

11.2 million ("For the Record," June 16, 1986), and WCOA(AM)-LJQ(FM) Pensacola, Fla., for \$5.5 million ("For the Record," Oct. 27, 1986), and will have no other broadcast properties. Richard Stakes, resident and CEO of Summit, said company will concentrate on cable television systems and "new communications technologies." Summit has interest in Cellular one of the Triad, cellular telephone system in North Carolina and Georgia, and has recently purchased LanTel Corp., Atlanta-based manufacturer of cable television and broadband equipment. Summit already owns five cable systems in North Carolina and Georgia.

ICA Inc. last Friday said it was **decreasing amount of money it expected to earn from television syndication contracts and would like one time charge against fourth quarter operating income of \$50 million.** Last week's announcement may be first major financial recognition of problems facing syndication companies because of payment problems from some television stations (BROADCASTING, Oct. 20). Another component of accounting charge was that MCA said it would increase its "bad debt reserve" for stations that have contracts with MCA. Move will help reduce company's tax liability, which would otherwise have increased in fourth quarter—in which MCA has to recognize effect of losing investment tax credit under tax reform act. Doubts about motivation behind charge against earnings may explain, to some extent, why company's stock rose despite news, as did most other syndication stocks on Friday. Lorimar-Telepictures was off, however, from \$18 to \$16 1/2 on heavy volume. One securities analyst said company had just completed board management meeting in which some news may have developed.

Stephen J. Cannell said last week **Fox Broadcasting Co. ordered pilot for half-hour comedy, Cannell's first, A Single Man.** Veteran director **Joel Zwick** (*Webster*, *Perfect Strangers*) has been assigned to direct pilot. Project was created and written by **Ian Rainer**.

LBS Communications will syndicate one-hour special on **Marvin Hagler/Sugar Ray Leonard** fight in two-week window preceding HBO's presentation of fight. Special represents deal between LBS and HBO for joint development, production and worldwide marketing. Two companies now have development fund for creation of new series.

No further progress is possible in settlement negotiations for RKO General Inc.'s WXY(FM) Fort Lauderdale, Fla. ("Closed Circuit," Jan. 12), and further progress in negotiations for RKO's KFRC(AM) San Francisco "appears highly unlikely." So said **James McKinney**, FCC Mass Media Bureau chief and RKO mediator, in progress report last week to commissioners on status of negotiations for RKO's 13 stations. McKinney also said mediation process FCC provided for would end in two weeks; he plans to file final report no later than Feb. 3. There are still no settlements. But **John Ellsworth**, chairman of U.S. Coal Corp., which has bid \$57.5 million for RKO's KRTH-AM-FM Los Angeles ("Closed Circuit," Jan. 5), told BROADCASTING that deal appeared to be close. **Robert Thompson**, attorney for Gold Coast Broadcasting Inc., competitor for San Francisco, said those negotiations were dead there. "We want to be thrown back into litigation immediately," Thompson said.

U.S. district court in Washington has declined to issue temporary restraining order sought by **N W Ayer** that would prevent Army from announcing winner of **Army's \$100-million account.** Army suspended Ayer, its agency for 19 years, last Nov. 23, charging improper handling of account. One of Ayer employees involved in Army account was discharged by Ayer last year for accepting kickbacks. Army is expected to announce winner of its account shortly. In contention are **Young & Rubicam, BBDO, DFS Dorland, Ogilvy & Mather, Chicago and SSC&B.**

Navy F-4 jet crashed into Dallas broadcast tower last Wednesday, causing structural damage and knocking two Dallas FM's temporarily off air. Two pilots ejected safely from plane. Cause of crash was not known. Jet hit tower platform housing antennas for **KZEW(FM)** and **KSCS(FM)**, and stations lost transmissions immediately. Both

were back on air from another tower at reduced power late last week. Left unaffected so far by crash were ABC and CBS network affiliates **WFAA-TV** and **KDFW-TV**, which own 1,520-foot tower and have antennas on structure, as does NBC affiliate **KXAS-TV.**

Warren Boorum, former vice president of special projects and administration, **Advertiser Syndicated Television Association**, has accepted job as executive director of ASTA. Association represents 20 companies that account for 90% of all dollars in barter syndication. ASTA will have meeting during NATPE convention this week, and will also have booth on exhibit floor.

NBC News President Larry Grossman, whose three-year contract expires soon, reportedly within next two months, **has not been offered new contract with network**, and is not likely to get one. According to **Merryle S. Rukeyser Jr.**, NBC executive vice president of corporate communications, "one's employment at NBC is not conditioned on a contract. There are people who have been working here who have never had a contract who are on a very high level," he said. "There is no significance at all to the end of Larry's contract," Rukeyser said, adding that Grossman "is and will continue to be the president of NBC News." Grossman, who declined to discuss details of his employment agreement, said he was "very happy at NBC News," calling it "best job in the world."

Television evangelist **Oral Roberts** stirred ire of television stations last week by asking viewers to contribute \$4.5 million to medical school at Oral Roberts University or else he would die in March. Stations carry program in return for cash compensation. **Peter Leone**, vice president-general manager, **WOR-TV** New York, which carries program, said if Roberts continues with plea, they would be edited out of program. Similarly, **Walt Baker**, vice president-program manager, **KHJ-TV** Los Angeles, said his station "simply gave Roberts notice that we would not allow the pleas on the air." Both Leone and Baker said they have no intention of dropping program.

Ed Kiernan, vice president and general manager, **CBS Radio Representatives**, New York, assumed same title for company-owned **WCBS(AM)** there last Friday (Jan. 16), replacing **James McQuade.** **Tony Miraglia**, director of station relations for CBS Radio Representatives, replaces Kiernan; **Don Gorski**, director of sales for CBS rep firm, moves to newly formed vice president of sales spot.

Lorimar distribution deal. *Lorimar-Telepictures Corp. last week announced the formation of a new subsidiary, Lorimar Film Entertainment, to include L-T's motion picture arm and a new company to distribute L-T theatrical product as well as films from independent producers. Bernie Brillstein, head of The Brillstein Co., which L-T bought last May, has been named chairman and chief executive officer of the new subsidiary and will continue as head of the Brillstein Co. Peter Chernin is giving up his role as executive vice president, programming and marketing, Showtime-The Movie Channel Inc., to become president and chief operating officer of Lorimar Film Entertainment under Brillstein. No replacement for Chernin, who will remain at Showtime/TMC until the end of the month, has been named.*

Twentieth Century Fox has been the distributor of L-T films. L-T said in a prepared statement that the new distribution arm will enable the company to "maximize the profit potential of our motion pictures by adding a measure of financial protection afforded through increased control and the retention of distribution fees which can often make the difference between a profitable or unprofitable film." Craig Baumgarten continues as president of Lorimar Motion Pictures, the company said, with Ashley Boone continuing as marketing and distribution president, and Bobby Meyers as international distribution president. The company will distribute at least three new Lorimar films this year: "Hearts of Fire," "Big Shots" and "Orphans" and at least two independent productions.