

Sen. Humphrey Seen Plugging For Educ. Vhf Assignments

THE IMPLICATION that perhaps the FCC ought to reassign a vhf channel to educational tv in "great metropolitan communities" which presently are under "the extraordinary handicap of having only a uhf channel," was read from a statement last week by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.).

In a letter to the FCC, Sen. Humphrey urged "that the Commission so act that the present educational channels will continue to be held in reserve and that this incalculably valuable educational resource be preserved."

Sen. Humphrey said the Twin City Educational Tv Corp. is preparing to file for ch. 2 at Minneapolis, and that other educational tv applications are "pending or imminent."

The Minnesota Democrat said: "It would be nothing short of tragic if, in the deliberations of the Commission, any decisions were made which might check the present steady progress toward the full development of a national system of educational television. On the contrary, it would be well if the Commission would seek ways and means of aiding those great metropolitan communities which presently find themselves under the extraordinary handicap of having only a uhf channel reserved for educational purposes."

Calling on the FCC to continue its reservation of the 258 educational channels, he cited the progress in educational tv, and said he looked toward educational tv for a partial answer to the nation's educational crisis.

In asking for continuance of both vhf and uhf educational reservations, he said, "It may be that even the difficulties of uhf may be overcome."

WSOO Renewal Application Requires Hearing, Says FCC

WSOO Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has been advised by the FCC that its application for renewal of license indicates necessity of a hearing because of "a manifest disregard for the Commission's rules, processes and orderly procedures."

The Commission cited recurrent instances as far back as 1939 in which WSOO allegedly had been remiss in filing. Request for renewal of the license was filed Sept. 26. The license expired Oct. 1 and according to FCC rules should have been filed for by July 2. Examination of the Commission records, the regulatory body stated, showed that required financial reports for 1952-54 had not been submitted by the station.

President of WSOO is Stanley R. Pratt, who in 1952 was personal representative of the Republican national chairman to Dwight D. Eisenhower and former campaign manager for the Republican State Central Committee in Michigan [B•T, Sept. 1, 1952].

GOP to Link Fund Dinners With Closed Circuit Jan. 20

DEFINITE plans to link Republican gatherings in 51 major U. S. cities Jan. 20 in a one-hour closed-circuit telecast, to be handled by Theatre Network Television, were announced last week.

The closed-circuit operation will link fund-raising dinners in these cities, with pickups from various meetings around the nation, according to John Clifford Folger, chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee, which is sponsoring the event.

The GOP closed-circuit hookup will feature

a nationwide "Salute to Eisenhower," in honor of the president. Conrad Hilton, head of the hotel chain, is chairman in charge of the closed-circuit arrangements.

The GOP National Committee said several more cities are expected to be added to the final list. An earlier announcement had indicated as many as 75 cities may be linked by the telecast [B•T, Nov. 28].

The event kicks off the GOP fund-raising drive for the 1956 campaign and observes the third year of President Eisenhower's inauguration.

Committeemen For Kefauver Have Radio-Tv Backgrounds

SEN. ESTES KEFAUVER (D-Tenn.), in announcing his campaign committee last week in his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, appointed three men whose destinies have been linked to the radio and tv field.

J. Howard McGrath, former Attorney General and now executive vice president of Lamb Enterprises, was named chairman of the campaign executive and advisory committee. Mr. McGrath is Mr. Lamb's attorney in the WICU (TV) Erie, Pa., license renewal hearing.

Col. William Roberts, of the Washington communications law firm of Roberts & McInnis, was appointed campaign treasurer, and A. Bradley Eben, Chicago attorney and former actor (the judge) on DuMont Tv Network's *They Stand Accused* (now off the air), was named vice chairman of the campaign executive and advisory committee. Messrs. Roberts and Eben had helped open a Kefauver-for-President office in Washington before the senator officially announced his intention to seek the Democratic nomination [B•T, Dec. 19, Oct. 17].

FCC Hears Oral Argument On KGEO-TV Tower Changes

IN ORAL ARGUMENT before the FCC last week on a proposed 1,356-ft. tower for KGEO-TV Enid, Okla., a lawyer for the Defense Dept. declared that although there is no arbitrary Air Force policy with respect to tower heights, KGEO-TV's new tower would be a "menace" to Air Force planes in the Enid area.

Oral argument was on a proposed move of ch. 5 KGEO-TV to a location 31 miles southeast of Enid and an increase in tower height from 816 to 1,356 ft. above ground. KGEO-TV is now situated 9.5 miles east of Enid. Hearing Examiner Hugh B. Hutchison recommended approval of the move in an initial decision [B•T, Aug. 8].

P. W. Valicenti, speaking for the Broadcast Bureau, scoffed at the Air Force contention that the proposed tower would menace aircraft. He said the tower would be located 28 miles from the nearest airport. The present tower is 4.5 miles from a civilian airport and 12 miles from an Air Force air base. He stressed that both the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the Civil Aeronautics Board were in favor of KGEO-TV's proposal. And as Air Force requirements are more severe than civilian air regulations because of more traffic and greater speeds, an added "cushion of safety" is provided, Mr. Valicenti said.

P. B. Emerson, arguing against the KGEO-TV move for now dark ch. 25 KTVQ (TV) Oklahoma City, said that KGEO-TV was in effect "straddling" by moving itself to a point equidistant from Enid and Oklahoma City. He charged that KGEO-TV was attempting to put a Grade A signal into Oklahoma City, whereas

it now doesn't put a Grade B signal into that city.

KTVQ, which previously claimed that KGEO-TV's move would kill its own operation [B•T, Sept. 19], ceased operation on Dec. 15 under a court order. The station, which had gone bankrupt in uhf operation, made a last ditch attempt to keep going by requesting FCC permission to use educational ch. 11 at Tulsa, but the Commission did not act on the request [B•T, Dec. 19].

Philip Bergson of Streets Electronics Inc., KGEO-TV licensee, pointed out that almost every collision between an aircraft and tower has occurred at less than 500 ft. He said KGEO-TV sought the move in order to provide service to 300,000 more people.

The FCC already has approved a 1,610-ft. tower for KSWs-TV Roswell, N. M., over military objections. Still in hearing is a request for a 1,993-ft. tower by WSLA-TV Selma, Ala.

Allentown-Easton Decision Upheld

U. S. Court of Appeals has affirmed the FCC's decision in the six-year-old Allentown-Easton, Pa., 1230 kc case.

In a *per curiam* decision, the court by a two to one ruling held that it could find no error on the part of the FCC in the features of the case remaining open to its consideration.

The case was sent back to the appeals court by the Supreme Court last summer. In this decision, the high tribunal reversed the appeals court finding that the Commission had erred in granting the channel to the *Easton Express*.

In 1949, the Commission granted the channel to what is now WHOL. This was on the ground that Allentown required the service more than Easton. The *Easton Express* appealed this decision and the appeals court reversed the FCC. The second hearing culminated in 1954 with the examiner reaffirming the grant to WHOL. The FCC, however, reversed the examiner and granted the wavelength to *Easton Express* on the ground that Easton needed the station more than Allentown. This time Allentown appealed. The Appeals Court told the Commission it had not made a full determination. The Commission appealed this to the Supreme Court, which remanded the case back to the lower court.

The lower court ruling, issued Dec. 16, drew a dissent by Circuit Judge David L. Bazelon. Judge Bazelon held that the FCC had failed to give any weight to the *Easton Express* "near monopoly of communications media and its large portion of the public broadcast domain in its community." The *Easton Express* also owns WEEX-FM and ch. 57 WGLV (TV).

'Infiltration' Hearing

PUBLIC HEARINGS on alleged Communist infiltration of radio, tv and press have been scheduled for Jan. 4-6 by the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee. Senate unit, headed by Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), will hear testimony from "numerous" witnesses, most already heard in closed sessions, and follow up information developed from CBS newsman Winston Burdett and others at hearings last summer.