Senate subcommittee hears FTC's Kintner

The Federal Trade Commission has by its own rules always refused to make public the names of those who complain about unfair trade practices, FTC Chairman Earl W. Kintner said Nov. 20 in testimony before the Senate Administrative Practices & Procedures Subcommittee. He said he didn’t feel the FTC should be required to identify such complainants on the public record during hearings.

Testifying on S 2374, a bill to prohibit ex parte contracts on certain types of agency procedures, Mr. Kintner said the FTC is charged with law enforcement, not with granting licenses or other rights, and its present procedure is best for this. He said the FTC program is “dependent” on complaints from the public and industry in prosecuting cases.

The FTC chairman also said that S 600, which would create an Office of Federal Administrative Practices, should be modified so it will not create a “super agency” with authority over other agencies enabling it to substitute its judgment over these agencies in areas where they are given jurisdiction.

Conn. sale protest dismissed by FCC

FCC has dismissed the protest against the sale of WKNB and WNBC (TV) New Britain, Conn. by NBC to Connecticut Television Inc., filed by WHCT (TV) Hartford, Conn. (Broadcasting, Nov. 9). The Commission said WHCT has no standing to protest that the FCC had knowledge of all details alleged and that the protestor showed no details of adverse impact.

The protest charged that Connecticut Television’s immediate resale of WKNB to Beacon Broadcasting Co. implied trafficking in a license. It also claimed there was a tie-in between Connecticut Television and Springfield Television Inc. and that there was an overlap between WNBC and WWLP (TV) Springfield, Mass. Latter is owned by Springfield Television, as are WRLP (TV) Greenfield and WWOR-TV Worcester, both Mass. Springfield Television at one time had a one-third interest in Connecticut Television but dropped it when the overlap problem developed. It has the option to recapture this interest if and when FCC permits.

FCC approved the $750,000 sale of the New Britain stations to Connecticut Television last September (Broadcasting, Sept. 28). Connecticut then resold WKNB to Beacon Broadcasting for $255,000. Connecticut Television is