

## GRANT PROPOSED FOR HOUSTON TV CO.

Second vhf outlet for the city comes nearer realization. Other initial decisions would award WTIK Durham, N. C., and KCOM Sioux City, Iowa.

SECOND vhf television station for Houston came a step closer last week as FCC Hearing Examiner James D. Cunningham in an initial decision proposed to grant vhf ch. 13 there to Houston Television Co., representing a merger of four applicants [B•T, Jan. 11].

Initial decisions proposing grants in two other merger cases also were announced by the Commission. These were for approval of vhf ch. 11 at Durham, N. C., to WTIK Durham, with former competitor WDNC receiving 25% option, and for authorization of vhf ch. 4 at Sioux City, Iowa, to KCOM there, with former competitor KSCJ receiving option for 50% interest [B•T, Jan. 4]. After the mergers, WTIK and KCOM would be sold.

In the Houston ch. 13 proceeding, the proposed grant for Houston Television Co. was made possible by the dismissal of competitive bids by KTRH Broadcasting Co. (KTRH), Houston Area Television Co. and Tv Broadcasting Co. of Houston. When the grant is made final, it is proposed to transfer the permit to a new corporation, Houston Consolidated Television Co.

Houston Consolidated stock will be held in these proportions: KTRH Broadcasting Co., 32%; Houston Area Television Co.'s 17 stockholders, 32%; Houston Television Co.'s 15 stockholders, 20%, and Houston Mayor Roy Hofheinz, individually, 16%. Mayor Hofheinz was president and 50% owner of Tv Broadcasting Co. of Houston. He agrees to sell his 25% holding in KTHT Houston if necessary, according to the merger agreement.

### To Cost \$1 Million-Plus

It is understood more than \$1 million will be invested in the new Houston station. Effective radiated power specified for the ch. 13 operation, according to the initial decision, will be 316 kw visual.

The Sioux City ch. 4 proceeding originally involved the applications of KCOM Broadcasting Co. and Perkins Bros. Co. (KSCJ). Examiner Basil P. Cooper's initial decision found that after final grant, KCOM Broadcasting will immediately take steps to sell KCOM and after approval of such sale by FCC, will notify Perkins of the disposition.

"Perkins shall have 10 days after such notice," the examiner said, "to indicate an intent to purchase for a sum equal to the then net worth of KCOM a 50% interest in the KCOM Broadcasting Co. which will then be the permittee or licensee of the ch. 4 tv station." KCOM Broadcasting then will make corporate changes to give Perkins and KCOM stockholders equal representation on the board, of officers and management of the ch. 4 outlet.

The examiner also explained that Perkins "shall pay KCOM the amount, if any, by which the net proceeds from the sale of KCOM shall be less than \$175,000; such payment by Perkins, however, is not to exceed the sum of \$10,000. After the sale of KCOM, the corporation shall declare dividends to its stockholders of the amount, if any, by which the then net worth of the corporation shall exceed \$200,000."

Initial construction and operation of the ch. 4 station will be financed by loans to be advanced by present KCOM stockholders, the initial ruling explained. Upon purchase by

Perkins of half-interest, the loans will be repaid.

The Durham ch. 11 case, held before Examiner Millard F. French, originally involved the competing applications of Durham Broadcasting Enterprises Inc. (WTIK) and Durham Radio Corp. (WDNC). After the final decision and merger, WTIK is to be sold.

## FCC Grants Tv Outlets At Albany, Ga., Hibbing

FIRST local television stations were granted by FCC last week for vhf ch. 10 at Albany, Ga., and vhf ch. 10 at Hibbing, Minn.

The Albany permit went to Herald Pub. Co. licensee of WALB there, following dismissal of a competitive application by James S. Rivers' Southeastern Broadcasting System. WGPC Albany withdrew its ch. 10 application last November.

North Star Television Co. was grantee for ch. 10 at Hibbing. The authorization is conditioned upon final ruling by the Commission upon a petition by WEBC Duluth for reconsideration of a decision denying WEBC's request that ch. 10 be allocated to Duluth instead.

Quentin J. David, president and 6.16% owner of North Star, told B•T no starting date is estimated at this time, nor have network affiliation and station representation been settled. He said RCA equipment will be used.

Mr. David heads David Inc., St. Paul advertising agency, and its minority stockholder in WTCN-AM-FM-TV Minneapolis. Other North Star principals include stockholders in WSPT Stevens Point, Wis.

James H. Gray, WALB president, told B•T the Albany ch. 10 outlet should be on the air by June 1 using an RCA 10 kw transmitter. Network affiliation is not set but Burn-Smith Co. will be station representative, he said.

Details of the new grants:

Albany, Ga.—Herald Pub. Co. (WALB)

granted permit for vhf ch. 10; effective radiated power 50.1 kw visual and 25.1 kw aural; antenna height above average terrain 550 ft. Address: 138 Pine Ave.

Hibbing, Minn.—North Star Television Co. granted vhf ch. 10; ERP 10.5 kw visual and 5.25 kw aural; antenna height above average terrain 630 ft. Condition. Address: % Q. J. David, 3100 First National Bank Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

## KSTM-TV Court Plea Wins Stay of Ch. 11 Hearing

FCC's Jan. 14 hearing on St. Louis' ch. 11 was postponed one day before it was scheduled to start, following a stay issued last week by the U. S. Court of Appeals in favor of KSTM-TV St. Louis.

Postponement was ordered by FCC Hearing Examiner Thomas H. Donahue, when the court told the FCC to hold up the hearing. The court, however, gave the FCC alternatives. These were (1) that KSTM-TV be allowed to participate in the hearing as an applicant, subject to the court's decision on the KSTM-TV appeal, or (2) that the FCC hold a separate hearing on KSTM-TV's application to determine whether it should be accepted or include that issue in the overall St. Louis hearing. Commission's decision on what course to take was under consideration at week's end.

The Commission consistently has refused to accept an application from KSTM-TV for ch. 11 on the ground that an existing permittee may not apply for another facility in the same city. KSTM-TV operates on uhf ch. 36. In its application for ch. 11 it offered to give up the uhf channel if it won the vhf grant. The Commission has held, however, that an existing grantee must first surrender its permit before being allowed to file for another frequency. Fact that the Commission refused to accept its application, which is for East St. Louis, Ill., without a hearing led KSTM-TV to appeal. Case for a temporary restraining order was argued two weeks ago [B•T, Jan. 11].

Involved in the St. Louis ch. 11 hearing are St. Louis Amusement Co. (Ambassador Investment, 52%; Fanchon & Marco, 42%); St. Louis Telecast Inc. (60% owned by WEW); 220 Television Inc. (Harold Koplal and William Koplal Shenker) and CBS (KMOX).

## Three New GOP Faces on Senate Commerce Unit

ORGANIZATION of the Senate Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee was completed last week. The Republicans retain their majority.

Lineup is eight Republicans and seven Democratic members.

Sen. Homer E. Capehart (R-Ind.) has left the committee to take a seat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee [CLOSED CIRCUIT, Jan. 11]. It was left vacant by Sen. Charles W. Tobey (R-N. H.), who died last summer. Sen.

John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.) also has left the committee to join the Senate Labor & Public Welfare Committee.

Before the current shift, there was a GOP vacancy. Thus, three additional Republicans were named to the committee: Sens. James H. Duff of Pennsylvania, William A. Purtell of

Connecticut and Frederick G. Payne of Maine.

There were no Democratic changes. Complete membership of the committee, according to seniority, is as follows:

Republicans—John W. Bricker (Ohio), chairman; Andrew F. Schoeppel (Kan.); John M.



Sen. Duff



Sen. Purtell



Sen. Payne

Butler (Md.); Charles E. Potter (Mich.); Dwight Griswold (Neb.); Duff, Purtell, Payne.

Democrats—Edwin C. Johnson (Colo.); Warren G. Magnuson (Wash.); Lyndon B. Johnson (Tex.); Lester C. Hunt (Wyo.); John O. Pastore (R. I.); A. S. Mike Monroney (Okla.); George A. Smathers (Fla.).