



FCC ACTS TO CLEAR KEY MARKET V'S

- **CBS gets ch. 11 St. Louis; fourth vhf to be moved in**
- **Third v grants soon for Boston, Miami, Indianapolis**
- **Vhf, deintermixture decisions 'leak' despite precautions**

THE FCC last week grappled with two big projects:

1. To clean up with greatest possible dispatch pending television cases (including deintermixture proposals) which would add needed facilities in a number of major markets.

2. To prevent the action from "leaking" in advance of formal release of the written opinions.

Both happened. A half-dozen important cases were decided. And the results promptly leaked all over the country. Because no FCC action is final until the formal decision is released, constituting "publication" in the legal sense, there is always the possibility that votes can shift, and thus reverse a previous tentative decision. The FCC insists that until the final decision is released the status is simply that of a "straw vote" or of

instructions to the staff to write an opinion a given way, subject to approval at a subsequent meeting.

That was the status of last week's actions, taken on Monday and Wednesday. Presumably, they will not be "reviewed" for final action until the full seven-man Commission convenes again on Feb. 6 or thereabouts. Meanwhile, the FCC will meet on non-controversial matters at regular Wednesday sessions, or as called by Chairman George C. McConaughy.

But the leak situation became so rampant last week that one Commissioner proposed that they announce their decisions immediately after action in skeleton form, with the formal opinions to follow when completed by the Opinions & Review Office—the FCC's final decision writing team.

There was another proposal that the FBI

be called in to ferret out who is leaking to whom. Comr. Robert E. Lee is a former FBI official.

Here is what seeped out of Commission meetings last week:

● **St. Louis**—Ch. 11 granted to CBS by a 4-2-1 vote.

● **St. Louis**—Ch. 2 moved from Springfield, Ill., to St. Louis and to be awarded to KTVI (TV) St. Louis (now on ch. 36).

● **New Orleans**—Ch. 12 proposed to be moved to New Orleans and to **Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tex.**; plus ch. 3 to **Lake Charles or Lafayette, La.**, and ch. 11 to **Houma, La.** And ch. 4 WWL-TV New Orleans released from its no-construction bind.

● **Peoria, Ill.**—Ch. 8 moved from Peoria to **Rock Island, Ill.**

● **Miami, Fla.**—Straw vote reportedly

NEW LOOK FOR 14 TV MARKETS—IF FCC VOTES HOLD

THE STATUS of those cities where the Commission has moved, more or less definitely, is shown below.

St. Louis—Present stations operating are ch. 4 KWK-TV, ch. 5 KSD-TV, educational ch. 9 KETC (TV), and ch. 36 KTVI (TV). Ch. 2 is proposed to be moved in from Springfield, Ill., for KTVI. Ch. 11 is scheduled to be granted to CBS.

Springfield, Ill.—WMAY-TV holds a cp for ch. 2 (which is scheduled to be moved to St. Louis), and WICS (TV) is operating on ch. 20. WMAY-TV is scheduled to be given ch. 36 (from St. Louis).

New Orleans—Has two stations operating: ch. 6 WDSU-TV and ch. 20 WJMR-TV. The other vhf, ch. 4 is held by WWL-TV, not on the air yet. Grants are held by educational ch. 8 WYES (TV) and commercial ch. 26 WCKG (TV) and ch. 32 WWEZ-TV. Commission's disposition apparently is to add ch. 12 to give the city three commercial vhf outlets and to remove the condition on the WWL-TV grant.

Beaumont-Port Arthur—KFDM-TV is operating on ch. 6; KBMT (TV) holds a construction permit for ch. 31. Port

Arthur ch. 4 scheduled to go to Port Arthur College. Commission proposes to move ch. 12 to this area.

Lake Charles, La.—KPLC-TV is operating on ch. 7; KTAG (TV) operates on ch. 25. Commission proposes to move ch. 3 to Lake Charles or Lafayette, La.

Lafayette, La.—KLFY-TV operates on ch. 10. Commission proposes to move ch. 3 to Lafayette or Lake Charles, La.

Houma, La.—Ch. 30, ungranted and unsought, is allocated there. FCC proposes to allocate ch. 11 to Houma.

Peoria—WEEK-TV on ch. 43 and WTVH (TV) on ch. 19 are operating. WIRL-TV holds grant for ch. 8, but is prohibited from building. FCC proposed to move ch. 8 to Rock Island area, give WIRL-TV ch. 25.

Rock Island, Ill.—WHBF-TV operates on ch. 4. Commission is moving to put ch. 8 in Rock Island from Peoria.

Hartford, Conn.—WHCT (TV) on ch. 18 is operating. WTIC holds grant for ch. 3 but is prohibited from building. FCC action denying proposal to move ch. 3 to Providence, R. I., area would mean WTIC could begin building.

Miami, Fla.—WTVJ (TV) on ch. 4,

WCKT (TV) on ch. 7, educational WTHS-TV on ch. 2, WGBS-TV on ch. 23 and WITV (TV) on ch. 17 are operating. WMFL (TV) holds a grant for ch. 33. Commission has still to make a final grant for ch. 10 (National Airlines subsidiary Public Services Tv Inc. is favored, but WKAT Miami was recommended in initial decision). FCC also proposes to add ch. 6 to Miami.

Boston, Mass.—WBZ-TV on ch. 4, WNAC-TV on ch. 7 and educational WGBH-TV on ch. 2 are operating. Some service is supplied by ch. 9 WMUR-TV Manchester, N. H. Holding grants are ch. 38 WXEL (TV) and ch. 44 WJDW (TV). Commission leans to issuing final grant of ch. 5 to WHDH Boston.

Seattle, Wash.—Operating are KOMO-TV on ch. 4, KING-TV on ch. 5, KTNT-TV on ch. 11, KTVW (TV) on ch. 13 and educational KCTS (TV) on ch. 9. FCC appears ready to grant ch. 7 to KIRO that city.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Operating are WFBM-TV on ch. 6, WISH-TV on ch. 8 and WTTV (TV) Bloomington, Ind., on ch. 4. The FCC seems ready to assign ch. 13 to Crosley Broadcasting Co.