

Des Moines Register & Tribune Co. continued divestiture of media properties last week ("In Brief," Feb. 4) with announcement that it had signed **agreement in principle to sell KHON-TV Honolulu and its satellite, KAH-TV Wailuku (Maui),** to Burnham Broadcasting Co. Sources reported sale would total **about \$50 million.** Burnham Broadcasting, which bought its first station, WLUK-TV Green Bay, Wis., last year ("Changing Hands," March 12, 1984), is limited partnership headed by Peter Desnoes, general partner and chief executive officer. Desnoes, former general manager of WLS-TV Chicago, was vice president, sales and marketing, ABC-owned TV stations prior to joining WLS-TV. Still waiting on auction block are Register's AM-FM combinations in Madison, Wis., and Portland, Ore. KHON-TV is NBC affiliate on channel 2 with 100 kw visual, 10 kw aural with antenna 61 feet above average terrain (500 feet above ground). KAH-TV is satellite on channel 7 with 29.8 kw visual, 5.9 kw aural and antenna 5,950 feet above average terrain (75 feet above ground).

Representative **Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.)** said last week he **would support campaign of Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.)** asking conservatives to **buy stock in CBS** in order to take control of company, saying: "It is the best chance conservatives have ever had to end liberal bias in media." Also last week, CBS Chairman and Chief Executive Officer **Thomas Wyman** said, in reference to campaign, that issue is "Who is to monitor the [new organization's] objectivity?" Speaking at Duke University colloquium, Wyman noted that **complaining about news coverage is "part of the political game."** But, frankly, it is often an attempt to manipulate the press. And sometimes it is an attempt to intimidate." Wyman added: "People also tend to have very mistaken views about the relationship of CBS corporate management to the CBS News division... Our standards dictate a 'separation of powers' when it comes to reporting the news." He concluded that Helms and his supporters would have people overlook "professional independence" of CBS News.

Baseball commissioner's office announced Friday afternoon that previously disallowed **purchase of one-third interest in Texas Rangers baseball team by Gaylord Broadcasting had been approved.** Approval was made possible when Commissioner Peter Ueberroth invoked "best interests of baseball" authority to reverse Jan. 8 denial, which occurred in 9 to 5 vote of American League owners, short of 75% required. In addition to one-third ownership, Gaylord also acquired broadcast rights to Ranger games, which will be televised over Gaylord's Fort Worth superstation, KTVT(TV).

Negotiations may lead to purchase of Continental Electronics by Varian Associates of Palo Alto, Calif., according to companies' representatives. Each makes radio broadcast transmission gear, but Varian, with 1984 sales of \$929 million, is larger of two. Continental, privately owned and based in Dallas, had 1984 sales of \$34

Westmoreland vs. CBS. Retired Army General Joseph McChristian, who headed the U.S. military intelligence gathering unit in Vietnam until mid-1967, testified on behalf of CBS last week that he believed General William Westmoreland acted "improperly" by not forwarding a cable to Washington in May of that year indicating substantially higher enemy forces. McChristian recalled that Westmoreland had said sending the cable would create a "political bombshell." Westmoreland testified earlier in the libel trial, now in its 18th week, that he did not forward the cable because he wanted more information on the higher figures, and that subsequently he informed his superiors of those figures.

Also last week, George Crile, who produced the documentary in dispute, took the stand, this time as a CBS witness. (Earlier in the trial, Crile had been called to the stand by Westmoreland attorneys as a "hostile witness.") Crile testified that his research for the documentary led him to believe that Westmoreland suppressed higher estimates of enemy troop strength during the war for "political reasons."



Overseas dealers. In a press conference at Comsat's Washington headquarters, Ted Turner (l), announced that he signed an agreement with Comsat and British Telecom International to lease a full-time trans-Atlantic satellite channel to distribute his Cable News Network throughout most of Europe beginning late next summer. With Turner was Comsat President Irving Goldstein (center) and British Telecom's Mike Ford.

million. Potential purchase price was not disclosed. Geor O'Dair, Varian executive vice president, told BROADCASTING that serious talks on purchase of essentially all Continental assets had been held over several months, although complementary products for radio market have been used together for years. Varian diversified high-technology firm with 21 divisions producing systems and components for communications, defense, scientific medical and industrial applications.

Aaron Spelling Productions announced last Thursday (Feb. 7) it has signed **actress Loretta Young** to star in **two-hour made-for-television motion picture and "projected series" for ABC-TV, Dark Mansions,** air during 1985-86 season. Aaron Spelling and Douglas S. Cram are executive producers of "contemporary Gothic drama," which will cast Young as matriarch presiding over Seattle shipping family. Actress, star of 94 movies and *Loretta Young Show* on CBS at NBC, is ending self-imposed, 20-year retirement to accept role. During news conference at Spelling office announcing project, Young told BROADCASTING she is "sick of dirty, slutty, foul-mouthed and violent" performances on television and is confident new project will have no such problems. "Aaron Spelling has better taste than that," she explained.

Viacom Enterprises announced that it will **co-produce with Jack Gleason** estimated **75 new half-hour episodes** of *The Honeymooners*. New episodes will be put together from original *Honeymooners* sketches that were part of *Jackie Gleason Show*, which ran on CBS from 1952 to 1957, and have been kept in storage since that time. Pay cable network Showtime will get new episodes first, with kickoff of two-hour special next summer, and then begin playing 52 half-hour segments on weekly basis. After Showtime run, Viacom is expected to syndicate to broadcast stations new *Honeymooners* episodes.

King World, distributor of *Wheel of Fortune*, *Jeopardy* and *Headline Chasers*, has formed **new division called King World Enterprises** to develop joint programming ventures with station groups and advertisers. In addition, new division will acquire programming to handle clearances for Camelot Entertainment Sales—King World advertiser-supported programming arm—and handle all foreign distribution of King World and Camelot product. David F. Sifford, president of Nashville, Tenn.-based Centerpoint Distribution Inc. has been named president of King World Enterprises.

House Republicans are **protesting new ratio of Democrats to Republicans on Energy and Commerce subcommittees.** Republicans are refusing to make assignments to subcommittees unless they get additional seat on every subcommittee. They are specifically displeased with new ratio of Telecommunications Subcommittee, which Republicans, who had five seats, gained four more, making ratio of 15 (Democrats) to 9 (Republicans). Decision on matter not likely to be settled until after recess.