

## International group now part of DGA

Climaxing more than eight years of negotiations, the Directors Guild of America has absorbed the Screen Directors International Guild and taken into DGA membership 396 former members of SDIG, which has been dissolved. The agreement combining the two directors organizations into a single union was signed Oct. 16 in Los Angeles, George Sidney, DGA president, announced last Monday (Oct. 18).

There are still about 30 SDIG members who have not yet come into DGA, Mr. Sidney said. About 20 are outside the U. S. at this time and have not yet completed their applications for membership. Eight have refused to sign the loyalty oath which DGA requires of all members and which six of the eight are protesting in a court action (BROADCASTING, Oct. 4).

The six litigants, who say that denying them DGA membership because they refuse to sign the anti-communist oath is a violation of the first and fifth amendments, are: Leo Hurwitz, Gene Searchinger, Darrell Random, Hillary T. Harris, Lee R. Bobker and Robert Braverman. The other two are



Mr. Sidney (l) and Leslie Urbach, president of SDIG International.

Norman Griner and Jerry J. Siegel.

With the merger, DGA becomes the sole union representing American directors of theatrical motion pictures, live and film television programs, staff directors at the networks and their owned stations and for commercial and documentary films. The other directors union, the Stage Directors and Choreographers, represents the directors of stage shows. Many of its members are also on the DGA roster, Mr. Sidney said.

## More extensions given for FM duplication

The FCC has granted temporary exemptions to another 32 FM stations seeking relief from the rule requiring FM's in major markets to do more independent programming.

The rule became effective Oct. 15. But in view of previous waivers and exemptions, less than 60 stations affected by the rule have been required thus far to alter their programming.

In July, 106 stations were granted temporary exemptions—to Dec. 31—while the commission considered their requests for permanent or lengthy waivers of the rule.

Commission officials say that 195 stations are affected by the rule which prohibits FM's in communities of more than 100,000 to duplicate the programming of their affiliated AM's more than 50% of the time. The rule was adopted in July 1964 and was originally to have gone into effect in August 1965 (BROADCASTING, July 6, 1964).

The commission is expected to act this week on the requests for permanent or lengthy exemptions from the rule.

Eight of the 32 stations affected by the commission's order requested and were given extensions of the change-over deadline to dates short of Dec. 31. The others were given exemptions running to Dec. 31.

## TV getting MGM top-flight package

In a major release of feature films to television, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has placed into television distribution a package of 90 motion pictures of post-1950 and post-1960 vintage.

Sales of the package already have been completed in eight major markets at a total price estimated at almost \$12 million.

Stations which already have purchased the MGM/6 package, according to Edward A. Montanus, MGM-TV director of syndicated sales, are WABC-TV New York, KYW-TV Philadelphia, WJW-TV Cleveland, WXYZ-TV Detroit, WBKB-TV, Chicago, KTVI(TV) St. Louis, KABC-TV Los Angeles and KGO-TV San Francisco.

Thirty-six of the 90 features are in color. All but one of the films are post-50's and 10 are post-1960. Thirty-two of the features have running times of more than 100 minutes. The package includes comedies, dramas, musicals and religious spectacles.

Among the titles are "Executive Suite," "King of Kings," "Father of the Bride," "Lolita," "Lust for Life," "Miniver Story," "Quo Vadis," "Raintree County," "Rose Marie," "Sweet Bird of Youth" and "Teahouse of the August Moon."

## Spelling forms own production company

Aaron Spelling Productions has been formed by Aaron Spelling, producer of *The Smothers Brothers Show*, *Honey West* and *Amos Burke-Special Agent* at Four Star Television, and has entered into an exclusive two-year partnership with United Artists-Television for the creation and production of TV series and theatrical motion pictures. The arrangement, which will go into effect when Mr. Spelling completes his current Four Star commitments, calls for UA-TV to provide complete financing for the Spelling company.

Mr. Spelling began his creative career in television as a writer of lead-in spots for the *Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theater* series. He went on to become a successful writer for this and other TV series and in 1961 was made producer of *Zane Grey Theater*. He subsequently produced other series at Four Star and when he leaves that studio he will retain his interest in the three series he is now producing as well as a number of series from previous years.

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