

Bringing RKO General Inc.'s struggle to retain its license for WNAQ-TV Boston to conclusion, **New England Television** announced last Friday (May 7) that it had **struck deal to buy all of station assets for about \$22 million and plans to go on air with new call letters WNEV-TV on May 22.** Deal includes five-story building in downtown Boston and transmitter, tower, trucks, cameras, office and other equipment. Although final decision for station's top positions have not been made (General Manager Pat Servodidio is moving up in RKO hierarchy; see item, page 129), spokesman said William Osterhuas will serve as acting vice president and general manager, and Arthur Porter will be acting vice president for administration and station manager. (Both are principals of Verital Communications Inc., broadcast consulting firm that has been organizing transition for NETV.) Spokesman said NETV would keep all but about dozen of station's 300 employees. Building also houses RKO radio stations WRKO(AM) and WROR(FM), which will stay on as tenants for up to one year while searching for new space, spokesman said. National sales rep remains Blair TV.

Lawyers for **Fidelity Television Inc. and Multi-State Communications** have written FCC General Counsel Stephen A. Sharp in effort to reverse what they understand is **commission decision to oppose their petitions for review in RKO General Inc. case** (BROADCASTING, April 26). Fidelity, RKO's rival for its license for KHJ-TV Los Angeles, and Multi-State, seeking license RKO holds for WOR-TV New York, have asked Supreme Court to review appeals court decision overturning FCC decision to deny RKO's renewal applications in those two cases.

**NATPE International is sticking with March 17-22 at Las Vegas Hilton for 1983 annual conference.** Opportunity had arisen for earlier conference—in late January—in San Francisco because Moscone Center there had room. NATPE had been looking for more convention space, but requirements eventually were worked out with Las Vegas Hilton. NATPE, as originally planned, is set for Moscone Center beginning in 1984. On other NATPE fronts, representatives of Association of Program Distributors, group of NATPE associate members seeking change, meet to draw up demands ("Closed Circuit," April 26) later this week. Demands will be on agenda at NATPE board meeting tentatively planned at Las Vegas Hilton June 15. Other subject that may come up at meeting is eligibility of Charles Larsen to continue as NATPE president. Larsen remains on WABC-TV New York payroll but for practical purposes is no longer program director there. NATPE by-laws are understood to be murky on grace period, which would be moot point should Larsen have other programing job by then.

**Corporation for Public Broadcasting** board members adopted **\$142.7 million budget for fiscal 1983.** Few objections were raised despite fact budget shows **20.3% decrease from FY 1982,** and that neither public radio nor TV received amount it asked for. Board member Diana Lady Dougan was only opposing vote. She objected to dividing funds by what she called "formula basis." In overall budget, public TV received \$95 million (a 20% drop from FY 1982) and public radio was allocated \$29.7 million (a 16% decrease from FY 1982.)

**Warburg Paribas Becker—A.G. Becker** has compiled its eighth annual **survey of lending to cable industry.** Warburg puts total industry **outstandings** as of Dec. 31 at **\$3.7 billion, up 52.9%;** estimates outstandings at yearend 1982 could be \$4.9 billion. Banks remain principal fund source, with \$2.6 billion outstandings Dec. 31.

**Plans to campaign for constitutional amendment prohibiting government content control of any media,** including electronic, are **beginning to shape up on Capitol Hill.** In speech to Kentucky Broadcasters Association last Friday night (May 7),

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman **Bob Packwood** (R-Ore.) was to announce he is **planning hearings, including possible field hearings this summer, to gather information for wording of amendment.** Drafting of measure is likely to take place early next year, according to committee staff, and will be followed by more hearings and introduction of amendment in Senate. Meanwhile, Packwood hopes to generate creation of organization to run national campaign in support of passage. Organization would be sponsored by national coalition of groups interested in passage, but should not include, according to Packwood, trade associations with financial interest in amendment, such as National Association of Broadcasters, National Radio Broadcasters Association or American Newspaper Publishers Association. Packwood planned to clarify to Kentucky Broadcasters that he does not plan to amend First Amendment, as some journalists have feared, but will try to add new amendment to constitution.

**Shareholders of both Columbia Pictures and Coca-Cola Co approved** by wide margin **\$750-million merger** of companies. Regulatory approvals, including FCC OK of license transfers of Columbia's radio and television properties, are needed before deal is complete.



Forty-second annual **George Foster Peabody awards** were presented last Wednesday (May 5) to 23 recipients (BROADCASTING, April 19), at luncheon sponsored by Broadcast Pioneers at New York's Hotel Pierre. Among winners was (top) consortium of five stations that produced *Fed Up With Fear*. Shown are (l-r) Louis Matheson, KOMO-TV Seattle; Barbara Groce, KOMO-TV; Kevin Duffus, WRAL-TV Raleigh, N.C.; Kathleen Matthews, WJLA-TV Washington; Jack Markham, WRAL-TV. At bottom are two network and one pay TV winner, award's first. L to r: ABC's *Roone Arledge*, CBS's *Bill Leonard*, Sheila Nevins of Home Box Office and Suzanne Levine of *Ms.* magazine. HBO and *Ms.* co-produced documentary on American women, first non-broadcast show to win Peabody, presented by University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady School of Journalism.

**Committee to find successor to outgoing National Association of Broadcasters President Vincent Wasilewski** was named by NAB Joint Board Chairman Edward O. Fritts, Fritts Broadcasting, last week. In addition to seven-member NAB executive