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picture pack • With its purchase of the Century III package of 30 feature motion pictures from 20th Century-Fox for approximately $500,000, KHJ-TV Los Angeles will have spent close to $7.5 million in the past few years for the TV use of motion pictures made for theatrical exhibition, Wally Sherwin, director of programming at KHJ-TV announced last week. The new films, which will become available to the station by Oct. 1, include 26 pictures made in color which KHJ-TV will broadcast in color.

Lawford in Profiles • Peter Lawford, brother-in-law of the late President John F. Kennedy, will star in "The General Alexander William Doniphan Story," on the new NBC-TV series based on Profiles in Courage, the Pulitzer Prize winning book written by Mr. Kennedy. The series begins Nov. 8 (6:30-7:30 p.m. EST).

"SAG members okay call for strike"

A strike of the Screen Actors Guild against the producers of filmed TV programs can be called at any time following midnight Tuesday (June 30), when the current contract expires. Some 1,200 SAG members, attending a special meeting last Monday (June 22) gave the union's executive board authority to call a strike. Major item of the SAG proposal is the demand for a doubling of residual payments for domestic reruns of TV filmed programs plus payments for the use of these programs in foreign markets, for which actors have not received any payment.

A new development in the contract discussions is that, at SAG insistence, the three TV networks have joined the Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers at the bargaining table.

The union's argument is that the networks participate in the financing and production planning of many shows which appear on network TV and are just as much concerned with the terms and conditions of employment for the actors on these programs as the producers. Originally, the network representatives were only observers of the negotiations.

Unions irked at studio's tape plans

The first TV program to be put on tape instead of film at Universal City Studios (formerly Revue) is "still scheduled to go into production in July," a studio spokesman said Thursday. The program, as yet untitled, will be produced by Milt Hoffman, with Bill Leyden as host.

The switch from film to tape has been protested by six Hollywood locals of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, who charge that such a move would be a breach of contract. These locals, representing cameramen, film editors, sound technicians, laboratory technicians, scenic artists and makeup and hair stylists, have for months complained that the tape agreement negotiated last winter with the major film producers by IATSE President Richard Walsh is invalid and they plan to take their fight to have it rescinded to the floor of the IATSE convention in Louisville, Ky., next month.

Such an agreement, if necessary, the locals contend, as the 1961 agreement between the IATSE and the film producers already covers all production, tape or film. The source of the locals' dissatisfaction is that in general the tape agreement calls for a weekly pay scale that is lower than that for film (BROADCASTING, Dec. 23, 1963).

"The video-tape agreement was without the authorization, without the participation, without the consent and without the ratification" of the local unions and their members, the six protesting locals said in a telegram sent to the top officials of MCA, Universal and Revue. (The studio spokesman refused to comment on the wire or even to admit that any such message had been received.)

If Universal Studios proceeds with the scheduled taping, the unions will take appropriate legal action, their message stated.

Heavy coverage of conventions planned

Two station groups and an audio news service have released plans for coverage of the political conventions this summer.

Corinthian Broadcasting Corp., New York, will use a 22-member reporting team from its six stations; Taft Broadcasting Co., Cincinnati, will send 17 newsmen and technicians from its 12 stations, and Radio Press International will use five men to cover Republican candidates for its 150 subscribing stations.

In addition to regular live coverage of convention activity, the Corinthian stations will present half-hour preconvention specials and feature reports by the nationally syndicated newspaper columnists who participate in Corinthian's

BROADCASTING, June 29, 1964