

INTERCONNECTION

Further Hearings Are Held

FURTHER hearing was held before FCC Examiner J. Fred Johnson Jr. last week to decide whether or not the Commission should require interconnection of the inter-city television relay facilities of American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and those of Western Union Telegraph Co.

AT&T has issued a loud "no" to WU's equally vigorous "yes" on the interconnection issue.

The Bell System contended Western Union can't compete with it unless WU furnishes customers with Bell facilities to piece out its own channels, which amounts to a private subsidy by one competitor to another. Western Union stated television is growing rapidly and will need both AT&T and WU facilities, indicating WU can compete with the Bell System.

Held Monday through Wednesday, the FCC hearing last week was recessed until April 10 when it's expected another week will be required to close the case. FCC last December had ordered the common carriers to interconnect their facilities with those of private broadcasters for the present because the common carrier channels are inadequate.

In mid-February FCC requested

AT&T to further amend its tariffs to allow broadcasters to feed programs picked up off the air into the Bell System network for further relaying [TELECASTING, Feb. 20]. AT&T last week, however, in a petition opposing this request, charged that the issues and evidence in the earlier interconnection hearing did not support FCC's conclusion to order AT&T to accept inbound traffic of this nature. The telephone company further contended that such "patchwork" networking would be technically and operatively inefficient and uneconomical in the long run.

A preliminary dispute at last week's proceeding was whether the case involved the question of general interconnection or interconnection only in a specific instance such as the WU New York-Philadelphia link, presently its only existing TV relay facility.

KTTV (TV) MOVES Sets Nassour Studios For Film Making

UNDER a long term lease, with option to buy, KTTV (TV) Los Angeles within next 60 days will move from present quarters to Nassour Studios, 5746 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood.

Deal was worked out by Norman Chandler, Los Angeles Times publisher and president of KTTV Inc., with Edward and William Nassour, owners of Nassour Studios. Under the arrangement, KTTV will go into production of low budget television films, with national distribution to be handled by Television Sales, station subsidiary recently set up for syndicated programs.

Agreement in no way interferes with independent film production of Nassour Bros., it was said.

Under the 10-year lease with options, signed last Tuesday, KTTV will eventually take over the entire film lot consisting of executive offices, four soundstages, and workshops. Station will discon-

tinue use of three sites from which it currently operates.

Station expects to start filming six to eight half-hour programs weekly with move to the new quarters, according to Harrison Dunham, KTTV general manager. First will be the *Buster Keaton Show* and the Stokey-Ebert Enterprises' *Pantomime Quiz*. KTTV also plans to bring in freelance producers, directors and talent to film its own packages.

Stockholders Approve

With CBS a 49% owner of KTTV, Frank Stanton, network president, participated in the stockholders' recent Los Angeles meeting that approved the deal with Nassour Bros.

CBS also will acquire a Hollywood film studio or its equivalent for its rapidly expanding television operations in that city. Several sites have been investigated, but as far as can be learned, no deal has been made.

Looking to the future, ample space, comparable to that occupied by the ABC Television Center in Los Angeles, will be necessary to accommodate the several live and filmed shows that CBS will originate from Hollywood. Adequate quarters acquired now will eliminate future farming out of shows to rental studios as was done in radio, it was pointed out.

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