

# At Deadline

## Fort Worth media deal hits \$115 million mark

**Carter family's WBAP-AM-FM, along with newspaper, will be sold to Capcities for \$80 million; LIN gets WBAP-TV for \$35 million**

Fort Worth broadcasting and publishing interests of Carter Publications Inc. were near sale last week to Capital Cities Broadcasting Corp. and LIN Broadcasting Corp. for total of \$115 million. Agreement in principle was reached Friday (Jan. 5) in Fort Worth by chief executives, including Amon Carter Jr., Thomas Murphy of Capcities and Donald Pels of LIN.

Capcities is buying WBAP-AM-FM and Fort Worth Star-Telegram for \$80 million. LIN is buying WBAP-TV for \$35 million. Gross figures include commissions to media broker Charles Dunbar of Palm Beach, Fla., and E. F. Hutton Co., representing seller. Howard Stark was consultant to Capcities on radio sale and Vincent Manno consultant on newspaper. Buyers are to pay FCC transfer fees. There were reports that Hutton, large Wall Street investment firm (with which Robert Pauley, one-time president of ABC Radio and later of Mutual, is now associated) had been given guarantee of more than \$1 million fee by Carter to find buyer for properties—which under late Amon Carter's will had to be sold in package.

Included in Capcities' acquisitions are two Fort Worth suburban publications, semi-weekly *Arlington Citizen-Journal* and shopping guide in Oak Cliff.

Carter Publications is principally owned by Amon Carter Foundation (23.34%); Mr. Carter Jr. (19.08%); Ruth Carter Johnson, daughter of senior Carter (19.08%), and Nenetta Burton Carter, widow of senior Carter (15.54%). Lesser stockholders include Abe Herman, attorney; Jack Campbell, general manager of company, and Jack L. Butler, editor of paper.

Ownership of *Star-Telegram* would be major addition to Capital Cities' current publishing interests, and WBAP-AM-FM would bring company's radio stations to FCC's full seven-station limit in AM and to within one of that limit in FM. Its current radio stations—in addition to five V's and one U in television—are WROW-AM-FM Albany and WKBW(AM) Buffalo, both N.Y.; WPRO-AM-FM Providence, R.I.; WPAT-AM-FM Paterson, N.J.; WJR-AM-FM Detroit and KPOL-AM-FM Los Angeles. Capcities' publishing interests are Fairchild Publications Inc., publisher of *Women's Wear Daily* and other trade publications; *Oakland Press* (formerly *Pontiac Press*), Pontiac, Mich., and *Belleville* (Ill.) *News Democrat*.

WBAP(AM) is major-area station on

820 khz with 50 kw. WBAP-FM is on 96.3 mhz with 85.8 kw and antenna 1,440 feet above average terrain.

WBAP-TV would be added to LIN broadcast roster that currently consists of WAND(TV) Decatur, Ill.; WAVY-TV Portsmouth-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.; WFIL(AM) Philadelphia; WAKY(AM) Louisville, Ky.; KEEL(AM)-KMBQ(FM) Shreveport, La.; KAAY(AM) Little Rock, Ark.; WBBF(AM)-WBFB(FM) Rochester, N.Y.; WIL-AM-FM St. Louis and KILT-AM-FM Houston.

WBAP-TV, on channel 5, is the NBC-TV affiliate for Dallas-Fort Worth.

Both Capital Cities and LIN Broadcasting are publicly owned companies. Their shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and over the counter respectively. LIN is reportedly financing the WBAP-TV purchase through a group of New York banks.

## PBS fights back at efforts by CPB for more control

Public Broadcasting Service board told Corporation for Public Broadcasting last week that latter should not try to operate network and that PBS is opposed to moves that seem to lead toward centralized control. This is gist of statement made by new PBS chairman Robert F. Sherkkan, KLRN-TV Austin, Tex., at news conference Friday (Jan. 5) after two-day PBS board meeting in Washington. CPB board meets Wednesday (Jan. 10).

Mr. Sherkkan said CPB is moving toward total control of public broadcasting, contrary to the intent of Congress. He said new PBS statement to that effect is being circulated to public-station managers over weekend and it will be made public this week.

Programs PBS board voted to recommend for renewal in 1973-74 season were these, among others: *Public Affairs 1973*, *Firing Line*, *Week in Review*, *Black Journal*, and *For the Record*. These are not among 26 listed for funding by CPB last month although at that time CPB said it was still considering additional public affairs and cultural programs (BROADCASTING, Dec. 18, 1972).

Hartford N. Gunn Jr., president of PBS, said he had been told by William F. Buckley Jr. that CPB officials had told him (Mr. Buckley) that *Firing Line* would not be funded in new season because CPB was opposed to "personalities" and "topicalness" in public-affairs programs. Late last week, Mr. Buckley indicated he plans to seek private financing to keep his program on public broadcasting, or, in alternative, would consider commercial TV, which is where his program started.

PBS said its program recommendations

were based on \$45 million appropriation level, as specified by CPB. But confusing situation further was report by National Association of Educational Broadcasters to members over weekend that best guess for new fiscal budget for CPB will be \$35 million (down from current \$45 million). NAEB also reported that appropriation for facilities grants may be pared to \$8 million, down from earlier prospect of \$13 million and far below \$25 million appropriated by Congress last year but which was vetoed by President Nixon. That bill, for all of Health, Education and Welfare Department funds, also contained \$45 million for CPB.

## FCC sets up rulemaking on public availability of station program logs

New rules requiring radio and television stations to make their program logs available for public inspection have been proposed by FCC.

Under proposed rules, program logs, which are not now required to be maintained in stations' public files, would have to be retained by licensee for two years or length of license term, whichever is greater. (Present rules require logs to be kept on file—but not for public access—for two years to facilitate possible FCC investigations). Commission said after new license is granted stations could destroy logs that are at least two years old. Because of considerable bulk of these documents, FCC recommended that they be filed at some other public place, such as library, rather than at station.

Proposal was initiated at request of National Citizens Committee for Broadcasting, which also wanted commission to institute more stringent record-keeping rules regarding non-entertainment programming. Commission said latter request needs further study, but that public-access provision can be acted on now. It expressed hope that proposed rule would encourage "continuing dialogue" between licensees and members of community, as opposed last-minute adversary relationship between those interests at license-renewal time.

Comments on proposal are due Feb. 2; replies on Feb. 16.

## Dispute over Tijuana FM's may be close to settlement

U.S.-Mexican agreement providing for allocation of FM commercial and non-commercial stations within 200 miles of each side of Mexican border has been ratified by Mexican senate, U.S. was notified on Friday (Jan. 5). U.S. is treating measure as executive agreement that does not require Senate ratification.

Officials note that effective date of