

KING bows, agrees to meet with candidate

Confronted with adverse court decision and wire from FCC, King Broadcasting Co., Seattle, said Friday (Nov. 3) it will talk further with city council candidate who claims King stations have not abided by fairness doctrine in dealing with him.

KING-AM-FM-TV earlier in day lost bid in U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington for stay of commission order requiring negotiations with candidate George E. Cooley (see page 36).

Several hours later, commission wired stations that, in view of court action, it expected prompt compliance with order. Vote to send wire was 5-to-1, with Commissioner Lee Loevinger dissenting.

Commission sent telegram after King spokesman had indicated broadcaster would ignore commission order despite setback in court.

Appeal is based on stations' argument that commission is seeking illegally to substitute its judgment for King's in determining what constitutes "reasonable" offer of reply to editorial campaign King is waging in behalf of five city council candidates.

Court verdict on stay request was unsigned and came after 10-minute argument between Washington attorney William Potts Jr. for stations, and John Conlin for FCC. Participating were Circuit Judges Warren E. Burger, Edward Allen Tamm and Harold Leventhal.

Earlier in day, FCC denied petition by Mr. Cooley for cease and desist order that would have required KING to stop broadcasting editorials in behalf of other candidates and which he said were doing irreparable harm to his election chances. Commission said fairness doctrine looks to opportunity to respond to editorials and is not intended to prevent stations from broadcasting such material.

CBS, NBC half point apart

NBC-TV narrowed CBS-TV lead in 30-market Nielsen Report out Friday (Nov. 3) covering week ended Oct. 29. Averages, 7:30-11 p.m.: were CBS 18.6, NBC 18.1 and ABC 17.2.

Top 10 programs: *Dean Martin* on NBC; "The King and I" Wed. movie on ABC; *Lucy* and *Griffith* on CBS; "Hud" Sun. movie on ABC; "Charlie Brown" special on CBS; "The Chalk

Garden" Sat. movie on NBC; *Jackie Gleason* on CBS; *Carol Burnett* on CBS; "Don Knotts—Comedy" special on CBS.

KAUZ-TV sold; WLEE, WXEX-TV sale okayed

Sale of KAUZ-TV Wichita Falls, Tex., by Paul Harron to Bass Broadcasting Co. for \$3.1 million reported Friday (Nov. 3), subject to FCC approval.

On same day, FCC approved ownership transfer of WLEE Richmond and WXEX-TV Richmond-Petersburg, both Virginia, to group broadcaster Nationwide Communications Inc. for \$7,150,000. In Wichita Falls sale, buying group owns KFDA-TV Amarillo, Tex.; KFOW-TV Clovis, N. M.; KFDO-TV Sayre, Okla., and 25% of KAAR-TV San Diego.

Mr. Harron, who continues to own WKTU-TV Utica-Rome, N. Y., has bought WMTW-TV Poland Spring, Maine, from entertainer Jack Paar for aggregate \$5 million; application is still pending FCC approval. Mr. Harron bought Wichita Falls channel 6, CBS outlet in 1963 from Sydney A. Grayson and group for \$2,360,000.

Richmond-Petersburg transfer is by Thomas G. Tinsley and Irvin G. Abeloff, both broadcast pioneers. Mr. Tinsley owns 100% of WLEE, and Mr. Abeloff owns channel 8, ABC affiliate in dual Virginia cities. Five years ago, Mr. Tinsley sold his WITH-AM-FM Baltimore to Reeves Broadcasting Co. for \$642,700. WLEE is fulltime on 1480 kc with 5 kw, MBS affiliated.

Nationwide is former Peoples Broadcasting Co., and is wholly-owned subsidiary of Nationwide Insurance Co., Columbus, Ohio. Nationwide owns VHF in Knoxville and holds UHF construction permit for Columbus. It also owns radio in those cities, plus Cleveland.

ABC using new Ampex hand-held color cameras

ABC-TV was scheduled to make use of what's claimed to be "first truly hand-held color camera on air" in regional telecast of Army-Air Force football game on Saturday (Nov. 4).

Developed specifically for ABC by Ampex Corp., new camera weighs total of 35 pounds operated over miniature cable of total of 50 pounds operated as battery-powered unit via built-in micro-

wave. It's designed for one-man coverage of news and sports events. ABC has rights to first couple of units, with general distribution to others expected by spring of next year. No price has been established as yet for unit.

Last month, Philips announced development of lightweight color TV cameras (BROADCASTING, Oct. 23).

Media concentration in Fort Smith is FM issue

FCC has designated for hearing application of Donald W. Reynolds, owner of broadcast properties and newspapers in Southwest, for FM channel in Fort Smith, Ark. Issue—unusual one for commission to invoke in such cases—is local concentration of control of mass media.

Mr. Reynolds, sole stockholder of applicant, owns only television station in Fort Smith (KFSA-TV), its only daily and Sunday newspaper, and one of its four AM stations (KFSA). He is seeking what would be city's third FM outlet.

Mr. Reynolds' newspaper and broadcast properties are under name of Donrey Media Group. Commission vote was 5-to-1, with Commissioner James J. Wadsworth dissenting.

FCC, ETV stations weigh PBL anti ads

Public Broadcast Laboratory's plans to present anticommicals in its maiden program attacking believability of advertising for various products Sunday (Nov. 5) provides no basis for FCC action.

Commission sent that message Friday (Nov. 3) to Norman E. Cash, TVB president. He had asked that licensees carrying initial program be informed that fairness doctrine requires rebuttals be carried within or contiguous to that program (see page 32).

Commission message was disclosed as indications were received that displeasure over PBL's planned "noncommercials" was shared by some ETV stations as well as advertisers and their agencies.

Commission said its role is determining whether licensee has acted responsibly and in good faith. "In any event, even if it is determined that 'fictionalized commercials' express a viewpoint on a controversial issue of public im-