

NBC, RKO GENERAL TRADES

Three-city station sales are announced

Sale of NBC's Washington radio and television stations to RKO General for \$11.5 million and the exchange of NBC's Philadelphia properties for RKO General's in Boston were officially announced Friday.

The transactions, which must have government approval, would complete NBC's multi-market parlay ensuing from the RCA-NBC consent decree requiring the network to dispose of its Philadelphia outlets. NBC's acquisition of KTVU (TV) Oakland (San Francisco) for a reported \$7.5 million—first step in the parlay—was announced three weeks ago (BROADCASTING, Feb. 29).

All three transactions are subject to one or more conditions. Purchase of KTVU and sale of WRC-AM-FM-TV Washington must, like all transfers of station ownership, be approved by the FCC before they can become effective. The swap of WRCV-AM-TV Philadelphia for RKO General's WNAC-AM-FM-TV Boston must be cleared first by the Justice Dept. (because of the consent decree, which stemmed from NBC's exchange of its Cleveland stations for Westinghouse Broadcasting Co.'s Phil-

adelphia properties), and then by FCC. In addition, the contract for the sale of the WRC stations stipulates that it will not become effective until FCC approves NBC's purchase of KTVU.

Properties Involved • The exchange phase of the NBC-RKO General transaction—said to be tax-free—gives the network a ch. 7 television station (WNAC-TV) in return for a ch. 3 property (WRCV-TV) plus a 50 kw radio station on 680 kc (WNAC) in return for a 50 kw outlet on 1060 (WRCV). NBC also acquires the fm affiliate of WNAC.

WRC-TV, bought by RKO General, is on ch. 4 and WRC is a 5 kw outlet on 980 kc. WRC-FM goes too.

KTVU—whose acquisition by NBC was protested bitterly by KRON-TV San Francisco, which would lose the NBC affiliation in that area—is on ch. 2. It is being bought by NBC from William D. Pabst, Ward D. Ingram, Edwin W. Pauley, Willet H. Brown and Stoddard P. Johnston.

The Philadelphia-Boston-Washington transactions were announced by Robert W. Sarnoff, chairman of NBC, and by Thomas F. O'Neil, who is chairman

of RKO General.

Aside from the appropriate governmental approvals, one tag end remains to be disposed of: sale of RKO General's WGMS-AM-FM Washington in order to comply with FCC's duopoly rule.

Changing hands

ANNOUNCED • *The following sale of station interests was announced last week, subject to FCC approval.*

• **WMBD-AM-FM-TV Peoria, Ill.:** Sold by Charles C. Caley and John E. Fetzer (Fetzer stations) to Midwest Television Inc. (WCIA [TV] Champaign, Ill.). Price was \$1,850,000 for all assets with \$225,000 payment over eight years to Mr. Caley for agreement not to compete and to serve as consultant. Midwest is 51% owned by August C. Meyer and wife. Among other stockholders is WSOY-AM-FM Decatur, Ill., affiliated with Lindsay-Schaub newspaper group's *Decatur Herald and Review* and principals of *Champaign News-Gazette* (WDWS). Other Lindsay-Schaub broadcast properties are WVLN-AM-FM Olney and WSEI (FM) Effingham, both Illinois. WMBD is 5 kw on 1470 kc. WMBD-FM operates on 92.5 mc with 2.5 kw. WMBD-TV is ch. 31. All are affiliated with CBS. No changes in personnel are contemplated, Mr. Meyer announced.

• **WJHL Johnson City, Tenn.:** Sold by W. Hanes Lancaster Jr. and associates to James C. Wilson, Bristol, Tenn., businessman and one-time stockholder in WOPI that city. Price was \$230,000, with \$67,000 in cash. CBS-affiliated WJHL is on 910 kc with 5 kw daytime and 1 kw at night. Broker was Blackburn & Co.

• **KHSJ Hemet, Calif.:** Sold by William B. Miller and Luther Pillow to Paul S. Sprague and Robert B. and Robert T. Griffin for \$85,000. Robert B. Griffin was formerly with KITO San Bernardino, and is currently program and promotion director for KWKW Pasadena, both California. KHSJ is 500-w daytimer on 1320 kc. Transaction was handled by Jack L. Stoll & Assoc.

• **WRKH Rockwood, Tenn.:** Sold by Herman and Ray Spivey to J.A. Gallimore for \$67,000. Mr. Gallimore is multiple broadcast owner, with interests in WSNW Seneca, WBAW Barnwell, WNBC Hampton, WSSC Sumter, all South Carolina and WLFA Lafayette, Ga. Daytimer WRKH is 1 kw on 580 kc. Transaction was handled by Paul H. Chapman Co.

• **WHAP Hopewell, Va.:** Sold by Charles E. Springer and S.L. Goodman

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\$350,000

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PENNSYLVANIA

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