

\$20 million in TV sales approved

KFDM-TV, KOAT-TV, WDCA-TV, WIBF-TV green light; KUAB(TV) sale announced

Sales of four television outlets aggregating about \$20 million were approved by the FCC last week and United Artists Corp. filed an application to sell the construction permit of its KUAB(TV) Houston to facilitate the still pending merger of its parent, Transamerica Corp. with Metromedia.

Approved were the sales of KFDM-TV Beaumont, Tex.; KOAT-TV Albuquerque, N. M.; WDCA-TV Washington, and WIBF-TV Philadelphia.

KFDM-TV (ch. 6) was sold by D. F. Cannan Sr. and family and C. B. (Blakey) Locke and others to the A. H. Belo Corp. for \$5.5 million. Mr. Cannan and family own KFDX-TV Wichita Falls, Tex., and the buying group, headed by Joe M. Dealey, owns the *Dallas Morning News* as well as WFAA-AM-FM-TV Dallas.

In December 1967 Beaumont Broadcasting Corp., licensee of KFDM-TV, sought to sell the CBS-TV affiliate to the publisher of the *Beaumont Enterprise and Journal* (the only daily newspapers in the city), but the deal fell through when the Justice Department's antitrust division contended the proposed sale would violate the Clayton Act, prohibiting acquisitions that tend to lessen competition, or create a monopoly (BROADCASTING, Aug. 12, 1968).

The FCC approved the KFDM-TV sale to the Dallas interests by a 5-to-2 vote, Commissioners Robert T. Bartley and Nichols Johnson dissenting. The station went on the air in April 1955 and has 100 kw visual and an antenna height of 960 feet above average terrain.

The Steinman station group sold KOAT-TV Albuquerque, N. M., to the Pulitzer Publishing Co. which paid \$5 million for the channels 7 ABC-TV affiliate.

Pulitzer, which publishes the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, also owns KSD-AM-TV St. Louis and KVOA-TV Tucson, Ariz. Pulitzer purchased KVOA-TV from Steinman last July for \$3 million. The Steinman group bought KVOA-TV and KOAT-TV in January 1963 for a combined price of \$3,250,000.

KOAT-TV, established in September 1953, has 73.5 kw visual and an antenna height of 4,240 feet above average terrain. The vote was 5-to-1 with Commissioner Johnson dissenting and Com-

missioner Kenneth A. Cox abstaining.

A Washington independent, WDCA-TV (ch. 20), was sold by Capital Broadcasting Co. to the Superior Tube Co. for \$1.5 million for stock and debentures and \$700,000 for an agreement not to compete. The buyers must also assume \$2,664,527 in liabilities, jacking the total price up to about \$4.9 million.

Superior Tube Co., Wynnewood, Pa., manufactures speciality metal tubing. C. A. Warden Jr. is chairman and chief executive officer and Paul E. Kelly is president.

WDCA-TV was built in 1966 by Washington broadcast personality Milton Grant and associates. Mr. Grant, president and general manager, will remain in charge of the station.

Superior Tube said it plans improvement of facilities and new program acquisitions.

In granting the transfer of control, the FCC noted that the licensee, Channel 20 Inc., had lost substantial sums in operating WDCA-TV, and that, since no more funds were reasonably available, the three-year holding rule could be waived. Superior Tube told the commission it was willing to take substantial financial risks to make WDCA-TV profitable in the long run, but realizes this may take a long time. Commissioner Bartley abstained from voting.

WDCA-TV has 1,120 kw visual and an antenna height of 770 feet above average terrain.

WIBF-TV (ch. 29) is being sold by WIBF Broadcasting Corp., owned by William L. Fox and family, to group owner. Taft Broadcasting Co. for \$4.5 million which includes assumption of \$2.8 million in long-term obligations and short-term debt of \$300,000.

WIBF Broadcasting is also the licensee of WIBF-FM Jenkintown, Pa., which is being retained by the Fox family.

WIBF-TV, an independent established in May 1965, has 1,060 kw visual and an antenna height of 1,110 feet above average terrain.

The vote was 3-to-2 with Commissioners Johnson and Bartley dissenting and Commissioners Cox and H. Rex Lee abstaining.

The construction permit for KUAB (ch. 20) is being sold by United Artists

Broadcasting Inc. to Houston Broadcasting Co. for \$61,728.46 pending FCC approval.

United Artists Broadcasting is a wholly owned subsidiary of United Artists Corp. which in turn is owned by Transamerica Corp. Under terms of the merger agreement between Transamerica and Metromedia, if Metromedia sought to acquire a UHF TV station in a market larger than Houston, Transamerica would dispose of KUAB's CP to keep the combined number of TV stations owned by Metromedia and Transamerica within the FCC's seven-station limit. Metromedia two months ago filed an application to buy WFLD-TV (ch. 32) Chicago.

The KUAB sale is contingent on FCC approval of both the WFLD-TV purchase and the Metromedia-Transamerica merger.

Houston Broadcasting is owned in equal amounts by Glendon E. Johnson, Orsen C. Clay, Robert K. Franklin and Franklin D. Johnson. G. E. Johnson is president of Great Southern Life Insurance Co.; Mr. Franklin is president of RFK Industries Inc., a Houston firm. Mr. Clay is executive assistant for Pennzoil United Inc., Houston, and F. D. Johnson is partner in a law firm.

The KUAB construction permit is for 255 kw visual and an antenna height of 501 feet above average terrain.

Race-track group buying two D.C. radio stations

Four brothers are selling two of their radio stations to a publicly held race track owner in a stock exchange aggregating about \$1.2 million.

WUST and WJMD(FM) Bethesda, Md.-Washington have been sold by Daniel, Walter, Milton and Jack Diener to San Juan Racing Association Inc. subject to the usual FCC approval. Messrs. Diener will retain WFPG-AM-FM Atlantic City.

Milton and Walter Diener operate Diener's Inc., a carpet company, and Jack Diener is a dentist.

San Juan Racing Association, which is listed on the American Stock Exchange, will swap 35,000 of its shares