

charter or our national policy" (BROADCASTING, March 16).

Perhaps because of his frustration at leaving work undone, Commissioner Cox said, he agrees "at least in broad outline" with the proposal, and he expressed the hope his colleagues would seriously consider sponsoring such a project.

He ticked off a number of the specific questions with which such a conference might deal. What is the future role of radio? Can it inform, inspire and motivate the public, or should it be regarded, realistically, simply as a means of entertainment and as a sales tool?

And what is the future of radio networking?

As for television, what balance should be struck between national and local programming, and between commercial time and service to the audience? Can television achieve its journalistic goals and contribute to the solution of the nation's problems with a commercial base? How can television serve both the mass audience and significant special audiences fairly? What is the proper role for cable, satellite and pay television?

How can the FCC enforce the public's rights in broadcasting without slipping into censorship or burdensome overregulation?

Commissioner Cox said he does not know what he will be doing after he leaves the commission.

The commissioner said only that he hopes to remain in the Washington area "and in some phase of communications" where he could continue to concern himself "with the problems of the fascinating industries which the commission regulates."

explained that under Massachusetts law (Northeast's headquarters are in Boston) approval of a merger by stockholders is valid for 60 days prior to the actual consummation.

Mr. Michaels said Northeast is waiting for "reasonable" assurance the merger will go through before holding its meeting.

Under the agreement, according to the CAB bureau's brief, Storer will exchange \$23.8 million in Northeast stock for \$18.7 million in Northwest stock (based on May 20 market closing prices) at the rate of five shares of Northeast for one share of Northwest. And under terms of a Northwest-Storer agreement, Storer will receive \$4.6 million in Northwest stock in full settlement of a \$10 million loan advanced to Northeast by Storer. Northwest will assume \$46 million in Northeast debt, the brief stated.

## Tulsa VHF acquired by Scripps-Howard

**KVOO-TV purchase, for reported \$7 million, fills buyer's quota**

Scripps-Howard Broadcasting Co., Cincinnati, a group owner long inactive in station buying, has announced an agreement in principle to buy KVOO-TV Tulsa, Okla., subject to FCC approval. The price of the channel 2 NBC-TV affiliate is understood to be about \$7 million.

The station is being sold by Central Plains Enterprises Inc., principally owned by its president—Harold C. Stuart. Mr. Stuart also owns 98% of Southwestern Sales Corp., licensee of KVOO(AM) Tulsa.

The acquisition, which is also subject to approval by Scripps-Howard's board of directors and to final agreements, will complete Scripps-Howard's chain of VHF outlets. It already owns WEWS(TV) Cleveland; WCPO-TV Cincinnati; WMC-AM-FM-TV Memphis; WPTV(TV) West Palm Beach, Fla., and WNOX(AM) Knoxville, Tenn. The company's last broadcast acquisition was in December 1961 when it bought WPTV from John H. Phipps for \$2 million.

Jack R. Howard is president of Scripps-Howard, which also owns 49% of a CATV system serving suburbs of Cleveland. Group newspaper publisher E. W. Scripps Co. owns about 67% of Scripps-Howard.

## Texas group gains control of two TV's

A group of Texas broadcasters and Allan Shivers, former governor of the state, have acquired control of the permits of KSEL-TV Lubbock and KVET-TV Austin, both Texas.

The FCC last week approved assignment of the construction permit for the Austin channel 24 facility by KVET Broadcasting Co., owned by R. B. and Bill B. McAlister and others, to Channel Twenty-Four Corp. It also approved the transfer of control of McAlister Television Enterprises Inc., permittee of KSEL-TV (ch. 28).

The buyers—Mr. Shivers, Tolbert Foster, W. E. Dyche Jr. and Edgar B. Younger—will own 54.4% of the permittees of both stations. The present stockholders of McAlister Television Enterprises will continue to own their stock and new stock will be issued to the buyers. The price for the permit for unbuilt KVET-TV is \$44,138; \$200,000 for the KSEL-TV transfer. In addition, the buyers will pay \$300,000 to

Channel Twenty-Four Corp. for their stock in the corporation.

Mr. Shivers was governor of Texas from 1949 to 1957; Messrs. Foster, Dyche and Younger have interests in KNET(AM) Palestine and KDOX(AM) Marshall, both Texas. In addition, Mr. Foster has interest in KDET(AM) Center and owns CATV systems in Center and San Augustine, both Texas.

The McAlister group owns KVET(AM) and KASE(FM), both Austin, Tex.

In approving the assignment and transfer, the commission also granted a request for extension of time to construct KVET-TV and waived the three-year holding rule for KSEL-TV because the ABC-TV affiliate has suffered losses since it went on the air in November of 1968 and the present stockholders were unable to obtain further capital.

The vote was 4-to-1 with Acting Chairman Robert T. Bartley dissenting, Commissioner Nicholas Johnson abstaining and Chairman Dean Burch not participating.

## CBS says its team is not for sale

A London investment group was reported last week to have offered CBS Inc. \$25 million for the New York Yankees baseball club. But CBS, which paid \$14 million for the Yankees in 1964, denied that it was negotiating with the firm—International Investors Group Service Ltd.—and insisted that the team is not for sale.

"Obviously if someone comes in with a tremendous offer, you're going to have to listen," said a CBS spokesman, "but there's no 'For Sale' sign out."

International Investors Group's board chairman is former New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner. There was speculation that the Yankees would be moved from Yankee Stadium to share Shea Stadium, built during the Wagner administration, with the New York Mets. In addition to the club, the investment firm was reported to be interested in the real estate on which Yankee stadium is built, property which is owned by the Knights of Columbus.

## Lee gets its FM in Billings, Mont.

The FCC last week announced that the initial decision April 15 granting Lee Enterprises Inc.'s application for a new FM station in Billings, Mont., became effective June 4.

The commission, noting that Lee owned the only newspaper in Billings and four others in the state, and held interests in 11 others as well as in 12 radio and television stations in the Midwest, last year set Lee's application for hearing on a concentration-of-control issue (BROADCASTING, April 7, 1969).