

taken, indicating National Airlines as winner in four-way contest for ch. 10 but with question of policy raised by Sen. A. S. Mike Monroney (D-Okla.) over airline ownership of tv presumably yet to be resolved.

• **Hartford, Conn.**—Ch. 3 to stay in Hartford.

Other tv cases where the FCC in the last few weeks has issued tentative instructions or where a straw vote has indicated its leanings—according to general knowledge:

- **Boston**—Ch. 5 to WHDH Boston.
- **Seattle**—Ch. 7 to KIRO Seattle.
- **Indianapolis**—Ch. 13 to Crosley.

Tv comparative hearing cases still awaiting FCC action are Orlando, Fla., ch. 9; Buffalo, N. Y., ch. 7; Biloxi, Miss., ch. 13, and Casper, Wyo., ch. 6.

Consideration of the so-called Craven plan—proposed by FCC Comr. T. A. M. Craven last month [B•T, Dec. 24, 1956]—was deferred pending the completion of action on the present deintermixture proposals.

Comr. Craven's plan calls for the deletion of the table of allocations. This would immediately free the vhf educational reservations in such cities as Tampa-St. Petersburg, Little Rock, Des Moines, Sacramento, Dallas-Fort Worth, etc., for anyone to apply (both commercial and educational entities). It also would permit, it is believed, the use of a number of vhf channels in significant markets—via the application route and maintaining existing mileage separation criteria. Through engineering studies it has been determined that additional vhf channels might be usable in such markets as Hartford, New Haven or Providence, Birmingham, Oklahoma City, Evansville, Louisville, Jacksonville, Mobile and Portland, Me. But these would entail "voluntary" shifts of a number of existing vhf stations.

The Commission's agreement to postpone active consideration of the Craven plan was predicated on the belief that its adoption would wash out the deintermixture proposals. It was felt, it is understood, that it would be more prudent to finish the deintermixture cases before taking up a nationwide plan.

Details of the Commission's tentative actions last week:

**St. Louis**—A majority of four commissioners voted to grant ch. 11 to CBS, in line with the examiner's recommendations in that hotly contested four-applicant case. Other applicants are Broadcast House, which once operated ch. 36 KTSM-TV St. Louis, 220 Television Inc. and St. Louis Telecast Inc. (WEW).

With only two dissents, the Commission tentatively decided to move ch. 2 from Springfield, Ill., to St. Louis and at the same time to issue a show cause order to award that vhf channel to KTVI (TV) St. Louis. KTVI now operates on ch. 36, but was originally granted ch. 54 in Belleville, Ill. (in the St. Louis area) under the call WTVI (TV). The Commission also is reported to have decided to issue a show cause order to move ch. 36 to the present holder of ch. 2 in Springfield, WMAY-TV. WMAY-TV received the ch. 2 grant last June, but was prohibited from building until the outcome

### DE-MIXES YET TO GO

WHEN the FCC undertakes its second go-round on deintermixture—early in February, it is understood—the next batch of cases to be considered probably will be: Madison, Wis.; Evansville, Ind.; Fresno, Calif.; Albany, N. Y., and Elmira, N. Y.

Present proposals look to (1) changing educational reservation in Madison from ch. 21 to ch. 3 (now used by WISC-TV there); (2) changing educational reservation in Evansville from ch. 56 to ch. 7 (now used by WTVW [TV] there); (3) moving ch. 12 (now held by KFRE-TV Fresno) from Fresno to Santa Barbara, Calif.; (4) deleting ch. 10 from Vail Mills, N. Y. (outside Albany), leaving only one vhf channel in area (WRGB [TV] Schenectady), and (5) deleting ch. 9 from Elmira. Except for Albany, these moves would make the areas all commercial uhf.

After those five are taken care of, these are the remaining deintermixture proposals: (a) Add ch. 13 to Norfolk, Va., from New Bern, N. C.; (b) add ch. 4 to Charleston, S. C., and move ch. 5 to Columbia, S. C.; (c) switch educational reservation in Duluth, Minn.-Superior, Wis., from ch. 32 to ch. 8, and (d) add ch. 6 to Miami, Fla. This would make these markets predominantly vhf.

of the deintermixture proceeding.

**New Orleans**—The FCC asked for comments by Feb. 8 on proposals to add ch. 12 to New Orleans and to Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tex.; ch. 3 to Lake Charles, La.; ch. 11 to Houma, La.; the request of KTAG-TV Lake Charles (on ch. 25) to be ordered to move to ch. 3; to conflicting proposals to add ch. 3 to Lafayette, La., and to add ch. 12 to Lake Charles, La.

The Commission's original proposal would have moved ch. 4 from New Orleans to Mobile, Ala.; with a counter-proposal that ch. 6 be also moved out of New Orleans. Ch. 6 is now used by WDSU-TV. WWL New Orleans received the ch. 4 grant last July, but construction was prohibited until the deintermixture proposals were made final one way or the other.

The vote in the New Orleans proposed move was 5 to 2; in the other moves the votes were unanimous.

The New Orleans decision was made public by Rep. Hale Boggs (D-La.) last Monday night and front-paged in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* of Jan. 15. According to the newspaper story attributed to Rep. Boggs, the FCC was to announce on Tuesday of last week that ch. 12 had been added to New Orleans and that there would be no deintermixture in that city. Rep. Boggs also was quoted as stating that new stations on chs. 4 and 12 were assured and would probably be on the air "within the next few months."

The next day a joint statement was issued by Reps. Boggs and F. Edward Herbert (D-

La.), both New Orleans congressmen, which restated the situation in these words:

"We are most confident that the FCC will assign ch. 12 to New Orleans and remove the freeze on ch. 4 and the threat to ch. 6 in the very near future. We are informed this decision will be announced on Feb. 5. If it is so announced it will give New Orleans adequate and complete tv coverage and will mean that the effort to convert our community into a uhf area has been rejected by the Commission. It also will mean the FCC has granted the relief which we requested in formal briefs filed in November 1956."

**Peoria**—The action to move Peoria's ch. 8 to Rock Island, Ill., came on a 4 to 3 vote. Peoria's ch. 8 was granted to WIRL that city last June, but WIRL was forbidden to begin construction until the deintermixture proceeding was completed. In the FCC's proposed deintermixture notice, it was suggested that ch. 25 be allocated to Peoria. Presumably this uhf facility would be given to WIRL and it would be given approval to begin building.

**Hartford**—The proposal to move Hartford's ch. 3 to the Providence, R. I., area was turned down by a narrow 4 to 3 vote. The Connecticut vhf channel is held by WTIC Hartford, granted last July but conditioned also on no construction until the deintermixture proceeding was resolved. If the FCC lines hold firm, WTIC should be authorized to begin construction on the vhf band. Still pending, however, is a petition of Hartford Telecasters Inc. for reconsideration of the grant to WTIC.

**Miami**—Disposition of the ch. 10 Miami case is reportedly slated for the FCC's next full meeting Feb. 6, but a decision has been written for Public Service Tv., a subsidiary of National Airlines. Sen. Monroney (see page 94) had asked the FCC to defer action until his Senate Commerce Aviation Subcommittee could investigate the propriety of airline ownership of tv stations. The examiner's initial decision, issued in March 1955, favored WKAT Miami. Other applicants for the vhf outlet are WCKY Cincinnati and North Dade Video (a group of local businessmen).

The last obstacle to nailing down the 1956 grant of Miami's ch. 7 to Biscayne Television Inc. evaporated last week when a unanimous federal appeals court upheld the grant. Acting on an appeal by ch. 17 WITV (TV) Fort Lauderdale, the court

### WISC-TV APPEALS

WISC-TV Madison challenged the deintermixture proposals last week in the U. S. Court of Appeals, Washington.

It appealed specifically from the FCC's action last November denying the Madison ch. 3 station's petition seeking reconsideration of the Commission's June 1956 deintermixture rule-making proposals.

WISC-TV claimed that before the FCC issued the unscrambling proposals, it should have held a full rule-making policy hearing.