

ommission last week, NAB offered qualified support for ATIS proposal, approving use of VBI as "short-term remedy," but urging formation of industry group to look for permanent alternative before order's implementation Dec. 31, 1987. National Cable Television Association, in its comments, however, objected strongly to even temporary use of VBI. NCTA said VBI method would do little to counteract most interference problems, which often occur during initial transmission setup before any video information is on carrier, and in addition would displace other uses of VBI. Cable group also urged FCC to form emergency advisory group to resolve question.

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VOA-Europe, once threatened with termination after only little more than year of service (BROADCASTING, Nov. 17), **last week appeared virtually assured of survival**, and in form that officials say would maintain service in its present form at saving of more than 50%. Memorandum outlining what seems best of all possible worlds was cabled last Thursday to U.S. Information Agency Director Charles Wick in London, with recommendation that he approve plan. It had been Wick earlier this fall who had decided to kill program; he argued it was not cost effective, although no reliable audience figures had yet been developed. New design of VOA-Europe was product largely of two officials who had fashioned the program originally—Frank Scott, director of service, and his deputy, Terry Hourigan—working under direction of VOA Director Richard Carlson. Cost, once service has been restructured, expected by March, would be \$1.2 million annually. Proposed 1987 allotment for VOA Europe is \$3.2 million, so close to \$2 million could be used for other VOA purposes.

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Interrep will soon pick up **national spot sales representation for Price Communications' 18 radio stations**. Representation will be distributed among three Interrep companies: McGavren Guild Radio, Durpetti & Associates and Hillier/Newmark/Wechsler & Howard. Price group was formerly represented by Katz Radio, Christal Radio and Blair Radio.

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Arbitron says it plans to put **meters in 400 households in Atlanta** and to begin measuring that market with new service beginning November, 1987. Atlanta will be 14th market to be metered by

Coral Pictures buys Ziv library. Lorimar-Telepictures has sold its Ziv International library, a collection of more than 2,000 hours of programming that includes 65 half-hour episodes of Sid Caesar's Your Show of Shows, to Miami-based Coral Pictures Corp. for an undisclosed price. Coral Television is the American television distribution arm of Venezuela's Radio Caracas Television (RCTV).

Michael Jay Solomon, a founder of Telepictures and a member of L-T's office of the president, said the Ziv purchase may include a swap of RCTV's 20% ownership of WLIU-TV Caguas, P.R., and its repeater, WSUR-TV Ponce. L-T currently owns 51% of those TV stations. An independent company is evaluating the stations, according to Solomon. "If it does not happen, the [cash] deal will stand on its own," he said at a Los Angeles press conference last week.

The purchase of the Ziv library will give Coral, a distributor of Spanish-language programming in the United States, a chance to enter the U.S. syndication market with English-language product, said Sy Shapiro, Coral executive vice president and chief executive officer. Coral will begin marketing the programming at the Association of Independent Television Stations convention and the NATPE International marketplace in January, he said, with Your Show of Shows to be its lead package at NATPE. Caesar will appear at both conventions, Shapiro added.

The library consists of more than 400 hours of off-network product. Aside from Your Show of Shows, the portfolio includes My Little Margie and Ricky Jones Space Ranger, which Coral described as America's first television space adventure series. But the deal does not include Gumby, for which L-T will retain all distribution and merchandising rights. Solomon said L-T will probably soon add to the 34 half-hour episodes of Gumby with the release of first-run product.

Arbitron and fourth expansion market in 1987. Other three markets to be metered in 1987 are Cleveland, Seattle and Denver, with ScanAmerica local people meters.

Senate committee lineup taking shape

The Senate gathered last week to elect its leaders and to begin reorganizing for the 100th Congress, which convenes Jan. 6. This was the first time the lawmakers have met since the Democrats captured control of the Senate following the Nov. 4 elections (BROADCASTING, Nov. 10).

As of late last Friday (Nov. 21), the senators were still negotiating to establish the ratio of Democrats to Republicans on each committee and the bidding process for Democratic committee assignments was continuing. (Republican membership on the committees will emerge later.)

The number of Democrats on most committee was expected to increase to accommodate the new Senate ratio of 55 Democrats to 45 Republicans. On Commerce, which will be chaired by Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), the current ratio is nine Republicans to eight Democrats, but late-minute reports last week indicated it might change to 11 Democrats with the Republicans holding at nine. (There are two Republican vacancies created by the retirement of Barry Goldwater [Ariz.] and by the defeat of Slade Gorton [Wash.]

The Democrats gain of three seats, and the retirement of Senator Russell Long (D-La.), left four slots to be filled on Commerce. According to Hill sources, Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.), John Kerry (D-Mass.) and newly-elected Senators Brock Adams (D-Wash.) and John Breaux (D-La.) should join Commerce. Returning to the committee would be Daniel Inouye (D-

Hawaii), Wendell Ford (D-Ky.), Donald Riegle (D-Mich.), J. James Exon (D-Neb.), Al Gore (D-Tenn.) and John D. Rockefeller (D-W.Va.). Assignments to specific subcommittees are usually completed in January.

The makeup of the Judiciary Committee under Joseph Biden (D-Del.) was not expected to change. All its current members were said to be returning with no additions for either party. On the Judiciary Committee, the current ratio is 10 Republicans to eight Democrats. According to Hill reports, the new ratio would likely be eight Democrats to six Republicans. Under that ratio, Republicans won't be filling the vacancies created by the retirement of Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) and Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), and by the defeat of incumbents Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.) and James T. Broyhill (R-N.C.). There are no open positions on the Democratic side.

Newly-elected Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Harry Reid (D-Nev.) were expected to win their bids for seats on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Under the probable new ratio of 16 Democrats (formerly 14) to 14 Republicans (formerly 15), the minority would fill three of the committee's four vacancies.

In other committee news, House Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman Tim Wirth (D-Colo.), who won a Senate seat, was said to have been assigned to the Budget and Armed Services, Energy and Natural Resources committees.