

do so."

The stations have been at the center of controversy since the seminary, headed by fundamentalist radio-minister Dr. Carl McIntire, filed its application to acquire them. Both before and after the sale, individuals and groups in the area worried out loud about the ultraconservative cast they feared it might be acquiring. The commission granted the transfer only on the condition that the station would serve the needs and interests of the area rather than its own private interest; that it would abide by the fairness doctrine, and that it would not "slant the news or in any way distort factual material."

Complaints came to the commission throughout the following three years—and, finally, 19 groups, including the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, filed a petition to deny renewal, charging that the stations were "one-sided, unbalanced and weighted on the side of extreme right-wing radicalism." Following the hearing over which Mr. Irion presided, the Broadcast Bureau filed proposed conclusions agreeing with the complainants.

The examiner, however, came to a different conclusion: "In the broad perspective of the record," he said, "it

is almost inconceivable that any station could have broadcast more variegated opinions on so many issues than WXUR." He said that the seminary had responded to an underserved need for religion, especially "conservative fundamentalist religion," but did not neglect other community needs. Mr. Irion also concluded that Dr. McIntire had personally been "extremely circumspect" in notifying persons attacked on his program, and in otherwise complying with commission rules (BROADCASTING, Dec. 16, 1968).

The Broadcast Bureau responded last week with its own set of conclusions. "Robust debate," it said, "is not necessarily achieved by vilification of religious or ethnic groups or by diatribe," but when "contrasting views are fairly presented." The stations failed to meet this criterion even after they received complaints, the bureau said.

The examiner also erred in contending that the commission's personal-attack rules are directed to "protecting persons from public abuse," according to the bureau. Their true function, it added, is to protect public access to conflicting views—which, the bureau contended, WXUR-AM-FM clearly failed to do, based upon the record.

Further confusing the issue, according to the bureau, was the examiner's

contention that the stations' small size and rural-service area somehow excused some of their conduct. They were explicitly licensed to meet the needs of a particular community, the bureau said, and were thus subject to the same standards that govern other licensees irrespective of size.

Finally, the bureau argued that Faith Seminary had misrepresented its intentions by promising to broadcast balanced, community-oriented programming. In reality, the bureau said, the licensee made no such effort and apparently never intended to do so. As one barometer of the licensee's community orientation, the bureau alleged that Faith had never even conducted a survey of community needs.

Changing Hands

Announced:

The following station sales were reported last week, subject to FCC approval:

■ WBNB-TV St. Thomas, V. I.: Sold by Robert Moss and Robert Noble to Television Communications Corp. for about \$840,000 (see page 50).

■ WINA-AM-FM and construction permit for WINA-TV, all Charlottesville, Va.: Sold by Donald G. Heyne to Laurence E. Richardson for \$450,000. Mr. Richardson is former president of Post-Newsweek Stations. WINA is full time on 1070 kc with 5 kw. WINA-FM is on 95.3 mc with 3 kw and an antenna height of 190 feet above average terrain. WINA-TV has a CP for channel 29 with 9.3 kw visual and an antenna height of 1,240 feet above average terrain. Broker: Blackburn & Co.

■ KCOY Santa Maria, Calif.: Sold by Ed J. Zuchelli and others to James H. Ranger for \$250,000. Mr. Ranger is station broker. KCOY is full time on 1440 kc with 1 kw.

■ WMWM Wilmington, Ohio: Sold by Francis Stratman and Dean Shafer to Daniel W. Burgeon, Carl A. Cook, William McKinney and Ruth Haupp for \$237,500. Buyers have interest in WBRJ Marietta, Ohio. WMWM is a daytimer on 1090 kc with 1 kw. Broker: Chapman Associates.

■ KBRN Brighton, Colo.: Sold by Virgle E. Craig to James Gordon Douglas III, Harry T. Starkland, Arthur J. Shadak, William Lask and J. V. Roiss for \$110,000. Buyers have interests in KKAT Roswell, N. M.; KPRI(FM) San Diego; KYMS(FM) Santa Ana, Calif.; KRDS Tolleson, Ariz., and KKAM Pueblo, Colo. KBRN is a daytimer on 800 kc with 500 w. Broker: Chapman Associates.

■ WTHM-AM-FM Lapeer, Mich.: Sold by Robert Tripp, Jimmie Harris, Ed

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