

WTCN-TV sold for \$4 million

Minneapolis-St. Paul independent station
sold by Time-Life Broadcast to Chris-Craft

The sale of WTCN-TV, channel 11 independent in Minneapolis-St. Paul, by Time-Life Broadcast Inc. to Chris-Craft Industries Inc. for approximately \$4 million (CLOSED CIRCUIT, April 6) was announced last week.

But one other deal involving Twin Cities' television station KMSP-TV has fallen through. Negotiations were underway for 20th Century-Fox to sell the ABC-affiliated station to Screen Gems but 20th Century board voted several weeks ago not to sell the outlet.



Weston C. Pullen Jr. (l), president of Time-Life Broadcast Inc., signs agreement to sell WTCN-TV Minneapolis-St. Paul to Chris-Craft Industries Inc. for approximately \$4 million, with Chris-Craft president John G. Bannister looking on.

Last week's Minneapolis transaction, when approved by the FCC, will give Chris-Craft Industries its third independent TV station. Chris-Craft, the former Nafi Corp., already owns KCOP-TV (ch. 13) Los Angeles, which it bought in 1960 from Kenyon Brown and associates in a stock deal aggregating about \$1.5 million, and KPTV(TV) (ch. 12) Portland, Ore., which it bought in 1959 from George Haggarty for \$3.75 million.

Chris-Craft is a diversified company which manufactures inboard and outboard boats, fabric and fiber products for the automobile industry, and has interests in oil and gas fields in 13 states in addition to its TV holdings. John G. Bannister is president of the firm, which last year had a net income after taxes of over \$2 million (\$1.43 a

share) on revenues of almost \$70 million.

Time-Life acquired WTCN-TV in 1957 when it bought the Harry M. Bitner stations (including Indianapolis and Grand Rapids) for \$15,750,000. Until 1960 WTCN-TV was affiliated with ABC-TV. The affiliation went to KMSP-TV that year.

Besides retaining WTCN in Minneapolis, Time-Life has five other television stations: KLZ-TV Denver, KOGO-TV San Diego, WFBM-TV Indianapolis and WOOD-TV Grand Rapids, all VHF, and KERO-TV Bakersfield, Calif., a UHF outlet. All of the VHF stations also have AM and FM adjuncts.

Handling the WTCN-TV transaction was Howard E. Stark.

CATV's show interest in North Carolina

North Carolina, home of only three community antenna television systems through last year, has suddenly become the scene of renewed CATV interest in three principal cities.

Applications for permission to install CATV systems have been made in the last few weeks in Charlotte, Durham and Raleigh, all by separate groups.

Durham Cablevision Co., organized by 10 local business men, asked the city council last Monday (May 4) to adopt an ordinance permitting them to provide CATV service. The council named Mayor Wense Grabarek to head a special study committee.

In Raleigh another group of nine business and professional men are seeking permission to operate a CATV under the name of Raleigh Cablevision Co. They explained their plans to the Raleigh council also last Monday, and a public hearing is to be scheduled.

Just a short time ago Broadcasting Co. of the South, a group broadcast licensee, requested a franchise in Charlotte (BROADCASTING, May 4).

The Durham and Raleigh firms plan to offer eight TV channels plus FM reception, according to Bill Adler of Adler Associates, Washington, their consultant. The firms are not interlocked, he said. The basic improvement they could offer viewers would be "perfect" reception of local channels plus an NBC affiliate, which Mr. Adler said is not received well in parts of both communities.

The Television Accessory Manufac-

turers Institute (TAME) says CATV is unnecessary in either city and is organizing opposition in Durham and Raleigh. Morton Leslie, TAME acting chairman, said neither community needs CATV and the situation "points up the need for legislation" to regulate CATV. "They're not going to bring needed service; they're bringing duplicated service," Mr. Leslie said.

Mr. Adler explained the new activity in North Carolina as a sign of a realization by CATV operators that "more people need more service" and that markets lacking a third network station need cable television.

KRLA applicant wants FCC to drop others

Radio Station KCJH, one of 19 applicants for the facilities of KRLA Pasadena-Los Angeles, has asked that the FCC dismiss the applications of KCJH's 17 competitors which would operate the 1110 kc frequency in the Los Angeles vicinity. KCJH, a daytime-only outlet 1280 kc in Arroyo Grande, would relocate the KRLA channel to that city, some 170 miles north of Pasadena.

KCJH, owned by Christina M. Jacobson and Leslie H. Hacker, said under FCC policy the applications for "merely one more station for greater Los Angeles must be denied." KCJH said its application would bring new service to Arroyo Grande and hence is in compliance with Section 307(b) of the Communications Act that instructs the FCC to see to the "fair, efficient and equitable" use of broadcast facilities.

KCJH has also opposed the five applications for interim operations of KRLA facilities, claiming that they would prejudice its application for the Arroyo Grande site. An oral argument on the interim applications will be held Thursday (May 14), (BROADCASTING, May 4).

Hi-Desert Broadcasting Corp. was the only application not opposed by KCJH. Hi-Desert has applied for 1110 kc to be relocated in Twenty Nine Palms, Calif. Hi-Desert operates KDHI on 1250 kc, 1 kw daytime only, in that city.

Broadcasters should not have 'untouchables'

Broadcasters "cannot dance around the periphery of issues—we must be at the white-hot center," LeRoy Collins, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, said last week.

Speaking in Columbia, Mo., before a joint meeting of the Missouri Broad-