

FCC takes pause

Elevation of Lyndon B. Johnson to Presidency already has had sobering effect on FCC. Disposition to ignore congressional attitudes on assumption there would be administration backing evaporated to some degree at last week's FCC sessions. For example, staff proposal to assume absolute jurisdiction over community antenna operations was side-tracked when wiser heads recalled that last Congress voted down such legislation.

What will FCC do on commercial time limitations, filing fees, and fairness issues on which it has defied House members? These matters haven't come up again, but more conciliatory attitude is expected, although oral arguments on commercial rulemaking are still set for Dec. 9 (with TV coverage) and filing fees are still scheduled to take effect next Jan. 1. Similarly slow-down is forecast on network regulations to limit program ownerships and business relations with affiliates.

Griffin expands

In unusual transaction, John Griffin interests, which own 50% of ch. 9 KWTV Oklahoma City, will acquire other half for \$3.2 million from former Governor Roy Turner and Luther T. Dulaney, each with 25% of voting stock. Acquisition, subject to FCC approval, is by KATV Inc., Griffin corporation which operates KATV Little Rock-Pine Bluff, and Tulsa Broadcasting Co., which owns Griffin's KTUL-TV, with all three stations to be merged in KATV Inc. No change in management is contemplated, with Edgar T. Bell, who owns 10% interest, non-voting, in KWTV, to continue as executive vice president-general manager. John T. Griffin, board chairman of Griffin Stores, holds in excess of 50% of KATV Inc., with balance held by his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Leake.

Second phase of transaction involves sale of title to equipment of all three stations for \$3 million to two executives of First National Bank of Oklahoma City. This return, coupled with \$200,000 advanced by Griffin, will constitute \$3.2 million to be paid Messrs. Turner and Dulaney for redemption of their stock. Bankers, in turn, will lease back equipment to surviving KATV Inc. for 10 years at \$450,000 per year. Bankers are C. A. Voss and James B. Kite.

Two Johnson men

Chairmen of House and Senate Commerce Committees, which handle most communications legislation, are about as "in" with President Johnson

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as anybody could be and still have worked smoothly with Kennedy administration, as they did. Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) was Mr. Johnson's campaign manager on West Coast in 1960. Representative Oren Harris (D-Ark.) was firm supporter who helped put Arkansas in Johnson column on first ballot at Democratic convention in 1960, feels Mr. Johnson will work effectively with Congress and has great respect of many there who know him from more than 30 years service in both houses.

Tithe from SESAC

Something tangible is being added to praises given broadcasters for their monumental coverage of events surrounding death of President Kennedy. No announcement has been made, but SESAC, music licensing organization, is reported to have notified all its broadcast licensees, that in recognition of their "epochal service" and "selfless efforts" they are to deduct 10% from their SESAC license fee payments for December.

Know how, not know who?

Democratic party source doubts seriously that President Johnson will accept resignation of J. Leonard Reinsch as executive director for party's 1964 national convention (CLOSED CIRCUIT, Nov. 25). Mr. Reinsch probably knows more about running conventions—especially radio-TV aspects—than anybody in either party, it was said. Executive director of Cox stations and figure in Democratic politics since Roosevelt days, Mr. Reinsch directed 1960 Los Angeles convention at which John Kennedy won nomination in contest with Mr. Johnson.

Now it can be told

Plans for second luncheon with station executives were in final stages few days before President John F. Kennedy's death. Pierre Salinger, news secretary, had asked J. Leonard Reinsch, executive director of Cox stations and communications consultant to White House, to assist in drafting list of 20-30 broadcasters who would have been invited to luncheon shortly after holidays. First luncheon held Aug. 22 was attended by 19 broadcasters (BROADCASTING, Aug. 26).

Whether President Lyndon B. Johnson will follow tradition established by his predecessor in inviting media executives to informal off-record discussion is one of myriad secondary

policies to be decided. Similarly, it isn't yet known whether he will throw his news conferences open to live TV-radio coverage following precedent established by President Kennedy, although Pierre Salinger thinks he will. Mr. Johnson is at home with press and is adept in parrying questions.

Tie-in

Format of annual Advertising Federation of America government conference in Washington (Feb. 4-5) will be changed in effort to get more active participation by federal officials and members of Congress. To be dropped is annual congressional reception in evening. Conference highlight is to be breakfast session during which top industry official will present advertising's side to congressmen. U. S. Chamber of Commerce will be host at conference on public affairs Feb. 5-6, and AFA will unofficially embrace chamber's congressional reception.

Florida outlook

Notion that LeRoy Collins, president of National Association of Broadcasters, might run for Senate seat held by Spessard Holland (D-Fla.) has been all but dispelled. Although Senator Holland has not formally announced his candidacy (to do so would end free time he receives for his reports to constituents on radio and TV) it can be said authoritatively that he does intend to run for fourth term.

Governor Collins repeatedly has said he has no immediate aspirations to return to public life but he's not been unequivocal. If 71-year-old Senator Holland had decided not to run for health reasons, it was generally expected he would endorse Governor Collins as his successor, but senator is in good health and expects to announce candidacy early next year.

Johnson aides

Although formal appointments to President Lyndon B. Johnson's White House staff haven't yet been made, it's regarded as good bet that Walter Jenkins, Mr. Johnson's administrative assistant for nearly quarter-century, and William D. Moyers, 30-year-old deputy director of Peace Corps, will be in important positions. Grapevine has Mr. Jenkins as appointments secretary, counterpart of Kenneth O'Donnell in President Kennedy's retinue, and Mr. Moyers, former Texas newscaster (KTBC-AM-TV Austin) and executive assistant in 1960 Johnson presidential campaign, as news secretary.