

Meeting between David Wolper and lawyers representing CBS, NBC, CNN, ABC on Monday, June 9, has led to **resolution of controversy surrounding Liberty Weekend** last Thursday (June 12), spokesmen for all four networks said last week. Details of those negotiations were not disclosed. Under agreement, ABC, exclusive rights-holder to coverage of weekend, will increase its feed of pool coverage from 9-10 minutes, as originally planned, to 16 minutes. Two cameras will be used for pool coverage. Feed will include coverage of July 3 statue "unveiling" between 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. All remarks by public officials involved in that ceremony on Liberty Island—President Reagan, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, Navy Secretary John Lehman, Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca, Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger and French President Francois Mitterand—will be covered in feed. Reaction shots from crowds will also be featured. Originally ABC's pool feed was scheduled to include shots of speeches by Reagan and swearing in of group of new citizens on Ellis Island by Burger. Reaction shots of crowd were not planned at that time. Not all media are happy with agreement, however. In letter to deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes last Friday, Ron Nessen, Mutual Broadcasting news and special programs vice president, said Mutual "cannot accept" present agreement, since "to do so would be to accept the proposition that news coverage of the President at a public event on public land on a great national holiday is for sale to the highest bidder." Nessen called for Speakes to direct White House Communications Agency to provide audio feed of all events during the weekend involving President. ABC is providing radio networks audio feed to television coverage it will provide.

Senate last Friday (June 13) **confirmed nomination of Patricia Diaz Dennis** for Democratic **FCC seat** scheduled to expire June 30, 1989. Senate Commerce Committee unanimously approved her confirmation earlier last week.

Rupert Murdoch's Fox Broadcasting Co. is apparently prime suitor for WXNE-TV Boston, owned by Pat Robertson's CBN Continental Broadcasting Network. Industry sources say Murdoch has placed bid for station. Murdoch is believed to be anxious to re-enter Boston market since he spun off WCVB(TV) there to Hearst Corp. for \$450 million. Communications Equity Associates was engaged as broker and investment banker for CBN station group of one FM and three TV's in April ("In Brief," April 7). Kent Phillips, CEA vice president, said although nothing has been finalized, he believes announcement of sales would probably be forthcoming next week. He declined to confirm or deny Fox involvement. (Murdoch would have to get rid of *Boston Herald* if he bought WXNE-TV.) Brokers canvassed by BROADCASTING felt CBN group should sell in range of \$80 million-\$85 million, with WXNE-TV going for between \$15 million and \$20 million (CBN was reportedly asking \$25 million). Some published reports estimated stations worth at \$50 million-plus, but brokers felt that price was too high in light of stations reported loss of \$5 million last year and difficulty of Boston indie market (Boston has 11 independent stations). One broker confided that two other brokers had already tried, unsuccessfully, to sell station at CBN asking price.

Vive le difference. Several key figures in *Fifth Estate* figure in National Journal's list of "150 Who Make a Difference," published in June 14 issue. List is further described as of "people and institutions you would like to have on your side if you want the government to change policy or if you want to resist proposed changes." James Mooney of National Cable Television Association and Jack Valenti of Motion Picture Association of America are cited among trade association executives, while Richard E. Wiley is deemed dean of communications law. Others named: Henry Geller under academics, Andrew Schwartzman of Media Access Project under public interest groups, Ted Turner of Turner Broadcasting under business and Christian Broadcasting Network's Pat Robertson under politics. Also cited among news media: BROADCASTING and Communications Daily.

GE-RCA: It's done. The corporate counsel and secretaries of General Electric and RCA filed papers in Delaware last Monday (June 9), consummating GE's \$6.5-million acquisition of NBC's parent (BROADCASTING, June 9). No other activity marked the closing, but the consolidation of the two companies' operations has been under way for some time. Transition teams have been at work reviewing how RCA might fit into GE's business areas and corporate staff. Some of RCA's 87,000 employees are expected to be laid off.

As a condition of the merger, NBC is required, within 18 months, to sell WNBC(AM)-WYNY(FM) New York, WMAQ(AM)-WKQX(FM) Chicago and WKYS(FM) Washington. Additionally, GE must divest a division that manufactures vidicon tubes.

NBC will operate as a separate subsidiary of GE, and one RCA official said the merger has changed little at the broadcasting operations. It is reliably reported that even KCNC-TV Denver, the GE-owned NBC affiliate, will remain as is, rather than being incorporated within NBC. Currently, the station reports to Paul Van Orden, GE corporate executive vice president.

FCC Mass Media Bureau has supported request of RKO General Inc. and Fidelity Television that commissioners review **settlement agreement under which Group W would acquire RKO's KNV-TV Los Angeles** for \$310 million (BROADCASTING, June 9).

ABC Television Network revised last Thursday (June 12) previously announced change in **compensation for Monday Night Football** and playoff games of **Major League Baseball** on weeknights and weekends. Move, which restores one hour of compensation in each football or baseball game, was made in response to protests by affiliates ("Top of the Week," June 9).

As expected, **Heritage Communications** exercised option to **purchase 43.5% of Rollins Communications** from Chairman O. Wayne Rollins and other family members for approximately **\$260 million**. Of 6.4 million shares being purchased by Heritage, 2.2 million were bought for \$41 cash-per-share, with remaining shares being exchanged for debt securities. Des Moines-based Heritage has announced intention to acquire all of remaining Rollins stock, and recently filed registration statement for three offerings, proceeds of which would be used for acquisition. Offerings are for five million in Heritage common stock; \$100 million of senior notes due 1997, and \$100 million in subordinated debentures due 2001. Total cost to Heritage of Rollins acquisition would be roughly \$600 million.

Nielsen reports cable penetration continues to inch upward, reaching **47.4%** of all U.S. households in May 1986, 5% increase over May 1985.

NBC Sports has extended its exclusive coverage agreement of **Breeders' Cup Day**—seven race, \$10-million, year-end thoroughbred horse racing championship—**through 1989**.

FCC has proposed change in its rules governing **rates for cable pole attachments**. In *Alabama Power Co. v. FCC*, appellate court held that FCC's rules did not result in calculation of maximum just and reasonable rate allowable under law and that commission had not adequately explained its rationale. Commission hopes rulemaking will remedy those concerns. Comments are due July 28; reply comments are due Aug. 12. Supreme Court has agreed to review another appellate decision finding that the pole attachment law upon which rates were based is unconstitutional (BROADCASTING, June 9).

Legislation was introduced last week in House to **ban all forms of tobacco promotion** including magazine and newspaper ads, billboards, posters and athletic sponsorships. Bill's author is Repre-