

CAA Advises Study Of Tall Tv Towers

A RECOMMENDATION that the Air Coordinating Committee take up the question of marking and lighting guy wires of tv towers has been made by the CAA airspace utilization branch, it was learned last week.

A memorandum, outlining the problem—believed to have been given impetus by the Battle Creek, Mich., airplane crash which killed former Michigan Gov. Kim Sigler and three passengers [B•T, Dec. 7, 1953]—has been submitted to the Airdromes, Air Routes & Ground Aids subcommittee of the ACC by Ralph Fletcher, CAA hazards aid engineer.

The memorandum is scheduled to be taken up at the next meeting of the AARGA subcommittee, Arthur L. Catudal, secretary of the unit, said in answer to a B•T query. Mr. Catudal is an airways engineer in the office of the Chief of Airways Engineering, Civil Aeronautics Administration. Next AARGA meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 26.

Before requirements for marking and lighting guy wires could affect the broadcasting industry, the FCC would have to amend Part 17 of its rules. These deal with marking and lighting towers.

In addition to the Sigler air crash, involving WBCB-TV Battle Creek, there were two other air accidents in 1953 involving broadcast towers at WHUM-TV Reading, Pa., and WPTR Albany.

Telemeter, Paramount Connection Questioned

Palm Springs theatre operator charges anti-trust laws are being violated by the recently-inaugurated pay-as-you-see tv service there.

A PALM SPRINGS, Calif., drive-in theatre operator has asked the U. S. Justice Dept. to investigate whether anti-trust laws are being violated by International Telemeter Corp. in showing theatrical motion pictures on its pay-as-you-see television service in Palm Springs before release of the films to theatres.

In a letter written by Beverly Hills attorney Herbert S. Nusbaum on behalf of Ben Bronstein, operator of the Sun-Air Drive-In Theatre, the Justice Dept. also has been asked to require ITC to bid for future films in regular competition.

Mr. Nusbaum, said Mr. Bronstein, has been informed by Paramount Pictures, which owns 51% interest in ITC, that he must permit Telemeter to show theatrical releases either before or at the same time as his theatre shows them.

"Paramount," Mr. Nusbaum said, "is in the position of making the pictures, distributing the pictures and is also acting as exhibitor in the guise of Telemeter—the very thing that the government fought for over 10 years to prevent in the distribution of motion pictures."

Expressing belief a conspiracy is afoot between Paramount and Earl Strebe's theatres, the letter asks that Telemeter be required to bid in the open market for the pictures. It also asks that Mr. Strebe and Paramount divest themselves of Telemeter stock.

Mr. Strebe operates Palm Springs' remaining three theatres and allegedly is a stockholder in Palm Springs Community Television Corp., an ITC subsidiary.

Transfer Bids Filed For KFDA-AM-TV, KTOK

APPLICATIONS were filed with FCC last week for sale of 75% interest in KFDA-AM-TV Amarillo, Tex., to Texas State Network and assignment of license of KTOK Oklahoma City to a new corporation under the same ownership, the present principals in KFDA [CLOSED CIRCUIT, Jan. 4].

Broadcaster Wendell Mayes, oilman C. C. Woodson and TSN President Gene Cagle each sell their 25% holding in Amarillo Broadcasting Corp., licensee of KFDA and permittee of vhf ch. 10 KFDA-TV, to TSN for a combined total consideration of nearly \$525,000. The purchase price is less some \$500,000 in obligations bearing their endorsements, assumed by TSN. KFDA-TV went on the air last April.

Mr. Cagle is 34% owner of TSN. Mr. Mayes is chief owner of KBWD Brownwood and KNOW Austin, Tex. Messrs. Mayes and Woodson are not interested in TSN, which owns KFJZ Ft. Worth, WACO Waco and KRIO McAllen, all Texas. Remaining 25% of Amarillo Broadcasting is retained by Charles B. Jordan, TSN vice president.

Amarillo Broadcasting, owner of KTOK Inc., licensee of KTOK, is capitalized at \$1,000. KTCK would be assigned to Oklahoma City Broadcasting Co., a newly-formed corporation composed of the present four principals in Amarillo Broadcasting. Oklahoma City Broadcasting assumes \$222,300 of Amarillo Broadcasting's obligations, representing the balance of obligations in the original purchase of KTOK from O. L. (Ted) Taylor in mid-1952.

KXLY-AM-TV Sale Wins FCC Approval

SALE of KXLY-AM-TV Spokane, Wash., by the Ed Craney-Bing Crosby organization to Northern Pacific Radio Corp. and Northern Pacific Television Corp. [B•T, Dec. 7] was approved by the FCC last week.

Total consideration involved is \$2,023,000, of which \$1,723,000 is capital stock, \$150,000 unpaid obligations and \$150,000 material ordered.

Northern Pacific Radio and Northern Pacific Television are wholly owned by Messrs. Joseph Harris, Norman Eisenstein and Richard E. Jones.

Messrs. Harris and Eisenstein each own a 45% interest of the purchasing group. Mr. Harris operates Harris Assoc., large insurance brokerage firm, and was former head of Motion Pictures for Television Inc., in which he has retained a financial interest. Mr. Eisenstein is a real estate investor and has interests in a chemical plant and dress manufacturing house.

Mr. Jones is an ex-Storer Broadcasting Co. vice president and recently director of DuMont o&o stations.

KXLY operates on 920 kc with 5 kw. KXLY-TV is on vhf ch. 4. Stations are CBS affiliates with KXLY-TV also carrying DuMont.

FCC Sets Five for Hearing

FIVE more comparative television hearings were scheduled by FCC last week. They are:

Jacksonville, Fla. (vhf ch. 12)—City of Jacksonville (WJAX), Florida-Georgia Television Co. and Jacksonville Broadcasting Co. (WPDQ). FCC denied petitions by WJAX and WPDQ to dismiss Florida-Georgia.

Muskogee, Okla. (vhf ch. 8)—Tulsa Broadcasting Co. (KTUL, Tulsa), Oklahoma Press Pub. Co. (KBIX) and Ashley L. Robison.

Tulsa, Okla. (vhf ch. 2)—Central Plains Enterprises Inc. (50% each by KVOO and KRMG); Fryer Television Co. and The Oil Capitol Corp.

Tulsa, Okla. (uhf ch. 17)—Tulsa Television Co. and Arthur R. Olson.

Biloxi, Miss. (vhf ch. 13)—Radio Assoc. Inc. (WVMI) and WLOX Broadcasting Co. (WLOX).

KSTM-TV Takes Ch. 11 Fight to D. C. Court

KSTM-TV St. Louis asked the U. S. Court of Appeals in Washington last week to issue a temporary restraining order forbidding the commencement of FCC hearings on vhf ch. 11 in St. Louis pending a court decision on its appeal from the FCC's refusal to accept its application for that vhf channel [B•T, Jan. 4].

The St. Louis grantee, operating on uhf ch. 36, told the court at oral argument last Thursday that the Commission should be forbidden to hold the hearing until the court decided whether KSTM-TV should be among the applicants. The hearing is scheduled to begin Jan. 14.

KSTM-TV filed two applications for vhf ch. 11 in recent months. The first returned by the Commission, was for St. Louis. The second, also returned, was for East St. Louis. The Commission held that an existing grantee cannot file a new application for the same city. KSTM-TV in both applications offered to surrender its ch. 36 permit if successful in obtaining a grant on ch. 11.

Durham, Stockton Grants Move Closer to Approval

PROSPECTIVE grants for vhf ch. 11 at Durham, N. C., and vhf ch. 13 at Stockton, Calif., drew a step closer last week as the FCC approved dismissal of competitive applications in those cities in two merger proposals [B•T, Jan. 4].

WDNC Durham was allowed to withdraw its ch. 11 application and the surviving bid of WTIK there was retained in hearing status for action by the hearing examiner. WDNC acquires 25% option in the tv venture. After merger, WTIK would be sold.

At Stockton, the ch. 13 application of Radio Diablo Inc. was retained in hearing status for action by the examiner after dismissal of the competitive application of KXOB. Principals in latter station take option to acquire up to 10% holding in the potential tv outlet.

In other hearing actions, FCC approved withdrawal of Lorain Journal Co.'s bid for uhf ch. 31 at Lorain, Ohio, leaving uncontested in hearing status the bid of WEOL Elyria, Ohio. No merger is involved.

WGH Newport News, Va., was granted dismissal of its application for vhf ch. 10, leaving in contest the bids of Beachview Broadcasting Corp., Norfolk, and WAVY Portsmouth, Va. WAVY paid WGH \$5,000 to reimburse expenses, FCC was advised. The ch. 10 hearing was to begin Friday before Examiner Charles J. Frederick.

Commission Grants Tvs At Erie, Corpus Christi

INITIAL decisions to grant new tv stations on uhf ch. 66 at Erie, Pa., and uhf ch. 22 at Corpus Christi, Tex. [B•T, Dec. 14, 1953], were made final in separate orders issued by the FCC last week. Both grants were made possible by changes in the status of competing applications.

At Erie, uhf ch. 66 goes to Commodore Perry Broadcasting Service Inc., operator of WLEU there. The decision was enabled by the withdrawal of Erie Television Corp.

At Corpus Christi, uhf ch. 22 went to Coastal Bend Television Co. after competitor H. L. Hunt amended his application to specify uhf ch. 43, approved a fortnight ago.