

Don Lee Sale

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for filing this week or next.

In Los Angeles, President H. Leslie Hoffman of Hoffman Radio & Television Corp., which with a group of associates had bid \$11,200,000 for the Don Lee properties, issued a statement last week congratulating General Tire and expressing hope that the Don Lee network would be kept intact.

He also made clear that his company is not abandoning hope of identifying itself with ownership of a regional network.

General Tire's \$12,320,000 bid came as a surprise to the Hoffman group, whose offer had been tentatively accepted by representatives of the Lee estate—subject to court approval—in preference to the earlier bid of \$10,525,000 by General Tire [BROADCASTING, Oct. 9, 16].

The revised bid—10% higher than the Hoffman group's, as required by law—was made and accepted in Los Angeles Superior Court on Oct. 20.

The Hoffman group could have stayed in the running by bidding \$1 more than General Tire's new offer, but decided against it.

Counsel for the Hoffman firm asked, however, that acceptance of General Tire's bid be subject to the condition that, if FCC should fail to approve the transfer, then Hoffman's \$11,200,000 bid should stand, subject again to a higher bid and FCC approval.

The Hoffman group included the Hoffman company, Industrialist Edwin W. Pauley, Blythe & Co. representing a group of Pacific Coast bankers and businessmen, and WOR New York.

'Fair Business Appraisal'

Mr. Hoffman said their original bid was "a high evaluation," based on "a fair business appraisal of the property, taking into consideration its net worth and earning power."

The Hoffman bid, he said, "was \$1 million more than net worth of the Lee estate." It was "made on the sound business judgment of the value of the property and never was intended as the premise or beginning point for auction bidding in open court," he said. "Obviously, the purchaser's need for the property was greater than ours and the higher bid was made accordingly."

Mr. Hoffman reiterated that he felt "the business philosophy . . . the common interest between a great radio and television manufacturing concern and a great regional communications network, . . . which prompted our original bid, is still basically sound. It is my hope that in the future the Hoffman Radio Corp. will still find a way to bring this about."

Announcing the *Los Angeles Times'* intention to acquire complete ownership of KTTV when CBS disposes of its interest, President Norman Chandler expressed



BREAKING the story at a news conference at CBS Hollywood of acquisition of Thomas S. Lee estate by General Tire & Rubber Co., subject to FCC approval, are these smiling CBS, Don Lee and General Tire executives (l to r): Howard S. Meighan, CBS vice president and general executive; Willet H. Brown, president, Don Lee Broadcasting System; Thomas F. O'Neil, vice president, General Tire and Yankee Network; Ted Pierson, attorney for General Tire, and Elliott H. Pentz, Los Angeles, attorney also representing General Tire.

regret at dissolution of the association with CBS but said KTTV would "go forward to become the finest independent television station in the country."

Leaves CBS Dec. 31

Mr. Chandler said KTTV's affiliation with CBS will continue through Dec. 31 and probably several months afterward. He said:

The network's personnel has been

most cooperative to work with and I am sorry we will be disassociated as result of CBS' purchase of another television station. However, I am confident that KTTV, with its splendid new facilities and availability of great Hollywood talent, will become the nation's finest independent television station. It is in a position to create and purchase the best in entertainment and educational programs and has access to *The Times'* unsurpassed facilities for gathering and presenting the news.

FREQUENCY NEEDS *May Switch Amateur Bands*

REASSIGNMENT of some amateur radio frequencies for use by the military and in particular for utilization by the proposed Civil Defense Administration was weighed last week by Pentagon officials and a communications officer of the National Security Resources Board's Civil Defense Office.

The meeting was one of a series dealing with the problem of what frequencies should be assigned to the military, in view of growing defense needs, and what role the civil defense agency will play in the communications picture.

The NSRB office, which President Truman will set up as an independent agency by executive order, is attempting to obtain some frequencies in the amateur radio band as well as some of the spectrum space provided in FCC's proposed 1750-1800 kc disaster network covering intrastate emergency needs.

FCC had originally set a deadline of Sept. 15, later extended to Oct. 15, for comments on its disaster communications system. Robert Burton, NSRB civil defense communications officer, filed a list of probable national needs with the Commission. Mr. Burton has held a number of discussions with Pentagon planners.

Meanwhile, the civil defense office is preparing a communications manual, scheduled to be released late next month, for guidance of state and city defense directors. It will contain data on use of fre-

quencies, steps in obtaining them, civil defense organization, personnel needs, and other material, and is patterned after the guide issued by the Office of Civil Defense during World War II.

Manual will be issued as a followup to the President's plan for United States Civil Defense which described communications as the "nerve center of civil defense" operation and sets forth its functions in the event of a national emergency [BROADCASTING, Oct. 9, Sept. 25].

President Truman is expected shortly to create a Civil Defense Administration on a par with other government departments and agencies. For the present, it is pointed out, the civil defense office functions as an operational agency within the NSRB, which is merely a planning body. The Chief Executive has not indicated who would head the new agency.

Skeleton Force at Outset

It was believed that it would operate with a mere skeleton force at the outset, having as its nucleus present civil defense personnel and facilities. As head of its communications, Mr. Burton would work with FCC, the military, and NSRB's Leighton Peebles, who concerns himself with communications, with special emphasis on manpower and equipment problems.

It also was revealed that the District of Columbia had applied

KOWL ACTION *Cuts Rev. Russell's Show*

REV. CLAYTON RUSSELL, minister of People's Independent Church, Los Angeles, who has been conducting a Sunday weekly half-hour religious commentary program, *News and Comments by Rev. Clayton Russell*, on KOWL Santa Monica, has been taken off the station by Manager Arthur Croghan because of alleged "association with Red front organizations."

Mr. Croghan notified Rev. Russell of the action Oct. 23. He stated the pastor was listed in Myron C. Fagan's book, *Red Stars in Hollywood*, which claims to expose Red activities in the movie industry, and that a check with state, county and federal authorities showed the minister was associated with what were termed "Red front organizations."

Mr. Croghan said, however, that during the 15 months the program was on the air, he heard nothing that could be termed Communistic or subversive. Program, which had been on KFOX Long Beach for 12 years prior to going on KOWL, consisted of religious commentary, music and occasional guest speakers.

Rev. Russell, denied that he is a Communist or Red sympathizer.

to the FCC for a construction permit involving use of three frequencies for special emergency use. Simultaneously, FCC and District officials disclaimed reports that the district's CD planning was being hampered while FCC "dallied" over the disaster system proposal.

Herbert Friede, superintendent of communications for the District of Columbia, stressed that the local CD office is seeking emergency, not disaster or other band space, which he anticipated very shortly. He will purchase transmitters once FCC has approved the request for CP. The office is seeking space in the 40-50 mc band.

FCC issued its proposed disaster service rules last August following hearings earlier this summer. Broadcast stations already licensed by the Commission, as well as others, would be eligible. They would be expected to organize voluntarily into area networks [BROADCASTING, Aug. 17].

Mr. Friede said he likewise is preparing a communications blueprint—for the District—which he will submit for recommendations to radio and television engineering representatives of local stations and to the District commissioners.

The D. C. civil defense office is operating with a budget of \$100,000 calling for a staff of eight people, including one radio technician. Six transmitters—two of them to be located at command centers—also will be purchased from from that fund.