

principally owned by Time Inc. Home Box Office will supply programming.

The move marks the beginning of pay cable in New York City proper (Sterling Manhattan covers lower Manhattan). A spokesman said that subscribers will pay an undetermined monthly charge for pay cable above the regular monthly fee of \$6.

Sterling Communications, which recently reported a net loss of more than \$10 million in the fiscal year ended last March, said at that time it was considering the possibility of launching a pay-cable television service in Manhattan (BROADCASTING, July 9).

Grand Rapids nervous about GE pulling back on cable operations

Franchise already has been granted, but cable firm is retrenching and city officials are concerned about its commitment to quality

A touchy franchise situation has developed in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The town of 60,000 has tentatively awarded General Electric Cablevision, Schenectady, N.Y., the franchise pending final negotiations. In the last month, however, GE Cablevision has quietly withdrawn its franchise applications in six cities and will no longer compete for any additional franchises. The action was

taken "to better balance General Electric's allocation of investment resources," according to one company official.

City officials in Grand Rapids are now noticeably concerned about G.E.'s commitment to build a quality cable system in their city if it is awarded the franchise. The two parties will begin final negotiations soon. A GE Cablevision vice president said his company will commit itself to build the system provided no "unreasonable demands" are made by the city during final negotiations. He also stated that a rumored recapture clause—which would allow the city to buy back the franchise for the original construction cost minus depreciation if the owner should decide to sell out—would be unacceptable because the final figure would not be indicative of the system's market value.

Aside from these differences, both parties are hopeful that agreement will be reached. If negotiations should fail, the city would approach Continental Cablevision, Boston, which the city had judged second-best qualified to meet its needs.

General Electric Cablevision's operating systems currently serve over 85,000 subscribers. Additional franchises have been awarded to the company in three cities (San Antonio, Tex., is one) and plans are to continue with their construction. An official of the company says there "are no plans" to dispose of its current cable holdings.

Broadcast Journalism

How the Republicans tried to twist 'The News Twisters'

'Times' reports that Colson ordered purchase of 1,000 copies of Efron book that attacked the networks for leaning to the left

Another broadcast angle of the Watergate mess was revealed last Monday (July 9) when the *New York Times* reported that an aide to former White House Special Counsel Charles Colson purchased 1,000 copies of Edith Efron's "The News Twisters" in an effort to boost the book onto the best-seller lists. In the first part of a two-part series on an alleged "sabotage program" of Republican agents against Democratic presidential candidates, the *Times* said Mr. Colson instructed reelection scheduling secretary, Herbert L. Porter, to pay \$8,000 to Richard Howard, a Colson aide, to buy 1,000 copies of the Efron book, a study purporting to show bias by TV-network news departments in their coverage of the 1968 presidential campaign. A spokesman for Mr. Colson confirmed he had authorized the expenditure, but said that the purchases were made "at Mr. [H. R.] Haldeman's insistence."

A spokesman for the publisher of "The News Twisters," Nash Publishing, Los Angeles, said it had no records of a single 1,000-copies purchase and he believed the books were bought in "drips and drabs." The book is in its fourth printing and has sold about 25,000 copies to date, the spokesman said.

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CBS to fight citation for contempt for airing courtroom sketches

CBS officials said last week they would appeal a decision by a federal district judge in Florida holding CBS in contempt for telecasting courtroom sketches in violation of the judge's order.

Chief Judge Winston E. Arnoff of the U.S. district court for northern Florida issued the contempt ruling Saturday, July 7, after a hearing in Pensacola, and fined CBS \$500. Attorneys for CBS filed notices of intent to appeal to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

One appeal is expected to challenge the First-Amendment constitutionality of Judge Arnoff's barring of sketches, which some legal authorities say is without U.S. precedent in similar court cases. The other appeal will be against the contempt citation itself.

Judge Arnoff had ordered CBS News correspondent Jed Duvall and artist Aggie Whelan not to broadcast sketches drawn by Miss Whelan during pre-trial hearings held in his court for the so-called "Gainesville Eight," seven members and one supporter of the Vietnam Veterans against the War who have been charged with conspiring to disrupt last summer's Re-