferred from radio to television section, effective this month. They are: **RALPH CLEMENTS**, recording engineer; **HAROLD PLATT**, studio-field engineer; and **VERN ALSTON**, maintenance engineer. **KAY BATEMAN** replaces Mr. Clements; **JOSEPH DESERT** replaces Mr. Platt; **HUGH WHITE** replaces Mr. Alston.

WINTON D. TEEL has joined KFI-TV Los Angeles engineering staff. Mr. Teel was formerly transmitter engineer with transoceanic shortwave stations KGEB and KGEX San Francisco.

BILL KELLER, engineer at WLS Chicago, is the father of a boy, James Anthony.

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Fred Gray—Apollo 1132; New Simons
—MGM 10257; Jack Lathrop—Vic. 20-
3119; Bob Stewart—Me-Ro 7469; Jack
Smith—Cap. 15280.

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