Calif. Contemplates Pole Tariffs
Rediffusion “Dial” Programming
Nixon Revamps Telecommunications
Cypress To Drop Broadcasting

February 16, 1970

Authoritative Newsweekly of Cable Television
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First in CATV
OUR COVER
IVC, Dick Clark plan cable TV program company. Preparing to preview pilot tape of new programming for cable TV systems are Donald F. Eldridge, president of International Video Corporation (left), and Dick Clark, president of Dick Clark Enterprises (right). The two companies have agreed to form a new organization, National Telesystems Corporation, that will offer a new CATV programming service. (See story inside.)

Conspectus

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California PUC considers CATV protest against pole attachment rate hikes, issues restraining order against General Telephone, Southern California Edison. Could become first state to require pole attachment tariffs.

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World's biggest, Rediffusion, supplies "Dial-A-Program" to Leghorn for experimental CATV system which most likely will crystallize in section of Springfield, Ill.

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Cypress announces plans to spin off broadcasting unit with firm's added emphasis on CATV. Distribution of Cypress Broadcasting common stock as dividend marks first step.

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Pole Rate Regulation: No-Man’s Land?

"Give a bureaucrat an inch . . . and he’ll take over an industry.” That’s what we’ve been saying for years, anyway. Could it be we’ve been wrong? In December, California cable operators, through their association, asked both the FCC and the California Public Utilities Commission to take jurisdiction over utility pole attachment offerings to CATV and to require the utilities to file tariffs for such offerings.

Last week, six weeks after the CCTA petition, the state PUC took action — ordering General Telephone and Southern California Edison to maintain the status quo until the commission can conduct a hearing and decide the tariff question.

And is the FCC scrapping with California over the jurisdiction question? Not at all. To the contrary. According to one Commission source, you could practically hear a sigh of relief go through 1919 M Street at the prospect of the states taking such a sticky problem off the Commission’s hands. The FCC has, in fact, been postponing action in this area for years — perhaps in hopes that some enterprising PUC would step into the breach.

We can hardly blame the FCC for its reluctance to grapple with the hotly disputed pole attachment rates and practices. At the same time, the current state-of-the-problem gives rise to some critical questions — first and foremost being, “What’s best for CATV?” Perhaps, as one attorney contends, the pole problem can be dealt with at the state level more practically than at the federal level. Since the problem occurs at the local level, the solution should be fashioned there. On the other hand, telco monopolies are quite likely to receive a more sympathetic ear at state PUCs than at the FCC. Not to mention the fact that any opportunity for a state PUC to examine CATV could be taken by those commissioners as an opportunity to regulate the industry.

Besides the short-range effect on CATV of “who regulates the poles” there’s a longer-term question of whether the FCC and the states are on a collision course in their various attempts to regulate cable television. It’s true that the Supreme Court in the Southwestern decision talked about the Commission’s power over CATV as being only that “ancillary to” broadcasting. But a review of FCC-CATV history, from the Carter Mountain case to date, leaves little doubt that the arm of the federal government has all of the stretching qualities of good rubber. If and/or when the Commission desires to pre-empt the entire CATV regulatory field, it will do so. And it seems to us that it would be fundamentally unfair of the Commission — both to cable operators and to state governments — to allow the states to wander up a dead-end garden path simply for the sake of the FCC’s convenience.
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California PUC Halts Pole Rate Hike; May Require Utilities to File Tariffs

California PUC orders utilities to hold price line on pole rentals to CATV operators; commission may require General Telephone, Southern California Edison to file tariffs.

California’s Public Utilities Commission last week ordered General Telephone and Southern California Edison to hold the line on pole attachment rates for CATV, at least until after a hearing. The move could be the first leading to tariff filings for pole attachments. If so, California would become the first state to require such filings — and apparently would have the FCC’s blessing in doing so.

The Restraining Order issued February 10 resulted from a petition by the California CATV Association, CCTA, appealing to both the FCC and the California PUC, protested recently announced pole attachment rate hikes by the utilities and asked both regulatory bodies to require the utilities to file tariffs.

Jurisdiction Over Attachments

The state commission promptly issued a restraining order and set a hearing date for February 25. At that time, evidence will be heard on whether the California PUC has jurisdiction over pole attachments within the state and whether the offering of pole use to CATV operators is a “common carrier” offering which would require that tariffs be filed.

The FCC has taken no action on the petition, and a source within the Federal Commission said “the state would be welcome to take over.” The feeling at the FCC, he said, “is that the area of pole rate regulation is so mired in local dispute that the Commission would like to avoid it.” The question of pole attachment tariffs has been before the FCC for years, with no action.

NARUC’s Paul Rogers, commenting on California’s action, said he believes the state commission does have the necessary jurisdiction. “And if any state commission does not have that jurisdiction,” he said, “we would encourage legislatures to grant it.” He continued, “Something such as pole attachments should be regulated at the local level — not by the federal government.”

Besides ordering the utilities to keep pole rates at $3.00 per pole, the state PUC ordered them to “continue to issue and service pole use agreements” in accordance with previously announced policies, pending outcome of the hearing.

Set A Precedent

“The California case is a crucial one,” remarked Rogers. “This is the first time the issue has arisen, and what California does will set precedent for other states as well as affect what the FCC does.”

In its December 30 petition to the PUC, the CCTA complained of the rate increases — General’s doubled from $3.00 to $6.00 per pole and Southern California Edison’s was hiked from $3.00 to $5.00 per pole. The association also complained of discriminatory and arbitrary actions on the part of both utilities in offering and terminating pole use agreements.

The practices and procedures, as well as the rates offered by the utilities, ought to come under regulatory scrutiny, said the cable association. And apparently the California PUC is on the verge of agreeing that the “capricious control” of pole-owners ought to be curbed.

Rediffusion Experiment Slated for U.S. Via Leghorn

The first experimental Rediffusion “Dial-A-Program” cable television system will be installed in the U.S. in late spring. Plans were announced by Hugh Dundas, chairman of Rediffusion International, London, and Richard S. Leghorn, president of Leghorn Corp., Boston. The system, which was demonstrated by Rediffusion to the FCC last June, is said to enable the viewer, using a telephone-type dial to “call” a program channel from a central exchange.

The installation has been proposed for a section of First Illinois Cable TV Inc. (a Leghorn system in Springfield, Illinois) and will initially serve about 300 subscribers with a 36-channel system. According to Leghorn, the number of channels can be expanded without replacing or augmenting any of the system’s equipment.

The system will operate through a central exchange which will transmit programming to subscriber sets upon dialed or pushbutton request. The subscriber will have a converter on which channel selection can be made. The selection will travel through one of a “dedicated pair” of cables to the proper bus box at the exchange, which then cables the audio and video signals back to the subscriber’s set on the second cable.


Leghorn said that because the system has “an unlimited capacity” he would seek participation in the experiment by owners of program materials. It was also pointed out that the system permits communications in both directions, which will permit future subscriber services. At the outset, company officials hinted only of use of a theft and fire protection installation.

Although this will be the first Rediffusion installation in the U.S., this company pioneered the delivery of broadcast programs into the home by wired networks as long ago as 1930. Today Rediffusion is the largest operator of cable television systems in the world.
Nixon Gives More Power, New Name To Office of Telecommunications

White House says move will not usurp any FCC authority — but new office will formulate administrative policies and make recommendations to Commission.

President Nixon last week moved to reorganize his Office of Telecommunications Management into a new and more powerful Office of Telecommunications Policy. While the White House stressed that no powers would be taken away from the FCC, it is apparent that much of the initiative will be taken by the Presidential staff.

Take Effect Unless Vetoed

The reorganization plan, which has been discussed as a possibility for some time, will take effect under the Executive Reorganization Act in 60 days unless one house of Congress vetoes it.

One of the prime duties of the new policy office will be to formulate administration positions on communications questions — much as was recently done by White House staffers on the issue of domestic communications satellites. CATV and its related technological questions are certain to get close scrutiny by the new group.

Research And Analysis

The reorganization specifically calls on the Commerce Department to aid the director of telecommunications in the following ways:

“1. Provide a centralized research and engineering capability for coordination of federal frequency uses and assignments.

“2. Develop and operate a national electromagnetic compatibility analysis facility.

“3. Conduct research and analysis in telecommunications sciences.”

Full Department Forecast

The emphasis on Commerce Department support work, along with a new communications initiative by the White House, led some observers to speculate that the long-discussed move of creating a Department of Communications may be on the Nixon agenda. If so, however, it will require an act of Congress and not a mere executive reorganization. Although the new policy group will be restricted primarily to making recommendations to the FCC, one insider observed: “Information is power, and the White House is going to get the information.” The move could pull the already close Nixon-Burch relationship even closer. Accord between the two Washington figures has been noted since Burch’s White House nomination and confirmation.

The $40,000 per year director and his $36,000 deputy director who will head the office haven’t yet been chosen by President Nixon, but he is expected to act shortly.

MEETING CALENDAR

FEBRUARY


24-26—Vikoa Technical School, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact Brian Doherty, Vikoa, Inc., 400 9th Street, Hoboken, N.J.

MARCH


8-10—Southern CATV Association annual meeting. Ramada Inn and Quality Court, Cocoa Beach, Fla. Contact B. M. Tibshrany, P.O. Box 3757, Charlotte, N.C. 28203.


11-12—Cascade Technical Training School. Dallas, Texas. For further information contact Derry Cook (604) 939-1191 or Tom Athans (817) 332-6044.

15-17—Pacific Northwest Cable Television Association spring convention. Northern Hotel, Billings, Mont. Contact Richard L. Cox, P.O. Box 463, Heppner, Ore. 97836 (503) 676-9205.

17-18—Cascade Technical Training School. Jacksonville, Florida. For further information contact Derry Cook (604) 939-1191 or Benny Hammond (813) 533-8748.

25-26—Ohio Cable Television Association annual meeting. Sheridan Columbus, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Ohio Cable Television Association, 211 S. Main St., Findlay, Ohio 45840.
Idaho Annual Meeting
Centers Around PUC Bill

"We chose February for our first and following annual meetings," said Johnny Kline, president of the Idaho CATV Association, "because that's shortly after the state legislature convenes." He referred to the fact that February seems to mark the annual entrance of a PUC bill to regulate CATV.

Kline and other Idaho cablemen met last week in Boise, and the PUC bill was the main topic of conversation along with discussions on an amendment the CATVers hoped to add to a damaging translator bill.

On the wide range of national and technical CATV issues, convention-goers heard guest speakers Stanley M. Searle, publisher of CATV and TV Communications magazines (see separate story), Chuck Walsh of NCTA and Bill Tourtillott of Jerrold Electronics.

Tabling Hoped

Ralph Wickberg, chairman of Idaho's PUC, was one of the featured speakers. The PUC bill which has been plaguing the cablemen was being printed last week for introduction into the Idaho House of Representatives by the State Affairs Committee. The association has hopes that the bill will be tabled, as it was last year, and not reach a vote on the House floor.

The bill, which sources indicate gets a push every year through the influence of two Boise broadcasters, would broadly regulate rates, service and operation of state systems.

The association has retained counsel, and business meetings at the convention were devoted to quizzing the attorney on the PUC matter as well as discussing the possibility of amending the harmful translator bill.

Translator Troubles

Last year the legislature passed the bill which in effect establishes a district in which taxes can be collected to support a translator with a 60 percent popular vote. Needless to say, the bill poses a threat to cablemen seeking or holding CATV franchises in the area.

The amendment which cablemen seek to add to the bill would prevent such a vote where there is an existing system or where a system has been franchised for six months.

Chuck Walsh, after reviewing the CATV provisions of the Copyright Revision Bill, opened the meeting to questions which seemed to center around the sports blackout rule and signal restrictions. He spoke again that night on the recent developments affecting the industry.

Cypress Plans Drop
Of Broadcast Interests

Cypress Communications Corp., which recently announced its agreement in principle to merge with Harriscope Cable Corp., has said that it plans to withdraw from commercial broadcasting and concentrate on the CATV industry.

The move began last week with the firm's announcement that it would distribute all the common stock of its subsidiary, Cypress Broadcasting Corp., to stockholders as a dividend.

The company said that the stock of its privately held broadcasting subsidiary would be distributed on the basis of one share of Cypress Broadcasting common stock for each share of Cypress Communications common. The date of the distribution hasn't been set and the transaction is subject to FCC approval.

Assets of Cypress Broadcasting at distribution will primarily consist of 60 percent of the common stock of Camellia City Telecasters Inc., licensee of television broadcasting station KTXL-TV in Sacramento, Calif., and approximately $500,000 cash.

Publisher Predicts 600% CATV Growth

Despite the prospects for a six-fold increase in subscribers during this decade, cable television "is entering a period in which the future role—even the very form—of CATV will be decided." This was among the predictions advanced by Stan Searle who was the luncheon speaker at the Idaho Cable Television Association meeting last Friday. He told cable operators at the Boise gathering that among questions still to be decided are whether cable television will be designated a common carrier...and whether it will come under heavy state as well as federal control.

Support, With Changes

Searle expressed the hope that cable operators will support S.543, the Omnibus Copyright Bill, provided that at least two major changes can be made in the bill. "The sports blackout is absolutely unacceptable and the limit on educational signals seems highly undesirable to me," he declared. Searle, who is publisher of CATV and TV Communications, also went on record as strongly opposing "discrimination against reception of independent stations—particularly in markets below the top 50." If cable interests can get the necessary changes in this bill, he stated that "the wisest course appears to be support of this legislation." Any attempt to avoid copyright payment altogether "would be futile, perhaps even damaging in the long run."

Slim Chance Seen

Searle assessed the immediate future for cable television, stating that the copyright bill has a slim chance of passage in this session of Congress, regardless of how the CATV section fares. "If the copyright bill lags long enough we might even see a regulatory bill coming out of either Macdonald's or Pastore's subcommittee," he said. "One remote possibility is that the Commission might come to life and put an end to its unwarranted and destructive freeze."

Reviewing events of the past year, he told Idaho operators that a "bright spot" was the naming of Don Taverner to head the cable television trade association. The creation of the CATV Bureau may have been the event of greatest long range significance, he said, "because CATV has now been accorded important new status" as a separate communications medium.

CATV—February 16, 1970
FCC Sets Hearing For Media Concentration

The FCC last week scheduled a unique hearing as it set for argument a Justice Department proposal to break up the local media concentration of control enjoyed by Frontier Broadcasting Co. and its related firms in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The Commission, however, turned down a request by a GenCoE Inc. subsidiary, Cheyenne Enterprises Inc., that has a CATV system in Casper, Wyoming, and wanted the franchise that Frontier successfully bid for in Cheyenne. Cheyenne Enterprises, half owned by GenCoE, wanted the FCC to deny the license renewal application of KFBC-TV in Cheyenne, owned by Frontier, which also owns the only fulltime AM radio station, the town's CATV franchise, an FM station permit, and the town's only daily and Sunday newspapers.

The hearing examiner was instructed that if he found KFBC-TV should be divested to allow reasonable time.

Real Signal Contour Wins Hearing for System

H & B American Cablevision Corp.'s La Crosse, Wis., CATV system won a major victory last week when FCC hearing examiner Chester F. Naumowicz Jr. issued an initial decision favoring the cable system in a squabble with WEAU-TV in Eau Claire, Wis.

WEAU-TV, which is an ABC and NBC affiliate, complained that it should have program exclusivity protection from the H&B system. The Eau Claire outlet pointed out that the CATV system carries KROC-TV in Rochester, Minn., also an ABC and NBC affiliate.

The complaining television station pointed out that its predicted Grade A contour cuts a corner of La Crosse, while the Rochester station doesn't put its Grade A signal to the town. Under existing FCC rules, that would entitle WEAU-TV to exclusivity.

Naumowicz, however, heard expert engineering testimony that the terrain between Eau Claire and La Crosse is so rough that the television station doesn't in fact place the Grade A signal over the adjacent community. WEAU-TV didn't argue the point, but said that Commission policy is to rely on predicted Grade A contours and not the actual measurements.

But Naumowicz summed up his reasoning in refusing to issue a cease and desist order against H&B this way: "Since WEAU is not shown to place a signal of higher priority over La Crosse than does KROC, it is not entitled to non-duplication protection vis a vis that station."

NCTA Legal and PR Get Changes in Staffs

NCTA is hiring Herbert A. Jolovitz, administrative assistant to Senator Stephen Young (D-Ohio), as its legislative liaison staffer, who will move into the slot vacated by Chuck Walsh when he moved to NCTA's legal department.

Jolovitz will join NCTA in a couple of weeks. Already on the association roster is new staffer Robert Stengel.
Nixon Administration and Hill Find Accord in Communications

CATV Washington Bureau – Relations between the Nixon administration and Congress currently are strained, though far from acrimonious. Democrats have the majority in both the House and Senate, but wryly concede that President Nixon is masterfully preempting the issues and giving the badly divided Democrats little opportunity to reunify. Occasionally the battle between the Executive and Legislative branches becomes fierce, as on the nomination of Clement Haynsworth Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court. More often the partisan sniping is in the classic tradition, as when a Democratic House leader recently remarked that Nixon is accomplishing the seemingly impossible feat of leading the nation into inflation and a recession at the same time. The closer election day comes this year, the deeper the split between Capitol Hill and the White House will become.

But there is one area in which the Democratic legislators and Republican administrators have been largely in accord – communications policy and the FCC. The attitude of Democrats on Capitol Hill remains wary, of course, and is never likely to become chummy. There were flurries of criticism of the administration after Vice President Spiro T. Agnew’s speeches on the news media. (Many Democrats agreed with him, however.)

Not a Grudge Match

Basically the powerful Democrats on Capitol Hill, who control the committees and subcommittees that have the most to do with communications, are favorably impressed with both the administration policies and Nixon’s new FCC Chairman, Dean Burch. The most knowledgeable and influential Senator in the communications field is undoubtedly Sen. John O. Pastore, who calls the shots via his Senate Communications Subcommittee. It happens that the dapper little Rhode Islander also gave a fiery kickoff to his party’s successful burial rite for the campaign of Burch’s old boss, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), when he gave the keynote address at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

Pastore, however, gives every indication of deep gratification for the new FCC policy on broadcast license challenges that Burch spearheaded. The Senator had introduced legislation to cover essentially the same ground, and subsequently found his bill the subject of controversy. Now, he can sit back and let the FCC handle the problem. Pastore’s other primary concern has been in the delicate field of sex and violence on television, and again Burch would seem to be ideally suited to Pastore’s precepts. When a Senator rails against such programming, he tends to be subjected to a good deal of ridicule – Pastore was even the target of Rowan and Martin’s “Laugh In” show – as well as other criticism concerning the possibilities of censorship inherent in setting programming standards. Burch, however, wants the FCC to step in on the issue of obscenity and plans court tests of the Commission’s authority to do so if necessary. Once again, in such an instance, the Nixon administration’s FCC would be implementing the ideas of Pastore.

Boundary of Jurisdiction

Ironically, it is conceivable that real Congressional disenchantment could set in with the FCC if a conflict between two influential Democratic Senators develops. Sen. John L. McClellan of Arkansas certainly agrees with Burch and Pastore on the subject of obscenity on the airwaves, and, in fact, he intends to hold hearings on the possibility of X-rated motion pictures being aired by television stations. But the copyright revision legislation that he shepherded through his Senate copyright subcommittee contains many regulatory implications that normally would fall within the province of Pastore’s subcommittee. Legislators are very jealous of their jurisdictional prerogatives, and McClellan naturally has asked the Commerce Committee – which is chaired by Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) but relies on Pastore for most communications leadership – just what its attitude toward the Copyright Bill is.

Pastore in turn has asked for comments from the FCC, and while the reactions of Senators are by no means always predictable, it is considered quite possible that Pastore will oppose the CATV section of the Copyright Bill as preempting too much of the regulatory latitude of the FCC. McClellan, however, obviously thinks the legislation is admirable and fair. Burch and the FCC, therefore, had better be judicious in replying to Pastore, as they could get caught in the middle of a disagreement between two very influential Democrats.

The focus on the House side of Capitol Hill is much less developed, as communications issues have yet to come to the fore there. But it certainly does seem that so far Burch is regarded as much more effective and less willful than his predecessor, Rosel Hyde, who theoretically might still even be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over records of the FCC on a broadcast case to the House Commerce Committee. That case isn’t closed, and Hyde may yet be called back to testify. And as far as critical House members are concerned, Burch will look good by contrast.

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Franchise Activity

CALIFORNIA: Carson: The city council has awarded a franchise to Carson Cable Television Co. According to the council, the entire system must be completed within two years. Ceres: Ceres Cable TV, Inc. has submitted its franchise bid for the area adjacent to the city limits to the board of supervisors. Fairfield: The city council has passed a CATV enabling ordinance on first reading. According to the ordinance, any franchise which is granted will be for a period of 20 years with a franchise fee of 5 per cent of the gross receipts. Inglewood: The city council is presently accepting franchise bids. Palo Alto: The city council is presently having a CATV engineering study conducted. Seven firms have applied for a franchise to serve the community.

FLORIDA: Lauderdale Lakes: The city council has given second reading to an ordinance granting a franchise to Broward Cablevision. Franchise fee has been set at 10 per cent of the firm's gross receipts.

ILLINOIS: Alton: Madison County Cablevision Co., has been awarded a franchise by the city council.

INDIANA: Valparaiso: Richard Daines has asked the city council for a franchise to serve the area. In making the application, he submitted plans for a 9 video channel system.

MARYLAND: Cambridge: The city council has granted a 20-year franchise to Cambridge Cable TV. Franchise fee has been set at 2 per cent of the gross revenues after the first three years, with rates of $9.95 installation; $4.95 monthly.

MASSACHUSETTS: Shrewsbury: Parker Cablevision, Inc. has submitted its franchise bid to the town selectmen.

NEW YORK: Champlain: American Tele-Systems Corp. has submitted its franchise bid to the village board. Croton: Parent CATV Systems, Inc. has submitted its franchise bid to the village board. Red Hook: Kingston Cablevision has submitted its franchise application to the village board. Dutchess Cablevision presently holds a franchise for the community.

OHIO: Franklin County: The county commission has awarded a non-exclusive franchise to Canterbury Cablevision. Franchise fee has been set at 6 per cent of the gross revenues.

VIRGINIA: Henry County: American Tele-Systems Corp. has submitted its franchise bid to the county board.

ONTARIO: North York: Rogers Cable TV, Ltd. has applied to serve the borough.

System Construction

CALIFORNIA: NationWide Cablevision, Inc., a subsidiary of Kaufman & Broad, has announced that construction is presently under way in Pomona. The underground system is scheduled to be fully operational in 1971. Columbia Cable System has announced the completion of its system to serve Westmoreland. The firm is offering subscribers 12 video channels.

GEORGIA: Both Chattahoochee Valley CATV and Telecable Corp. have announced that their systems to serve Columbus will be under construction soon. Telecable expects to have its system fully operational by summer and Chattahoochee Valley CATV plans to have service available by early fall.

ILLINOIS: Television Transmission Co. has announced that its system to serve Princeton is scheduled to be operational by fall. Construction of a tower began January 2, and will be completed by February 28, according to the firm.

NEVADA: The Genoa town board has announced that construction is completed on its community system. A 50-foot tower has been installed and three channels are presently being received.

NEW YORK: CATV of Lackawanna has announced that construction is nearing completion on its 6 video channel system to serve Lackawanna. WEOK CableVision, Inc. has asked the common council of Poughkeepsie to raise its monthly rates by $1 from $4.75 to $5.75. The firm offers subscribers 12 video channels.

NORTH CAROLINA: Micanopy Group Companies has announced plans to begin construction in Scotland Neck in the near future. According to the firm, a strand map is presently being prepared.

OHIO: Cable TV Corp. has announced that construction is presently under way on its system to serve Barnesville. The firm is planning to install a 200-foot tower.

TENNESSEE: Video Corp. of America has announced that maps have been completed for the construction of its system to serve East Ridge. Tower construction is scheduled to begin in March.

TEXAS: Mineola Cable TV has announced the addition of Channel 39, Dallas, to its previously 8 video channel system which serves Mineola.

VIRGINIA: Salem Cable TV Co. has announced that construction is presently under way on its system to serve South Salem. The system is scheduled to be operational by early spring, according to the firm.

WASHINGTON: Columbia Cable Systems has announced the completion of its system to serve Oroville.
Moving Up

The Board of Directors of Scientific-Atlanta, Inc. has named Jack R. Kelly Jr. as executive vice president and chief operating officer. Kelly has been with the company twelve years, serving for the last two as executive vice president for technical operations. Also elected at the board meeting were three new vice presidents and a new corporate secretary. Named as vice president-electronics group is Richard G. Rosselot who was corporate secretary and had also been serving as operations manager for the company’s telemetry line. H. Raymond Eckman was elected vice president-operations. He has most recently held the position of budget director and succeeds Howard G. Dean Jr. who has taken a leave of absence to fill a research position at Georgia Tech. Named as vice president-marketing is Howard Crispin. He has worked as California regional manager and most recently as manager of the instrumentation product line. Succeeding Rosselot as corporate secretary is Marty Bethune. A twelve-year employee with the company, Miss Bethune has most recently served as assistant secretary. Other appointments made by the board were: Peter M. Pifer, general manager, electro systems division; J. Charles Lockwood, general manager, optima division; Thomas D. Smith, general manager, commercial communications product line; and C. Stephen Young, product line manager, instrumentation.

Ernest D. Larson has joined HTV Systems Inc., Fairport, New York, as national account executive. In the newly created sales position, Larson will be contacting the headquarters staffs of several of the large CATV multiple system operators throughout the country. Most recently, he was president of National Communications Service Corporation which operates several CATV systems in the midwest and south.

Joseph M. Livesay has been appointed regional manager for United Transmission, Incorporated. He will be responsible for the cable television operating management of the Kingsport Complex and will be headquartered at Kingsport, Tennessee. Livesay has over 19 years of electronic communications and management experience and was formerly with the Jerrold Electronics Corp. where he attained the position of manager of systems field engineering. He spent 7 years with Litton Industries as manager of systems field engineering and prior to that as manager of technical services personnel for the Melpar Division of Westinghouse Airbrake. Livesay also served with the Department of Defense as advisor to the Republic of South Vietnam.

Rick Clevenger, senior technician at Concord TV Cable, has been promoted to chief engineer of State TV Cable, Chico, California, and Ken Wall has been named to senior technician replacing Clevenger. Clevenger was one of the original technicians assisting in the construction, operation and maintenance of the Concord system. At Chico, he will be responsible for the overall engineering operation of State TV Cable. He has recently been elected secretary-treasurer and director of the Society of Cable Television Engineers. Wall was the leading maintenance technician assisting in the maintenance and operation of the system serving the cities of Concord, Clayton and unincorporated adjacent areas of Contra Costa County. In his new position he will be in charge of selection, training and supervision of all maintenance technicians and installers of Concord systems.

David Cary has been promoted to the position of inside salesman for Pruzan Company for Seattle. He has been employed at Pruzan since 1968 working in several areas of the company, including the pricing department, retail store and warehouse. Previously, he was a lineman for B-C Cable Company and Apartment TV Cable Company.

Cal-Tel Construction Company, Inc. has announced the promotion of Ed Cooper to executive vice president. Cooper has formerly held the position of West Coast director for the past three years. Prior to joining Cal-Tel he was involved three years in TV systems management and 14 years with General Telephone Company.

Comm/Scope Corporation, a Superior Continental company, Hickory, N.C., has announced the appointment of James E. Webb as general marketing and administrating manager. He will be directly responsible for the accounting and customer service departments and will have duties dealing with any administrative matter in the division. He formerly managed cable plants for Superior Continental in Texas and Iowa.
Good Hearing From You

INFORMATION, PLEASE

I have read with great interest the article on page 7 of the January 5 issue of your publication regarding Educasting.

I would very much appreciate receiving more information regarding the system developed by Mr. Ira Kamen and Mr. Harold R. Walker, and also information about the hardware that was developed for the system by Sylvania Corp. Will you please let me know whom to contact or write to regarding this?

Barry A. Ross, Vice President
Rogers Cable TV Limited
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

For full information on Educasting, you can write directly to Mr. Ira Kamen at Educasting Systems, Inc., 770 Lexington Ave., New York City, New York 10021.

In your January 26 issue, I notice a box headed “Industry Stocks.” It contains the name Columbia Cable. I have been trying to learn the corporate name of Columbia, main office address and the name of the general manager. Can you help me to secure this information?

Charles Drew
Lexington, Ky.

Robert M. Rosecrans is the president of Columbia Cable Systems, Inc. You can contact him at Suite 7, 21 Bridge Square, Westport, Connecticut 06880.

Having just recently attended the Winter Television Conference (of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers), I had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Stan Searle’s report entitled: “CATV and the Broadcaster: Problems or Profits?” I would very much appreciate it if you could send me a copy of this report.

Hiroshi Hara, Assistant Manager
NHK, General Bureau for America
New York City, New York

Thank you for your interest – a copy of Mr. Searle’s speech is on the way.

STRIKING BACK FOR CATV

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Vincent Wasilewski, president of the National Association of Broadcasters. While the letter refers specifically to NAB’s comments at the FCC, the points made by Bill Karnes are equally applicable to a number of situations in which broadcasters attack CATV—and Bill’s answers are of interest to all cablemen.

Dear Mr. Wasilewski:

I don’t know who within your Association prepared NAB’s comments to the FCC regarding Part V of Docket 18397 (CATV Rulemaking Proposal). But I think that any fair-minded member of your group should be ashamed to be associated with its preparation.

The myth of “free television” must someday be exploded. Anyone who gives any thought at all realizes that every American consumer pays for his television programming in the form of pricing of the product whose manufacturer supplies the money for the television advertising. It is true, of course, that no one pays directly for his so-called free television programming, but we are all helping to support the broadcast industry and the NAB indirectly when we buy anything that is advertised over television. I fully realize that this argument also applies to newspapers and other forms of advertiser-supported commercials, but yours is the industry which attempts to convince the American public that it comes to them without charge.

No one in CATV believes in the destruction of broadcasting as it now exists, although your Association would have the American public believe that we do. This, however, is not my primary complaint with your transmission to the FCC. My basic complaint is the major thrust of your argument, that being that CATV should be “controlled” so that it cannot bring into American homes “borderline pornography, deceptive and irresponsible advertising, subversive propaganda, the outpourings of the lunatic fringe, and the appeals of countless others whose appearances have thus far been minimized by the broadcaster’s responsibility to program within the public interest standards of the Communications Act, and the NAB’s Codes of Good Practices.”

Such a statement as that is pretty close to libel and slander, even if it does not actually contain those two elements. I do not believe that you, as a responsible official of a very important industry, really subscribe to those beliefs and I do believe that your industry should promptly and publicly apologize for having made such statements, and should immediately withdraw this submission from the Commission’s records.

William F. Karnes
President
CONCORD TCP-2

Ready to grow? This compact control unit gives you professional results with up to three cameras. Buttons select titling, superimposing, dissolves, fades, horizontal and vertical wipes, corner inserts and split-screen images. Built-in sync generator provides flawless control of any three cameras which accept external sync. Need more sophistication? See the TVV-100 Control Console. Starting small? Check the TCP-1 Control Panel. Whatever you need, Concord makes it, and Tyler has it!

CONCORD MTC-18

Ideal for time/temperature, card or slide pickup, this capable Concord camera is simple to operate, but is 'ready when you are' for bigger things. With internal or external sync, plus automatic light control and the exclusive sync output provision, it is ready to become part of a professional multi-camera system. Standard equipment with the Tyler Slide-Scanner, with optional optical viewfinder it is just as much at home in the studio. Get the facts today. Just mail the coupon.

THE CAPABLE CAMERA

CONCORD TCM-20 CAMER

This Concord camera is a perfect choice for single-camera studio, and has the capability to become your master camera for multi-camera origination. It assures superb picture quality even under less-than-ideal studio or location conditions. Rugged and compact, TCM-20 has a built-in 6-inch monitor screen and selectable automatic light control. A fun switch on the rear allows use as a camera only, camera/monitor only, monitor only. Sync internal or external, random or fixed interval scanning. Picture resolution is a minimum of 360 lines. Other cameras in this class cost more, but do less. Mail the coupon today to get full information.

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COLUMBIA Earnings Digest

ANACONDA

Net Sales, Sales, Net
Year Quarter
income income
Jan. Dec 31: 342,722,000 23,394,000 99,207,000
1969 1968

COLOMBIA BROADCAST SYSTEM

Year Jan. 3: 1970
Share earns $2.65 $2.14
Sales 1,158,912,000 991,428,000
Net income 71,944,000 58,187,000
Quar share .87 .82
Sales 342,722,000 302,745,000
Net income 23,394,000 21,896,000

Cablecom General
Cypress Comm. General

Cablecomm General
Citizens Fin. Corp.

Cable Info Systems OTC
Cablecom General AM

Cable Cable Cable
Comm. Properties OTC
Comm. Corp. OTC

Cox Cable Comm. OTC
Cypress Comm. OTC

Entron AM
Famous Players Ltd. C

General Inst. NY
Gulf + Western NY

H&B American AM
Kaufman & Broad Inc.

Lamb Comm. Inc. OTC
LVO Corp. NY

Maclean-Hunter C

Stock Exchange This Week Last Week Year High Year Low Shares Outstanding
Ameco AM 12 1/4 14 7/8 16 1/8 7 1/2 1,200,000
Amer. Elec. Lals. OTC 6 1/8 6 16 1/4 5 5/8 1,516,432
Amer. TV & Comm. AM 20 1/4 21 1/2 22 3/4 11 7/8 1,775,101
Avnet 11 1/8 11 3/4 36 1/2 10 7/8 9,909,054

Cable Info Systems OTC 3 2 3/4 4 5/8 2 3/8 995,000
Cablecom General AM 14 7/8 15 25 1/2 8 3/8 1,605,000
Columbia Cable OTC 16 3/4 16 3/8 9 876,000
Comm. Properties OTC 10 1/2 1 1/2 4 1/2 644,621
Cornelia Corp. OTC 7/16 1/2 7/16 3,550,000

Cox Cable Comm. OTC 22 1/2 22 25 1/4 13 839,000
Entron AM 5 1/2 6 1/4 9 2 1/8 6,948,000
Famous Players Ltd. C 14 13 3/4 19 11 5/8 6,026,000

General Inst. NY 20 7/8 23 1/2 41 20 7/8 6,288,284
Gulf + Western NY 17 1/8 17 5/8 44 3/4 17 1/8 5,692,078

H&B American AM 26 1/4 25 1/2 28 1/2 13 5/8 4,972,589
Kaufman & Broad Inc.

Lamb Comm. Inc. OTC 5 1/4 5 3/4 10 1/4 31 1/4 3,900,909
LVO Corp. NY 7 1/2 7 3/4 12 3/4 7 3/8 2,468,284
Maclean-Hunter C 17 3/4 17 1/2 19 3/4 13 2,000,000

Stock Exchange This Week Last Week Year High Year Low Shares Outstanding

CATV—February 16, 1970
Vikoa Predicts Loss For Final 1969 Quarter

Vikoa, Inc. has said that it expects to report an operating loss for the fourth quarter of 1969 due to copper price increases, higher interest charges, increased depreciation due to the growth of its CATV systems and labor difficulties resulting in a strike.

The company earned $301,000 or 20 cents a share on sales of $6 million in the same period a year ago.

In the first nine months, Vikoa reported earnings of $954,236 or 53 cents a share against $904,760 or 58 cents a share in the same period a year earlier. The firm had 1.8 million shares outstanding at the end of the 1969 period compared with 1.6 million shares a year earlier.

Theodore Baum, president, said that of the $9.9 million that Vikoa recently raised through a public stock offering and the private placement of 12 to 15-year 8½% debentures, some $5.7 million was used to end all the company's bank indebtedness and $1.9 million for pre-paying medium term 13% indebtedness. Baum said that the balance of $2.3 million which was set aside for debt service and working capital would give up $1.3 million to be placed in commercial acceptances.

Entron Draws Up Plans For Post Merger Activities

Entron, Inc., survivor of the merger between Spedcor Electronics, Inc. and Entron, Inc., has disclosed plans for the firm's CATV activities including the introduction of 24-channel CATV equipment.

The combined company, headed by Joseph Ross who was president of Spedcor, will have three major operating units -- CATV products division, CATV systems division and Spedcor Electronics. Corporate headquarters will be situated in Spedcor's former Glendale, Queens, N.Y., general offices.

"In the systems field," said Ross, "the company will be looking for new construction and franchise opportunities and at the same time will be seeking to expand its existing CATV operations" which include wholly and partially owned subsidiaries in Houma and New Iberia, La., Wilmington and Jacksonville, N.C., and Dubois, North Braddock and Sharon, Pa.

Washington Reception

Photo highlights of the February Congressional Reception show just a few of the many cable people and Congressmen who turned out for the festivities (see CATV, Feb. 9 for full report).

Far right: Representative Donald Brotzman (R-Colo.) congratulates new NCTA president Donald V. Taverner (right).

At right: Bill Daniels (left), president of Daniels and Associates, and Democratic Representative Carl Albert of Oklahoma (center) greet Taverner.

Below right: Congressional doorkeeper "Fishbait" Miller (center) introduces Marcus Bartlett, president of Cox Cable Communications (left), and Harley O. Staggers (D-W.Va.), chairman of the House Commerce Committee (right).

Below left: Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.) mingle with a happy crowd.
NCTA Names Committee For Study of Satellites

NCTA chairman, William Adler, at the recent Association board meeting in Washington named a Communications Satellite Committee to deal with emerging policy questions involving cable's relationship to the developing satellite technology.

Chairman of the committee, the membership of which is drawn from a board cross-section of the industry, is TelePrompter Corp., president and chairman, Irving B. Kahn, who has already served notice that his firm plans to ask the FCC to approve its participation in a satellite program of some kind.

District Court Upholds FCC San Diego Decision

The San Diego CATV case, which was once a trailblazer for industry reaction to FCC regulation of cable, has seen the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia uphold the FCC's action.

The Commission restricted San Diego CATV systems to serving new subscribers only with local signals and not with the Los Angeles signals brought to long-time subscribers, but the FCC allowed the cable systems to originate programming, but only without advertising. Since then - as an outgrowth of the same case - the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the FCC's jurisdiction over CATV; the Commission has moved to adopt new CATV rules which would moot the San Diego procedures.

New County Association Formed in California

California cablemen in Contra Costa County have formed an association designed to "achieve a better line of communications between local systems," said Courtney Kirkeeng, president of the new association.

Kirkeeng, who is manager of Concord TV Cable, said the new Diablo CATV Association would help to combine efforts during emergency situations and gave the example of a recent windstorm which damaged facilities of one county system. He said that a nearby cable system "assisted during the emergency by making key equipment available and serious interruption of service was averted."

"While all systems are members of state and national associations," said Kirkeeng, "we expect that the public on a local level will be better served and better informed on CATV activities in the county."

At the first meeting of the association, Richard Gregg, Televe Systems of Pittsburg, was elected secretary along with the naming of Kirkeeng to president.

Participating firms in the new organization are: Concord TV Cable (Concord), Televe System, Antioch (Dublin and Pittsburg), Lafayette Cablevision (Danville, Lafayette and Moraga) and Televent of California, serving northern Lafayette and Orinda, Martinez.

IVC, Dick Clark Plan CATV Programming Venture

An agreement to form a new company to produce and market a series of videotape programs for CATV local origination has been announced by Dick Clark Enterprises, Hollywood, Calif., and International Video Corporation, Sunnyvale, Calif.

The new company, National Tele-systems Corp., will also offer a package of services to CATV system owners including workshops on community level productions, selection and installation of studio equipment, and advertising sales, according to Dick Clark, DCE president, and Donald F. Eldridge, IVC president.

The firm will also offer the system operators the tools required to originate local programming both live and on tape.

According to Eldridge, the Clark organization will be the first broadcast television production company to enter the field. IVC is a major supplier of color television cameras, recorders and systems to CATV systems nationally.

"The National Telesystems program series will be new and original, all in color, and designed to bring to CATV, programming comparable to broadcast television at moderate cost," Clark said.
NCTA Requests Convention Tech Papers

NCTA has announced its "Call for Technical Papers" for the 1970 National Cable Television Association annual convention which will be held at the Palmer House Hotel, Chicago, from June 7-10.

A 150-word abstract of the technical paper has been deadline at February 28. Upon notification of selection, a smooth draft will be required by May 15, 1970.

The papers are to be addressed to G. Norman Penwell, Director of Engineering, National Cable Television Association, Inc., 918 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Commission Waives Rules For Georgia CATV System

A CATV firm in Athens, Tennessee, has won FCC permission to import the distant signals of four Atlanta, Georgia, television stations.

The Commission, in waiving the hearing provisions that normally apply to distant importation into the top 100 markets, noted that although Athens TV Cable Co. Inc. operates in the Chattanooga TV market, which is ranked ninety-first in the country, it is more than 35 miles away from any community with a television station. Under the proposed and interim rules, that gives the system the right to import the distant signals without hindrance.

The Athens CATV firm will add the Atlanta signals of WSB-TV, WAGA-TV, WQXI and WJRI. It already carries the signals of Chattanooga outlets WDEF-TV, WTVC, and WRCB-TV.

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New system under construction in medium sized southern Alabama resort town needs chief technician to supervise construction and work into manager's position. Excellent growth opportunity for aggressive young man, including eventual ownership interest. Reply to CATV Weekly, Dept. W109-3.

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Phone 202/296-6400

CATV—February 16, 1970

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An Affiliate of Communications Publishing Corp.
W. R. "BILL" BRAZEAL

Born in Shenandoah, Iowa, February 5, 1927. He attended Northwestern Missouri State Teachers College at Maryville, Missouri, where he studied Engineering. He served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1946 to 1948. His business background includes ownership of a retail furniture store from 1950 to 1957. He became manager of the CATV system in Alliance, Nebraska, in 1957, and shortly after, manager of two nearby systems in Kimbell and Gering, Nebraska. In 1965 he joined Community TV Inc. (now TeleCommunications, Inc.) and six months ago he was named Vice President and General Manager of Cable Operations.

Chances are good that if you walk through the front door of TeleCommunications Inc.'s Denver headquarters and saunter down the hall, you'll find the first office on the right with the door half open and an empty chair. To locate Vice President W. R. Brazeal, you might have to travel anywhere from Lake Tahoe to Huntsville, Texas.

Bill is a man who likes to fashion a team out of employees and he would rather have his people work with him than work for him. Even in his early CATV days in Nebraska, teamwork was his keynote. As he saw 1, 2, 3... then 23, and now 55 systems come under his management, he also saw hundreds of plane tickets and highway signs working their way into his teamwork strategy. Although many a successful company officer might shun a close employer-employee relationship, it has proved effective for Bill, as evidenced both by his 6-month-old promotion to TCJ Vice President and General Manager, and a "Boss of the Year" award from his ex-hometown (Alliance, Neb.) fellow Jaycees.

Tracking Bill around the country, you might find yourself at the National Cable Television headquarters where Bill is a Director, or back in the Rocky Mountains where he is Secretary-Treasurer and Legislative Chairman of the Colorado Cable Television Association. When telco problems arose years ago, he saw the need for a regional association. He helped to found the Rocky Mountain Cable Television Association. First as President, then as Director, he put the young group on its feet, and the five-state association is now a fine example of workmanship and cooperation between cablemen.

Bill has that all-too-rare ability to negotiate effectively. Friends say that his success is due to his knack of "handling people" - a knack which landed him his first CATV system manag ership. Ex-cableman, Everett Collier, was trying to get a franchise for Alliance, Nebraska through a city council bitterly opposed to CATV. At the time, Bill was owner of a local furniture store and knew little about cable. Once he recognized the community benefit and the potential of CATV, he eagerly joined the effort to persuade the city fathers. The city council was persuaded by Bill to grant a franchise to Collier...and Bill was just as quickly persuaded to manage the system.

He spends most of his non-working time with the family - riding horses through the mountains and valleys of his ranch outside Denver. His trim waistline and tanned face attest to an athletic bent retained from his football days at Northwestern Missouri College, and put to use refereeing high school and college football games. Bill sees CATV as the medium of the future - and he's confident that those "blue sky" prophesies for cable will become as big and real as the blue sky of his Colorado home.
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to the back of the set...

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