

# CLOSED CIRCUIT®

**Triangle's quota** ■ KFSD-AM-TV San Diego is earmarked for acquisition by Triangle Publications. Property (ch. 10 KFSD-TV on air since 1953, and 5 kw 600 kc KFSD established in 1925) is owned by *Newsweek* magazine, 46.22%, and Fox, Wells & Rogers, 42.55%. Price believed to be in neighborhood of \$7 million, with transaction understood to have been negotiated through Howard Stark, broker.

*Triangle, in addition to Philadelphia Inquirer, Tv Guide and associated publications, owns WFIL-AM-FM-TV Philadelphia, WFBG - AM - TV Altoona, WLYH-TV Lebanon, all Pennsylvania; WNBC-AM-FM-TV Binghamton, N.Y.; WNHC - AM - FM - TV New Haven, Conn., and KFRE-AM-TV and KRFM (FM) Fresno, Calif. All tv outlets are vhf except WLYH-TV. Fresno may become uhf under pending FCC proposal (BROADCASTING, March 28). Acquisition of KFSD-TV would give Triangle full portfolio—five v's and two u's.*

**Make haste slowly** ■ Although several hundred names have been advanced to NAB selection committee for late Harold Fellows' successor as NAB president, there's little likelihood that fast action will be taken. Under chairmanship of Howard Lane (KOIN-AM-TV Portland) eight-man committee is screening suggestions and is soliciting more. If right man emerges, committee could move swiftly in making its recommendation to combined boards, but best guess is that several weeks—maybe months—may elapse before crystallization. Nominees include many figures in public life, leading broadcasters, members of Congress, judges and attorneys.

*More than cursory thought is being given to dual top echelon of NAB, with policy-level president and administrative-level executive vice president. There's also suggestion, favorably received in some quarters, that board chairmanship (Mr. Fellows held dual role of chairman and president) be rotated annually among top broadcasters as is done in other associations. Recipient of distinguished service award (Clair McCollough, chairman of temporary regency, was this year's selection) would automatically become board chairman.*

**ABC's option** ■ ABC-TV's placement of one of its "Doerfer plan" public service half-hours in 7-7:30 p.m. slot (*Expedition* on Tuesdays) is being branded breach of faith by representa-

tives of both CBS-TV and NBC-TV. Those critics feel there was gentleman's agreement to put public service commitments into normal option time, as CBS and NBC have done. ABC-TV says it's amending station contracts to bring 7-7:30 into network option time on Tuesdays. It argues that this series of visits to famous places ought to be available to youth as well as adults and says that, indeed, possibility of thus revising option time for public service show was discussed with ex-FCC Chairman John Doerfer in presence of top CBS and NBC officials and that they did not protest.

**Harris and Sec. 317** ■ Subject of sponsorship identification is going to get airing even before May 2 deadline for comments on FCC's controversial March 16 interpretation. It is integral part of HR-11341, introduced by Rep. Oren Harris (D-Ark.) just two weeks ago and among batch of bills to be considered by Mr. Harris' House Commerce Committee tomorrow (story page 92). Lead-off witnesses are FCC commissioners, and bill's Sec. 317 revisions are bound to be related to FCC's action.

*Congressman Harris' bill goes step beyond FCC posture on definition of payment or consideration. Bill identifies use of "property" as payment—which would mean that any material given to station would have to be counted as commercial (free records, for example). This is doubly dangerous to broadcasters for passage of bill would freeze FCC's present position into statute.*

**UPI and tape** ■ New audio tape service for radio stations is being developed by United Press International. There was test run last week when taped interview with eloping heiress Gamble Benedict and Andre Porumbeanu was offered to UPI radio clients and taken by some 30 stations. Tape service, expected to start later this year, will deal primarily with news-feature material and will be handled by mail.

**Catv empire** ■ TelePrompTer Corp., which now owns four community antenna systems in mountain states plus one microwave relay, is in final negotiations for four additional systems and has options on 11 others, plus two additional microwave relays, according to Irving B. Kahn, president. Aside from independent operation of catvs, it's presumed that TelePrompTer, which is partly owned by Western Union, contemplates tying in service eventually

with its closed circuit operations in major markets. While no estimate of investment was given, it's known to run substantially into seven figures.

*TelePrompTer Corp. has repurchased its European licensee, TelePrompTer Ltd. of London. Company will serve as headquarters for European and overseas operations in closed circuit and related areas. Company also is entering Asiatic field, according to Mr. Kahn, who has just returned from round-the-world trip, with emphasis on underdeveloped nations.*

**Watch for fm** ■ There's one problem confronting fm broadcasting that may temper new enthusiasm for medium following NAB convention: With number of stations doubling, tripling and even quintupling in many markets, there may be temporary down-swing in average time sales. But fm's supporters figure medium will recover through sheer momentum of spirited selling, attractive programming and growth of circulation.

**Last-minute escape** ■ Goar Mestre, Cuban broadcasting executive and businessman, got out of Havana one hour before his properties and accounts were impounded and taken over by Castro government. Details are not revealed, but he is now in United States. Mr. Mestre, well known to American broadcasters and heretofore regular attendant at NAB conventions, did not make Chicago sessions. Mrs. Mestre, an Argentine citizen, is applicant for new television facility in that republic, and Mr. Mestre may build that station while awaiting outcome of events in Cuba.

**Inflation note** ■ Elroy McCaw's WINS New York independent is object of many acquisitive attentions. Reports were current last week that offers as high as \$10 million had been made for station which was purchased by Mr. McCaw for \$450,000 in 1953.

**Network breather** ■ Shift of House Oversight's Dick Clark hearings from tentative April 21 hearing to April 26 set some observers thinking last week Chairman Harris might shoehorn in hearings on network regulation bills (HR 11340, others) April 20-21, after Congress returns from Easter recess. But network sources say they had reasonable assurance network regulation bills won't be heard until May. If that schedule pans out, networks are reasonably safe from regulatory legislation now. Congress hopes to adjourn in June.