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Jones Resigns; Massing Possible Successor

(Continued from page 23)

President could name a Republican, Democrat or Independent to the post.

Another name mentioned was Benedict P. Cottone, FCC general counsel, who has been with the Commission since 1936.

The unexpired portion of Mr. Jones' seven-year term runs until June 30, 1954. Since Congress is not in session, the appointment of his successor would be on a recess basis and subject to confirmation by the new Congress when it convenes in January.

Another possibility is that with only six weeks remaining until the Presidential elections, Mr. Truman might elect to allow the vacancy to lapse until his successor takes over in January. Under the Communications Act, the Chief Executive selects the chairman of the FCC from among its seven-man membership. Hence the President might be disposed to permit the Jones post to remain vacant in order to permit the new Chief Executive—whether Eisenhower or Stevenson—to select his own chairman at the same time.

Chairman Walker, who passed the statutory retirement age of 70 in January of 1951, indicated recently that he has no intention of retiring in the foreseeable future. It is a fact, however, that he is continuing to serve at the pleasure of the President and that the new President would be in a position to name his own chairman. Comr. Walker's term of office nominally does not expire until June 30, 1953—six months after the new Chief Executive takes office.

Mr. Massing was born in Crawfordsville, Ind., Dec. 10, 1893. He served in the Army in World War I, afterward learned accounting and had several jobs in private industry until entering the U.S. Coast Guard in 1925.

In March 1931 he was honorably discharged from Coast Guard and joined the Federal Radio Commission as chief of the broadcast section. In June 1932, he became chief of the license bureau of the FRC.

When the radio commission was succeeded by the Federal Communications Commission, following passage of the Communications Act of 1934, Mr. Massing became chief of the FCC license division, a position he held until last March when he was appointed assistant secretary of the FCC.

Mr. Massing is married and has two children, Richard Massing, now serving in the armed forces in Trieste, and Mrs. Patricia Reynolds.

When Comr. Jones was sworn in as a member of the FCC on Sept. 5, 1947, he left behind him a hard-earned reputation for self-effacing labor and the plaudits of his fellow colleagues on Capitol Hill.

He came to Congress in 1939 and won acclaim for his service as chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee which pared Interior Dept. funds by 50%—a

move which cut heavily into patronage jobs. Democratic leaders even joined forces with regular Republicans in closing ranks behind him.

Born in Cairo, Ill., he worked through high school and college—Ohio Northern U.—emerging as an orator and fighter which was to stand him in good stead later for bitter skirmishes which characterized some of the controversial issues involving the Commission in succeeding years.

Armed with a law degree, he opened private practice in Lima, Ohio, and in 1935 became county prosecuting attorney. Then came successive tenures in Congress, beginning with the 76th, as representative from Ohio's fourth district. Generally regarded as a member of the GOP conservative bloc in Congress, he had embarked on his fifth term.

Appointed in 1947

Comr. Jones was named to the FCC by President Truman in June 1947, following withdrawal of the nomination of Ray C. Wakefield, a California Republican. He was confirmed unanimously by the Senate that July, following approval, 13-0, by the Senate Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee. Hearings were heated, characterized chiefly by columnist Drew Pearson's virtual one-man campaign to link him with the Black Legion.

Before joining FCC, Mr. Jones notified the agency he had sold his 18% interest in Northwestern Ohio Broadcasting Corp., then FM permittee and AM applicant, now WIMA-AM-FM Lima.

Comr. Jones was a major figure—and often dissenter—in a number of FCC decisions touching vitally on key broadcast cases and issues. His dissents were often stinging, sometimes to the discomfort of his fellow Commissioners.

In February 1948 he lashed out at the Commission for its proposed ruling in the controverted WHLS Port Huron case involving right to censor political broadcasts containing libelous material. Comr. Jones sternly chastised the Commission for enunciating "dangerous" dicta and held that WHLS did not act unlawfully in the first instance.

He also attacked Commission application of the so-called Avco rule in certain cases involving station transfers. He frequently held that FCC had overstepped its jurisdictional bounds in broadcast cases and applied the word "dicta" more than occasionally.

Comr. Jones has been equally stern with industry on such questions as color TV, with respect to possible anti-trust violations by manufacturers. He also hit out at "power segments of the industry" and multiple interest operations. He predicted the imminence of color TV as early as 1948. Radio's "economic thinking" also commanded his attention.

SET DEALING

Austin Distributors Meet

THERE will be no questionable TV set dealing practices in Austin, Tex. (where one vhf and two uhf channels have been granted), according to J. C. Kellam, general manager of KTBC and the projected KTBC-TV on Channel 7 there.

KTBC-TV sponsored a meeting of some 60 distributors and factory representatives to work out plans to "avoid the pitfalls which showed up in Denver" in the matter of undesirable set dealers and TV service men. KTBC-TV expects to be on the air by Dec. 1 if RCA delivery schedules hold up, Mr. Kellam said. Austin grantees are Texas Broadcasting Co. (KTBC), Channel 7 [B•T, July 14]; Capital City Television Co., Channel 18 [B•T, July 14], and Tom Potter, Channel 24 [B•T, Aug. 25].

First Commercial Uhf

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from 500 to 750 sets, equipped for uhf reception, in the hands of its dealers in time for the opening.

Philco has sufficient sets in the city to take care of demand, it reported. It has been carrying on a sales and service training program there ever since the CP was issued.

Admiral has rushed a shipment of sets to Portland, with uhf strips to convert one of its turret tuner channels to the uhf band. It has also ordered extra strips shipped to the city from Standard Coil Co., Los Angeles tuner maker. Admiral officials doubted that they could have enough receivers in the market to take care of demand.

Emerson reported it was making "a particular effort" to get sets into the area, with some shipments already made. Emerson also reported that special field engineers have been conducting training sessions for service men and helping dealers set up service departments.

DuMont Meeting

DuMont scheduled a special dealers' meeting to be conducted by the DuMont distributor in the area, Nash-Kelvinator Sales. Dr. Allen B. DuMont is scheduled to address the group. Details on current and projected DuMont shipments into the market could not be immediately ascertained.

Zenith has been sending strips to the Portland area since the CP was issued. It has not been able to send more than the original allotment of sets due to the tightness of its inventory.

Motorola is sending sets into the market, with uhf strips ordered from Standard Coil in Los Angeles.

Halicrafters reported it was shipping receivers with uhf tuners and vhf sets with converters.

Sentinel reported that it was sending sets, with strips to come from Standard Coil Co. in Los Angeles.