

## WQXR AND KPMC GET I-B STATUS

CONFIRMATION by FCC of the Class I-B status of WQXR New York and KPMC Bakersfield, Calif., on 1560 kc under the 1950 North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement was set forth by the FCC last week in a memorandum opinion and order which (1) approved a power boost to 50 kw directional for WQXR from its present 10 kw, operating full time; and (2) granted KPMC a change from 1 kw to 10 kw, directional, also full time on 1560 kc.

Cuba holds Class I-B priority on 1560 kc. Case involving KPMC and WQXR has been in litigation since 1946. Both stations are class II under the old NARBA.

The case originally involved eight conflicting applications for nighttime operation on 1560 kc, but all except WQXR and KPMC withdrew [BROADCASTING, Nov. 10, 1947]. The record was closed in December 1947. Principal issues involved coverage, interference and "possible classification" of the proposed operations as U. S. I-B outlets, FCC said.

The Commission's memorandum opinion explained that Sec. 3.25(b) of its rules allows assignment of 1560 kc to I-B stations and NARBA 1950 provides for Class I-B assignments to WQXR and KPMC. WQXR would be limited to 10 kw radiation toward Las Villas, Cuba.

The order said "it is the Commission's opinion that the confusion arising from the present anomalous status of stations WQXR and KPMC should be resolved and since no substantial reason exists for not granting such recognition to stations WQXR and KPMC the Commission hereby recognizes stations WQXR and KPMC as Class I-B stations."

Pioneer good music station and an independent outlet, WQXR becomes the eighth 50 kw station in the New York area. KPMC is an ABC affiliate.

## Freedom of Speech At Stake in Maryland

FREEDOM of speech in Maryland is at stake in a misdemeanor indictment handed down against Fulton Lewis jr., MBS commentator, by a St. Marys County grand jury [B•T, March 1]. The indictments are based on an antique common law of England which was designed to protect the King and Queen as well as other public officials from criticism.

The *Washington Post* called the indictment "a naked piece of political reprisal" instigated by local politicians who had been castigated in MBS broadcasts by Mr. Lewis. The *Washington Evening Star* warned that commentators and newspaper editors, along with every citizen, could be subject to similar criminal action for any criticism of law enforcement.

## Calif. Dems. Charge KABC-TV With 'Unbalanced' Programs

FORMAL complaint against KABC-TV Hollywood was mailed to FCC Thursday by California Democratic National Committeeman Paul Ziffren in dispute over presentation of Republican-sponsored *Washington Calling* [B•T, Feb. 22] despite fact program is no longer on-the-air.

However, Station Manager Frank King denied program was cancelled because of Democratic Party pressure. He pointed out station's

8-week contract with Republican Associates, sponsors of *Washington Calling*, had expired and was not renewed by the group.

Other station spokesmen said KABC-TV position was unchanged in face of Democratic demand for free time to answer issues raised in previous Republican programs. "If they want to pay, we'll give them equal time," was consensus of statements.

California Democrats filed complaint with FCC on issue of "unbalanced" programming, claiming their party's lack of funds should not have prevented an equal opportunity to discuss issues raised in the Republican program. Station executives denied "unbalanced" programming charge, citing Drew Pearson and other "liberal" spokesmen on KABC-TV.

## Still Less Paperwork

IN AN ORDER designed to further reduce unnecessary paper work and administrative burdens for both itself and the broadcaster, FCC last week amended Sec. 1.343 of its rules so that multiple licenses of radio and tv stations need file only one ownership report Form 323 for such stations in any three-year license period. Effective immediately, the change does away with the present requirement that each licensee owning more than one am, fm or tv station must file a full ownership report with each renewal bid.

## New Muskogee Tv Station Proposed by Commission

INITIAL decision proposing to grant vhf ch. 8 at Muskogee, Okla., to Tulsa Broadcasting Co. was issued last week by FCC Hearing Examiner Millard F. French. Headed by John T. Griffin, Tulsa Broadcasting is licensee of KTUL Tulsa and KFPW Fort Smith, Ark.

Action was made possible by dismissal of two competing applications, those of KBIX Muskogee and Ashley L. Robinson. The latter received \$6,000 for expenses incurred in prosecuting his bid.

With a prompt final decision expected, the ch. 8 outlet proposes an August commencement date with Avery-Knodel Inc. as station representative. Network affiliation probably will be sought with CBS, since KFPW, KTUL and KOMA Oklahoma City, another Griffin interest, are radio affiliates of that network, it was reported. Mr. Griffin also is a principal stockholder in vhf ch. 7 KATV (TV) Pine Bluff, Ark., an ABC outlet.

## FCC Cuts Field Operations

FCC announced last week it will cut down its field operations by eliminating its Houston, Tex., Regional office and reorganizing the San Francisco Regional and Denver District offices.

Under the amendment of Part O of the Commission's Rules and Regulations New Mexico will be included within the San Francisco Regional office. District office 15 at Denver will now include Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Mississippi will come under the Atlanta Regional office.

Section 0.40 is amended as follows:

The offices of the Regional Managers of the Field Engineering and Monitoring Bureau are located:

Region #1—954 Federal Building, 641 Washington Street, New York 14, N. Y.—To include: Districts #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 24.

Region #2—411 Federal Annex, Atlanta, Ga.—To include: Districts #6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 22.

Region #3—323-A Customhouse, San Francisco 26, Calif.—To include: Districts #11, 12, and 15.

Region #4—802 Federal Office Bldg., Seattle

4, Wash.—To include: Districts #13 and 14.  
Region #5—P. O. Box 1142, Lanikai, Oahu, Hawaii—To include: District #21.  
Region #6—P. O. Box 644, (Rm. 52 U.S.P.O. & Courthouse), Anchorage, Alaska—To include: District #23.  
Region #7—832 U. S. Courthouse, Chicago 4, Ill.—To include: Districts #16, 17, and 18.  
Region #8—1029 New Federal Building, Detroit 26, Mich.—To include: Districts #19 and 20.

## Velde Discloses Ruling On Telecast Coverage

THE HOUSE Un-American Activities Committee has a rule governing telecasts of its hearings, Chairman Harold H. Velde (R-Ill.) has disclosed.

During House debate Feb. 25 on a request for funds to continue the committee, Rep. Velde filed rules adopted last summer by the investigating group. Among them is a section on televised hearings. The rules state that not more than two tv cameras can be used; telecasts shall be available to all under a pooled basis, on the basis of public service only with no commercial permitted from the hearing room "and no actual or intimated sponsorship of the hearings shall be permitted . . ." Also, the rules state the chairman "shall direct that television cameras refrain from photographing the witness during the taking of his testimony" if the witness so requests.

Chairman Velde stressed the rules on tv when Rep. Roy W. Wier (D-Minn.) asked him who on the committee "sets the policy on the use of television and radio" at hearings held in cities other than Washington. Rep. Wier asserted that tv "has been a very good instrument politically" for the committee.

## Ch. 3 Contest in Phoenix Receives More Pleadings

COUNTER pleadings, each charging the competitor's tv application is defective because of improper verification and signature, are pending before FCC in the vhf ch. 3 contest at Phoenix, Ariz., involving KTAR there and Arizona Television Co.

KTAR filed its protest Feb. 16 against Arizona Television, partly owned by Edward Cooper, tv director of Motion Picture Assn. of America and former communications expert of the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. FCC's Broadcast Bureau has recommended this petition be denied since an applicant "should not be disqualified on such a technicality." Arizona Television filed against KTAR March 1 on similar grounds.

## KTLG (TV) Transfer Sought

H. L. HUNT, multi-millionaire Texas oilman, filed application with FCC last week for assignment of his permit for uhf ch. 43 KTLG (TV) Corpus Christi to Trinity Broadcasting Corp. at \$5,600 cost. He cited pressure of other interests as the reason. Trinity is licensee of KLIF Dallas and KELP El Paso and is operated by Gordon McLendon, involved in counter-suits with major league baseball clubs over game rebroadcasts [B•T, Feb. 22]. Mr. Hunt reported net worth of \$8 million plus.

## Plan Fm Channel Switch

PROPOSED rule-making proceeding has been announced by FCC to switch fm ch. 239 from Peoria to Effingham, Ill. Comments are due March 26.