

or her own informational needs require?"

Salant asserted that a successfully functioning democracy depends on a common data base for its people and said some of the new technologies threaten that common base. He suggested that "smaller and smaller groups may come to know more and more about less and less."

He said it is possible that the new technologies will not deliver "all the cornucopia of goodies" that are being promised and may provide more and more of what is already available. And in these new technologies, he added, the programing could become available only to those who pay and have cable.

He said he opposed the government's "tilt in favor of the new technologies," but hastened to say:

"Let me make it clear that I abhor government regulation of any kind in this area. I do not suggest abandonment of

deregulation of the new technologies. But let's even it out: It seems to me to be imperative as a constitutional matter, as a societal matter and as a matter of justice that free broadcasting, on the one hand, and the new technologies, on the other, be left equally free to compete in the marketplace."

At the outset of his speech, Salant voiced confidence that network news would continue to flourish despite the growth of the new technologies. His rationale was that if portions of the networks' entertainment schedule and audiences go over to cable and other technologies, news and information will have a larger role in network schedules.

"Not only because they have the organization and expertise in place but because it makes economic sense," Salant said. "Simply put, news is less expensive, by a good margin, than entertainment."

NewsBeat

Part of the act. Tim O'Brien, Supreme Court reporter for ABC, on Tuesday was admitted to practice before that court. O'Brien is lawyer, who is now admitted to practice in Louisiana and Washington, D.C. O'Brien was sponsored for admission to Supreme Court practice by colleague Fred Graham, who covers Supreme Court for CBS and who also is attorney. After taking customary oath and being welcomed to practice by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, O'Brien took his seat in press section of court to cover argument in case in which three television networks are appealing FCC ruling they violated "reasonable access" rule in refusing to sell time to Carter-Mondale Campaign Committee in December 1979 (see page 110). O'Brien has made news of his own in his coverage of high court; two years ago he beat court four times in reporting actions and decisions before their official release—scoops that did not endear him to Burger. Third network correspondent assigned to Supreme Court, Carl Stern of NBC News, is also lawyer and was admitted to practice before high tribunal in 1969.

After all, Mike . . . CBS News said last week that *60 Minutes* report on Haiti will be produced, despite correspondent Mike Wallace's original request that correspondent Morley Safer not pursue assignment because Wallace feared for safety of his relatives in Haiti. Wallace said last week he was in error in asking Safer not to report Haiti story and admitted: "I think we'd be derelict if we didn't do the story now." William A. Leonard, president of CBS News, agreed with Wallace and said story would be pursued.

CBS News merger. CBS News has consolidated its special events unit (live coverage of breaking stories) and special reports unit (specials with short lead time and occasional documentaries) into one production operation. Named director and executive producer of new combined unit is Russ Bensley, former director of special events. In other changes, David Buksbaum, deputy director and senior producer, special events unit, and Sam Roberts, a producer with *CBS Evening News*, trade jobs. Hal Haley, senior producer, special reports, takes on additional duties as deputy director, special reports. John Sharnik, senior executive producer, special reports, does not join new unit but continues as head of development for public affairs broadcasts, as well as assuming other assignments still to be announced.

Pa. freedom fighters. The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi will present its First Amendment Award to the First Amendment Coalition of Pennsylvania for its efforts to strengthen and protect freedom of the press. In four years coalition has given out more than 11,000 copies of its "survival kit," containing advice for reporters and lawyers faced with First Amendment problems.

Reporter's guide. World Environment Center is offering free guide. *Contact: Toxics*, to radio and TV newsrooms in top 100 markets. Book lists some 1,000 specialists on toxic substances—network of sources willing to take press queries. Copies are available by writing Center at 300 East 42d Street, New York 10017. In 1979, Center offered "Guide to Energy Specialists."

TV news expansion. All-news (12 noon to 5 p.m.) programing at Oklahoma City's independent KAUT-TV (ch. 43) has been shifted to compete directly with late afternoon local affiliate and network newscasts. New schedule calls for five complete one-hour newscasts running weekdays from 2 to 7 p.m. Future plans call for extending news format, begun last November, to seven hours daily.

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P.O. Box 1947
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