Box resigns his Balaban positions

John F. Box Jr., executive vice president of the Balaban Stations since 1957 and managing director of WIL-AM-FM St. Louis and KBOX-AM-FM Dallas, quietly resigned last week, it was disclosed Thursday (Aug. 11).

He said he expects to announce a new affiliation within broadcasting after a few weeks of vacation. According to speculation by former associates, he may relocate in some area of sales, agency or program work rather than station administration. Mr. Box had been with the Bartell group before joining Balaban.

Mr. Box, however, has not yet resigned his industry radio station assignments with the National Association of Broadcasters and the Radio Advertising Bureau although those organizations acknowledged they were notified that he no longer is with Balaban.

Mr. Box had his headquarters at wit. but made frequent trips to kbox. He as well as Balaban officials said the parting was “very friendly.” Former station associates, though, indicated his resignation may have been due at least in part to policy differences. The resignation was submitted in late July, effective Aug. 1.

It also was learned that Hale Bon- durant, formerly with the Balaban group and onetime manager of KFBK Wichita, Kan., rejoined the organization Aug. 1 as general manager of wit. For several months he had been at wit. on a consulting basis. Irene Runnels continues as station manager at kbox. Wti. changed format earlier this year, going from top-40 to a contemporary good music pattern (Frank Sin- atra, Barbra Streisand, etc.) and continuing a strong talk show in the evening.

Mr. Box was reached late Thursday at the Cape Cod summer home of Harry W. Chelsey Jr., president of D’Arcy Advertising, St. Louis. Mr. Box said his decision to leave Balaban “had been under consideration for several months.” He said he continues to retain a trust fund interest in the stations.

Changing hands …

APPROVED — The following transfers of station interests were approved by the FCC last week (For other commission activities see For The Record, page 85):

• KNTV(TV) San Jose, Calif.; Sold by Standard Radio and Television Co. to Allen T. Gilliland Jr. (73%) for $957,825. Mr. Gilliland’s late father, Allen T. Sr., was principal owner of KNTV, and Mr. Gilliland Jr., along with W. W. Jacka, Bank of America and National Trust and Savings Association, was executor of his father’s estate. Remaining ownership is among family members. Mr. Gilliland is also in wholesale bakery business. KNTV(TV), founded in 1955, operates on channel 11 with 26.3 kw aural and 18.6 kw visual.

• WATC Flint, Mich.; Sold by Gene Milner and associates to Natco Communications Inc. for $900,000. Natco Communications is subsidiary of Natco Corp., Pittsburgh (structural clay products). J. B. Fuqua owns over 25% of Natco. Natco Communications present-ly owns wroz Evansville, Ind. Natco Communications has, pending FCC approval, purchased KMAX-MTV Sacramento, Calif., and WTVW(TV) Evansville from Polaris Corp. (Broadcasting, May 30). WATC is fulltimer on 600 kc with 1 kw day and 500 w night.

• KFMI(FM) Los Angeles; Sold by Rogan Jones and associates to Storer Broadcasting Co. for $325,000. KFMI