

at deadline

Edward Lamb to Appear For Questioning by FCC

BROADCASTER-publisher Edward Lamb will appear before FCC Examiner Herbert Sharfman this Friday for questioning by Broadcast Bureau counsel with respect to his application for license renewal of WICU (TV) Erie, Pa., Examiner Sharfman confirmed Friday afternoon following agreement between counsel for FCC and Mr. Lamb.

Examiner earlier turned down petition by Mr. Lamb seeking end of six-month-old hearing and immediate renewal of WICU license on ground Broadcast Bureau has failed to develop any evidence which would disqualify Mr. Lamb [B•T, March 21]. Total of 19 witnesses have appeared to date in case and Mr. Lamb is expected to be last called by Broadcast Bureau, although it has said it might call others. Mr. Lamb has yet to present defense witnesses or evidence.

J. Howard McGrath, ex-U. S. Attorney General and counsel for Mr. Lamb, announced that appeal of examiner's refusal to end hearing has been "reserved for a future date." Respecting Mr. Lamb's appearance before examiner, Mr. McGrath said "this is the first opportunity that Mr. Lamb has been afforded to give the Commission his side of the case. As early as October 1953, when the renewal had been delayed for some four or five months, I requested the Commission to meet with me and Mr. Lamb and expressed our desire to furnish them any information of any kind and answer any questions they might have.

"We were not afforded such an opportunity at that time and have been compelled to sit by while the Broadcast Bureau paraded its witnesses. Now we welcome an opportunity to have Mr. Lamb testify on his own behalf and we hope that this will provide a basis for early renewal of the license in question.

"I hope that this will be the last time that a broadcaster will have to stand trial for exercising the Constitutional rights of freedom of opinion. The conduct of this hearing has marked a serious roadblock to the freedom of the broadcast industry, and in undertaking to contest with the Commission on this score we have felt that the principles involved have been much more important than the particular rights and license concerned."

Petition Filed to Reopen Shreveport Ch. 3 Hearing

PETITION to reopen Shreveport ch. 3 hearing and reverse FCC's grant to KTBS there, has been filed with FCC by unsuccessful applicant KWKH Shreveport.

KWKH, owned by *Shreveport Times*, said KTBS General Manager E. Newton Wray "smeared" KWKH, showed lack of candor. KWKH said it had new evidence regarding Mr. Wray's testimony. It also challenged FCC findings regarding newspaper ownership, integration of ownership, etc.

Commission affirmed examiner's initial decision favoring Shreveport ch. 3 grant to KTBS last month on ground that station better quali-

fied in local ownership, integration of ownership and management and more extensive participation in local affairs [B•T, Feb. 21]. KWKH owners also own KTHS Little Rock, 42% of KTHV (TV) Little Rock and *Monroe* (La.) *World and News-Star*.

Mexican Service Opposed

OPPOSITION to ABC request to transmit programs to XETV (TV) Tijuana, Mexico, has been filed with FCC by KFMB-TV San Diego. KFMB-TV said move is nothing but scheme to serve lower California viewers from Mexico station. Tijuana is 20 miles from center of San Diego, KFMB-TV said. It claimed there is no showing of need for proposed service; that approval would cause economic injury to existing stations, particularly uhf; that competition from Tijuana station will result in lowering of program standards on part of U. S. stations. XETV, San Diego station said, does not maintain high standards required for American stations. It asks that FCC set ABC application for hearing and that KFMB-TV be made party to proceeding.

Vermont Switch Favored

PETITION of ch. 3 WMVT (TV) Montpelier, Vt., to switch to Burlington would be approved by FCC on basis of rule making ordered to change allocation of ch. 3 to Burlington. Comments ordered by April 22.

Commission also invites comments by April 22 to proposed rule making asked by ch. 40 KCCC-TV Sacramento, Calif., to amend tv table of assignments by two alternative methods: (a) assign ch. 16 to Pittsburg-Antioch, Calif. (not now provided for), substitute ch. 15 for 16 at Red Bluff and substitute ch. 56 for 16 at Santa Cruz; (b) assign ch. 16 to Pittsburg-Antioch, substitute ch. 15 for 16 at Red Bluff, substitute ch. 28 for 16 at Santa Cruz and ch. 31 for 35 at Salinas-Monterey.

Twin Falls Satellite Plan

APPLICATION for semi-satellite operation of ch. 13 at Twin Falls, Idaho, has been filed with FCC by August H. Vogeler, local warehouse proprietor. Proposed is combination transmitter and studio operation, with 80% of programming consisting of rebroadcasts from Salt Lake City, Boise and Idaho Falls stations. Application asks for 13 kw, 596-ft. above average terrain antenna. Estimated construction will cost \$86,450, first year's operating costs, \$92,000.

UPCOMING

March 29: Kentucky Broadcasters Assn. spring meeting, Brown Hotel, Louisville.

April 1: Pennsylvania AP Radio Assn. meeting, WQAN-WEJL (FM) theatre studio, Scranton.

April 1: Oregon State Broadcasters Assn., U. of Oregon, Eugene.

For Other Upcomings see page 120

PEOPLE

JAMES E. SZABO, former sales manager, tv dept., Adam Young Tv Corp., appointed national sales manager, Sales Div., Advertisers Television Program Service, N. Y.

THOMAS PEARSE WHEELWRIGHT, sales promotion manager, Chrysler Corp., to Ruthrauff & Ryan, Detroit, as merchandising group contact man.

ANTHONY Z. LANDI, motion picture producer, appointed vice president, Parsonnet & Wheeler, N. Y., producer of tv and motion picture films and tv commercials.

GILBERT A. RALSTON, for five years independent tv film producer and previously executive producer of Procter & Gamble Productions Inc., joins CBS-TV today (Monday) as executive producer.

WILLIAM G. GRAINGER, salesman, NBC Film Div., resigns to become president of National Tv Distributors Inc., N. Y., producer and distributor of tv film programs.

WWBZ Files Renewal Petition

WWBZ Vineland, N. J., has discontinued all horse race broadcasting and has taken steps to increase educational, agricultural and industrial programming, station has informed FCC in petition to renew license. Recommendation that station license not be renewed made by hearing examiner early this month on ground horse race information being used by gamblers [B•T, March 14]. Vineland station claimed horse race broadcasts not being used by gamblers, that they were sponsored by legitimate businesses and that track information came from UP. Nevertheless, it said, it discontinued such programming rather than incur additional costs in further argument before FCC.

Five-Mile Limit Urged

PROPOSAL of FCC to limit tv transmitters and towers to not more than five miles from border of cities to which channels are allocated supported in brief filed by ch. 23 WGVL (TV) Greenville, S. C. Deadline for comments on five-mile plan is April 15 [B•T, March 7]. WGVL asked Commission to take official notice of its protests against grant of application of ch. 7 WSPA-TV Spartanburg for move of its transmitter site from Hogback Mt. to Paris Mt., few miles outside of Greenville. FCC turned down protests, but Court of Appeals for D. C. has remanded case to Commission for hearing.

Budget Bill Considered

HOUSE Appropriations Committee was to meet last Saturday morning to draw up Independent Office; Appropriations budget bill for fiscal 1956. Independent Offices Appropriations Subcommittee, headed by Rep. Albert Thomas (D-Tex.), held closed hearings in February at which FCC members and staff testified, with hearing record released last week (see page 79). President's budget for FCC recommended \$6.7 million for fiscal 1956.

WIBG-TV Permit Deleted

DELETION of permit for ch. 23 WIBG-TV Philadelphia, not on air, was confirmed by FCC Friday. Surrender of tv permit was condition to Paul Harron's \$3.7 million purchase of ch. 12 WDEL-TV Wilmington, Del., from Steinman family, approved earlier in week (see page 79). Mr. Harron retains WIBG-AM-FM. Deletion of WIBG-TV raises total post-thaw deletions to 135, including 109 uhf and 26 vhf. Deletions of ch. 23 KTVP (TV) Houston, ch. 23 KDTX (TV) Dallas and ch. 38 WTLB (TV) La Crosse, Wis., reported earlier in week (see page 80).