

common carrier communications services "does not . . . authorize [Bell] customers to engage in the operation of a CATV system."

He said that "the tariffs of the Associated Companies provide that a CATV operator must secure for himself any authorization required by law." The same is true, he added, of prospective CATV operators seeking pole attachments from a telephone company to build his own distribution system.

Defends Intrastate Tariffs ■ Mr. Miller also defended the Bell companies' practice of filing tariffs with individual states rather than filing an interstate tariff with the commission. The FCC noted that Bell companies have filed tariffs with 22 states, and said that common-carrier service used for distributing broadcast signals has been held to constitute interstate communication.

Mr. Miller, however, said the service to CATV operators is purely local. He said the broadcast material provided to the CATV's customers is introduced locally, through the CATV operator's own equipment and, at his control, into the Bell-supplied channels. He said this is "entirely dissimilar" to cases where common carriers transmit signals to or between broadcast stations which then rebroadcast those signals into the ether.

He also noted that "substantial practical considerations" were involved. He pointed out that the commission has said it intends to leave the regulation of CATV rates to state and local authorities. Accordingly, he continued, state commissions "can best coordinate the tariffs of common carriers with the rates and services offered by CATV operators."

In response to another question, Mr. Miller said that Bell companies are complying with FCC rules prohibiting common carriers from providing CATV's with microwave service unless they refrain from duplicating the programming of local television stations and carrying the programs on their cables.

TAC opened to educational TV

Membership in Television Affiliates Corp. (TAC) has been extended to educational TV stations, it was announced Nov. 26 by Joseph Schackner, operations manager of TAC. Previously, membership in TAC, exchange center for locally produced public affairs and documentary programs, had been restricted to commercial TV stations.

Three educational stations already have accepted TAC's invitation for membership, Mr. Schackner said. They are WEDU(TV) Tampa, Fla.; WFSU-TV Tallahassee, Fla., and WGRV(TV) Athens, Ga.

New York City gives three CATV grants

Sterling Information, Teleprompter,

CATV Enterprises succeed despite phone company

New York City opened its arms to community antenna television last week, turning a cold shoulder to the local telephone company which fought the move and embracing three companies with two-year operating contracts and renewal options.

Franchise winners were Sterling Information Services, Teleprompter Corp. and CATV Enterprises (CLOSED CIRCUIT, Nov. 22). The community antenna operators have already started on system development and promotional plans. Sterling, which has wire under the city streets for its closed-circuit TV operation, expects to start CATV service by April 1, 1966.

Resolutions passed by the city's Board of Estimate Thursday evening (Dec. 2) provide for quasi-utility control of the systems, with return on the operators' investments limited to 7% after taxes.

They'll be paying 5% of their gross to the city—and more than that, should their return exceed the 7% limit. Installation charges were set at \$19.95

and monthly fees for the wire service at \$5.

No Leapfrogging ■ They will be limited to carrying only the signals available over the air in New York and all forms of pay television are prohibited in no uncertain language.

The three companies are required to secure liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$2 million to protect themselves, and possibly New York City, against copyright infringement suits arising out of the CATV's carrying of television programming.

They are committed to file operating plans with the city within 60 days and after another 60 days must begin plant construction.

All are given two-year renewal options subject to the city's review of their performance during the first operating period. The primary grant expires Dec. 31, 1967.

Bullish Picture ■ Obviously delighted with the outcome of the board of estimate meeting, the successful applicants, who had been among seven original

Cleveland-area CATV set to start

That Shaker Heights, Ohio, community antenna television system to which ABC refers in its reply to the FCC's notice of inquiry on CATV (see page 50), is scheduled to begin operating in another week. Using Bell Telephone of Ohio lines, the Telerama Inc. system will have about 45 miles of trunk line in operation to serve about 7,500 families in the initial areas of Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights, both suburbs of Cleveland.

Telerama Inc., which has six CATV franchises, including a majority interest in the company holding a permit for Akron, Ohio, is 51% owned by Cleveland businessmen and 49% by Scripps-Howard Broadcasting Co. Creighton Miller, a Cleveland attorney, is president. It hopes to estab-

lish CATV systems in more than 50 communities in that area.

At the present time Telerama holds franchises for Beachwood and Strongsville, as well as Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights in the Cleveland area. The Akron company, Akron Telerama Inc. (headed by Robert Blakemore) also holds a franchise for Ravenna, Ohio.

In the initial Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights segment charges will be \$15 for installation (\$10 for those signing before the system begins operating) and \$4.95 a month for service. The company proposes to furnish TV signals from Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown, all Ohio; Detroit, Erie, Pa., and Windsor and London, both Ontario.