

1,702 feet above average terrain, KMSP-TV from 450 to 1,693 feet, and WCCO-TV from 540 to 1,603 feet.

KMSP-TV and WAOW-TV are already short-spaced by 13.2 miles as a result of a commission action in November permitting the Wausau station to move its transmitter to a point 175.8 miles from KMSP-TV. The move requested by KMSP-TV would bring the stations some eight miles closer together.

One of the hearing issues is whether the standard mileage separation requirement should be waived for the KMSP-TV move and, if so, whether that station should be required to afford WAOW-TV "equivalent protection" against interference.

## Tower dispute gets Hill airing Feb. 18

The House Commerce Committee has scheduled a hearing this week to seek answers to jurisdictional disputes between the FCC and the Federal Aviation Agency as to who should have authority to limit heights of radio and television towers.

Representatives of federal agencies, the National Association of Broadcasters, the Association of Maximum Service Telecasters, the National Association of Educational Broadcasters and aviation groups have been invited to testify.

Scheduled for Thursday (Feb. 18) are FCC Chairman E. William Henry and Federal Aviation Agency Administrator Najeeb E. Halaby.

The immediate issue before the committee is HJ Res 261, a resolution that would limit tower heights to less than 2,000 feet unless the FCC "makes a special finding" after consultation with the Department of Defense, the FAA and other interested parties that the tower isn't a hazard to air navigation.

The jurisdictional question alone would be sufficient cause for a hearing, but it's possible an airing of the tower matter may also raise questions about antenna farms. The FCC has been considering proposing a rule-making on this, but is said to have held off at the request of Representative Oren Harris (D-Ark.), committee chairman (BROADCASTING, Feb. 8).

## New TV-tape-recording system shown by Ampex

Ampex Corp., Redwood City, Calif., last week demonstrated a new television-tape-recording system priced at \$3,950—considerably less than similar equipment previously available in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 range.

The new model, the "VR-303," ac-

cording to Ampex Vice President C. Gus Grant, was designed primarily for the closed-circuit television market.

The recorder weighs 95 pounds, uses quarter-inch tape and has a tape speed of 100 inches-per-second. A 50-minute reel of tape would be \$58.

## GE tube developed for smaller TV cameras

The General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y., has developed a new "hybrid" focus projection and scanning vidicon tube which



will permit the design of smaller, lighter-weight, high-resolution television cameras for commercial use.

The company stated that the vidicon tube might make possible the development of a portable

color TV camera and could also be used commercially for standard color TV cameras and for educational TV.

Compared with a typical six-inch, all-magnetic vidicon, the new GE FPS tube measures four inches in length—excluding pins—and one inch in diameter. Despite this small size, the FPS tube has a resolution of 800 TV lines with only 750 volts beam acceleration. GE said the FPS tube would also have space and military applications.

## Bill to repeal 10% TV-set tax introduced

Legislation seeking repeal of the 10% manufacturers excise tax on television sets, radios and phonographs was proposed last week by Representative James A. Burke (D-Mass.), a member of the House Ways & Means Committee, the panel that handles tax matters in the House.

The measure, HR 4471, is the first of an expected wave of companion bills to be introduced in the House and the Senate at the urging of the Electronic Industries Association.

Set manufacturers have been after reduction or outright repeal of the 10% levy for many years. Now the Treasury Department is expected to offer a proposal recommending reduction or elimination of some manufacturers excise taxes, and the EIA has been striving to see that the set tax is included in the tax cuts (BROADCASTING, Dec. 28, Nov. 23, 1964.)

## Stations protest transmitter move

The FCC was asked last week to set aside its order adopted last month permitting KBMT(TV) Beaumont, Tex., an ABC affiliate, to move its transmitter to a site 33.5 miles north of its present location (BROADCASTING, Jan. 11).

The station claimed that it was unable to compete effectively with Beaumont's two other TV stations and that it had been operating at a continual loss since going on the air.

The commission last month, finding that a "serious competitive imbalance" did exist, granted KBMT's application. The move, however, was granted on the condition that KBMT afford "equivalent protection" to KSLA-TV Shreveport, La., a co-channel station which would be short spaced by about 18 miles.

Seeking reconsideration of the commission's decision last week were KPAC-TV Beaumont-Port Arthur and KSLA-TV. The stations asked that the order be rescinded or designated for hearing.

KSLA-TV argued that the FCC's order had not afforded the station "equivalent protection" as intended. The station also pointed out that the order had fewer protective conditions than KBMT had specified in its engineering report. KSLA-TV urged that the FCC reconsider its decision and deny the move, or at least add the protective proposals submitted by KBMT.

KPAC-TV alleged that the commission had "prompted" KBMT and enabled the station to receive a more favorable grant than it had proposed itself.

Both KSLA-TV and KPAC-TV urged the commission to reconsider and deny KBMT's application, but in the alternative amend its order and add the protective conditions originally called for.

## Technical topics . . .

**Multiplicity** ■ Broadcast Electronics Inc., Silver Spring, Md., will introduce a new solid-state multiple-deck cartridge-tape playback system, the Spotmaster Tenspot, at the National Association of Broadcasters convention, March 21-24. The Tenspot consists of two banks of five playback decks, which can be preprogrammed for automated use, or be used manually. There are front panel controls for all decks and the unit is designed for table top or rack-mounted operation.

**KNAL liable** ■ The FCC notified KNAL Victoria, Tex., last week that it was liable for a \$1,000 fine for operating at night with daytime power, unauthorized daytime operation of remote control, operating without a licensed engineer and failure to keep an accurate operating log. Licensee, Victoria