

ASCAP treaty talks go on

All-Industry negotiators continued their discussions with ASCAP representatives last week in an effort to work out details implementing the broad agreement already reached on new ASCAP music licenses to replace those that expired Dec. 31.

The broad agreement, reached March 4 in sessions conducted under the sponsorship of Judge Sylvester J. Ryan of the U.S. Court for the Southern District of New York (BROADCASTING, March 9), is known to involve a reduction in payments as compared to the old contracts, but the exact formula must be worked out by the All-Industry and ASCAP negotiators. Spokesmen for the All-Industry Radio Music License Com-

mittee, which has the financial support of some 685 radio stations, expressed confidence that final terms would be reached amicably. When this is done, the committee will recommend acceptance, but it will be up to the stations individually to decide whether to accept or reject the terms.

The All-Industry committee, headed by Robert T. Mason of WMRN Marion, Ohio, and its counsel, Emanuel Dannett, conferred last Thursday with Herman Finkelstein, ASCAP counsel. It was not expected that further sessions would be held until after this week's NAB convention, of which Mr. Mason is co-chairman.

from 2½% of receipts from programs using BMI music up to 4% at the \$100,000-and-over level—the level at which CBS Radio will pay. In addition, the per-program license carries a charge amounting to 0.723% of card rate for sustaining programs (the blanket license has no sustaining fee).

Tv licenses with BMI are at fees 10% below the radio rates.

Committee Recommended • The All-Industry Radio Music License Committee, after negotiations with BMI earlier this year, recommended that stations accept BMI's offer of five-year renewals (BROADCASTING, Feb. 2). This committee, headed by Robert T. Mason of WMRN Marion, Ohio, also has been negotiating with ASCAP for new contracts to replace those that expired last Dec. 31 and has reached broad agreement with the society, although details remain to be worked out (see box above).

The approximately 50 BMI radio station licenses which had not been renewed as of last Thursday were described as held up, in most cases, by "mechanical" snags.

BMI officials acknowledged that some stations protested BMI's requirement that program logging be done at station expense, but they said these protests were no heavier this time than in past years and probably were fewer.

MGM-TV sells NBC-TV

In a \$2.5 million deal, MGM-TV will produce *Jeopardy* as a one-hour filmed crime anthology series for NBC-TV. The new agreement marks the second sale of an MGM-TV property to the network (*Northwest Passage* was sold last season). The new film series is set for scheduling next season.

AFM wins round one in trust fund fight

Hollywood musicians who are suing the American Federation of Musicians in an attempt to upset AFM's trust fund operations and divert royalty and wage increase payments to the working musicians have suffered a major setback. Last Tuesday (March 10) Judge Clarence L. Kincaid of the Los Angeles Superior Court knocked out the plaintiffs' claim for damages which account for some \$13 million of the \$15 million suit, filed in November 1956 on behalf of "some 6,000 musicians employed in making phonograph records.

Judge Kincaid upheld the objection of AFM attorneys that members of AFM, an incorporated association, cannot sue the association for damages, as that in effect would be suing themselves. Attorneys for the plaintiffs were granted a delay until March 24 to seek a review of the ruling by the District Court of Appeal.

Remaining in this action is some \$2 million in recording wage increases which AFM and the employers agreed were to be paid into the trust funds but which the plaintiffs are seeking to obtain for the individual working musicians. These funds were impounded by the court under control of a receiver. Similar suits, covering AFM contracts for work in films made for tv, in royalty payments for theatrical films sold for tv exhibition and for electrical transcriptions, are still awaiting trial.

Judge Kincaid also upheld a second AFM objection and ruled that when the trial resumes it will be before a judge only, without a jury.

EQUIPMENT & ENGINEERING

Tiny 'Nuvistor' tube introduced by RCA

RCA's Electronic Tube Div., Harrison, N.J., last Wednesday (March 11) displayed its "new look in electron tubes," the Nuvistor, in a presentation at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York. Development of the thimble-sized Nuvistor was cited as a major breakthrough in tube size, performance, power drain and reliability. The advancement came about, RCA said, through the use of new materials, new processes and new techniques.

Among the demonstrations Wednesday was a completely "Nuvistorized" tuner unit of a television set in operation. The experimental tuner is reportedly the smallest ever designed for tv receivers and reduces the over-all volume of conventional tube tv tuner units by approximately one-third. In addition to the tube's advantages for entertainment equipment uses, Nuvistors will offer more compact and efficient electronic equipment for defense and industry, said D. Y. Smith, vice president-general manager, tubes.

Mr. Smith announced that developmental Nuvistor samples will be furnished within the next few months to interested electronics laboratories and equipment manufacturers. Small-signal triodes and tetrodes will be offered at first, and later it's expected beam power tubes will be provided. Limited commercial production of Nuvistors is planned to start in the first half of 1960.

Features highlighted at the preview: elimination of mica support discs or spacers through use of a strong ceramic base-wafer as a platform for erection of the tube electrode assemblies, cylindrical symmetry and cantilever construction permitting use of accurate jigs for assembly, brazing of assembly for strain-free structure, high-temperature processing resulting in super-clean structure, lugs indexed for easy insertion into tube socket, high-temperature operation and no-glass construction.



Nuvistor: fits into an ordinary thimble