

## CHICAGO PLANS GOP, networks look ahead to convention

Physical space requirements and credentials of radio-tv networks and local stations will be substantially the same for the 1960 Republican National Convention in Chicago as for the 1956 Democratic nominating conclave.

That is the indication given by the executive committee of the GOP National Committee's arrangements group during meetings with media representatives in Chicago, Sept. 17-18. Representatives of radio-tv, press, newreels, periodicals and photographers presented their requirements and inspected convention facilities during the meetings.

Total radio-tv industry credentials required for the GOP convention are 2,394, covering seats, platform, floor, radio booths, tv film and photo stands, podium photo stand and others. Among networks, it was reported, CBS will maintain about the same setup (housing and personnel) as in 1956, with NBC up a bit, and ABC and MBS perhaps less. CBS reported it needs 220 for housing and 212 for personnel, including 20 executives; 80 technicians; 30 correspondents and 40 editors, writers and production-supervisory (non-air) representatives, plus secretarial and other personnel.

Newsmen accompanied committee members on a tour of the International Amphitheatre and also inspected hotel facilities. The national convention will occupy 250,000 square feet (out of grand total of 585,000), with seating capacity of 4,850 on the ground floor of the arena and 7,400 in boxes and the balcony. The amphitheatre is completely air-conditioned.

Installation of permanent coaxial cables and new line installations connecting microwave projectors atop the

auditorium will permit 20 simultaneous telecasts (national and local) from the convention. Amphitheatre telephone equipment will be capable of handling 500,000 words an hour.

Amphitheatre facilities will be available, overall, to some 5,000 newspaper reporters, publishers and editors; radio-tv network and station commentators and technicians, and magazines.

Radio booths will be conveniently located to the convention stage, enabling listeners to receive "more intimate coverage" than in past conventions, according to amphitheatre spokesmen. The amphitheatre roof will house two helicopters for use by tv networks and newspictures services. The facilities will be used to shuttle pictures and films to Midway and O'Hare airports for national distribution to tv stations, newspapers and theatres.

## Bill limits licenses to former convicts

The last communications bill introduced in the First Session of the 86th Congress places restrictions on the granting of a broadcast license to persons having criminal records. HR 9271, introduced by Rep. Samuel S. Stratton (D-N. Y.), requires each applicant for a broadcast license to state whether he has a criminal record.

When an applicant has such a record, the bill states, "the Commission shall not grant the permit or application applied for unless it first makes a specific finding that notwithstanding such criminal record or records the public interest, convenience and necessity will be served by granting such permit or license." The bill was referred to the House Commerce Committee and it, along with over 150 other broadcasting measures, will be pending consideration when Congress returns in January.

would be doubled for 24-hour service, the application said. Mr. Patterson estimated there are 100,000 to 500,000 private firms and government agencies which could use his proposed service. Commercial Communications would lease lines from the telephone company.

TelePrompTer Corp. made a similar proposal to the FCC several years ago but was turned down by a 6-1 Commission advisory opinion. TelePrompTer proposed to use AT&T facilities to transmit messages within the broadcasting industry. The firm still has not completely given up on the idea.

## • Government notes

**Coos Bay Tv Final** • The FCC adopted a Sept. 2 initial decision by Examiner J.D. Bond and made effective immediately a grant of ch. 11 in Coos Bay, Ore., to Pacific Tv Inc. Comr. Robert T. Bartley dissented. Eugene Tv Inc., owner of Pacific Tv Inc., is licensee of KVAL-TV Eugene, Ore.

**Dual Market** • KCMC-TV Texarkana, Tex. (ch. 6) was authorized by the FCC last week to move its transmitter to a location about 40 miles from Texarkana and 36 miles from Shreveport, La., to increase its antenna height to 1,590 feet and make other equipment changes. Comrs. Lee and Ford dissented.

**WLUK-TV seeks ch. 11** • WLUK-TV Marinette, Wis. (ch. 11), last week asked the FCC to shift ch. 11 to Green Bay for operation by WLUK-TV there, so it can compete more effectively with two vhf outlets in Green Bay. It noted the other vhfs have the advantage of being in a larger market. The move meets all mileage separation requirements. WLUK-TV said.

**WQXR loses plea** • The protest by WQXR New York against the July 15 grant for WAPC Riverhead, N.Y., to operate on 1570 kc with 1 kw directional daytime only, has been denied by the FCC. The Commission held that the *New York Times'* outlet had not established that it was a party in interest. WQXR, which occupies 1560 kc, claimed even before the grant was made that the new station would interfere with its transmissions. Chairman Doerfer abstained from voting.

**Set sales up** • Upswing in radio-tv receiver and components sales in the first half of 1959 is shown by the Internal Revenue Service in its release of its figures on manufacturers' excise tax collections for the quarter ending June 30 and for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Collections for radio and tv sets, phonographs, components, etc. for the three months ending June 30, 1959 amounted to \$38,994,000 compared with last year's same quarter of \$29,046,000. For the fiscal year ending June 30, this year's amount was \$152,566,000 compared with last year's \$146,422,000.

**Tax relief** • A bill (HR 8725) relieving stations and networks from the 10% excise tax on intercity private line telephone service was signed by the President Sept. 21. Prior to 1958, leased wire services were exempt from the tax but it was inadvertently applied when

## 'Telenet' service idea broached to FCC

Commercial Communications Co. last week asked the FCC for authority to establish a nationwide private communications system in competition with AT&T and Western Union. The company, owned by John K. Patterson of El Cerrito, Calif., would offer a teletypewriter network service to business firms and government at "a low cost comparable with first class mail."

Mr. Patterson said his proposed "telenet" would link all the major U. S. cities. Subscribers would rent teletypewriter equipment with a nine-hour daily service costing from \$195 to \$375 per