

\$4,990,629 while stations earned \$4,005,593.

Mr. Allbritton's wholly owned Perpetual Corp. of Delaware acquired 10% of Washington Star Communications, parent of newspaper and stations, two months ago for \$4.44 million plus \$5 million loan (*Broadcasting*, Sept. 30). Petition seeks FCC approval of his acquisition of another 23.5% for \$16.14 million. If deal goes through, Perpetual will buy \$4.3 million of five-year bonds convertible into stock, with provision that newspaper at maturity would repay original \$5 million loan. Mr. Allbritton has been given irrevocable proxy to cast 67% of company's stock, has been made publisher of paper. Last Friday John Kauffman, president of newspaper for six years, resigned that post but remains president of parent company.

Agency study gains endorsements

Legislation to establish commission on regulatory reform drew support late last week from Justice Department and Roy Ash, director of Office of Management and Budget, as it had earlier from most independent agencies (see page 20). Thomas Kauper, assistant attorney general in Justice's antitrust division, said regulatory schemes "have failed in modern times to encourage economic efficiency and productivity and have instead encouraged waste within the regulated sector." He also told Senate Commerce Committee that Justice Department has begun own study of regulatory reform, hopefully leading to suggestions for statute by statute revision.

In testimony before Senate Government Operations Committee on administration bill (S. 4145), main purpose of which, like S.J. Res. 253, is to create national commission to study regulatory agencies, Mr. Ash said, "We will need to confront squarely the possibility that some sacred social and institutional cows may have to be modified or eliminated." Mr. Ash singled out, among regulatory policies to be re-evaluated, function of licensing agencies to control market entry and exit, as FCC does in allocating radio and TV frequencies.

In Brief

NBC rate raises in prospect. NBC-TV officials are trumpeting rating performance during Nielsen and ARB sweep periods — best in years — on basis of national overnight figures out Friday. During Nielsen sweep (Oct. 24-Nov. 20), NBC had average prime-time rating of 20.3, as against CBS with 20.0, ABC with 17.1; during ARB's (Oct. 23-Nov. 19) NBC and CBS tied with 20.1, while ABC again had 17.1. When market-by-market breakdown is completed later this month, according to high NBC source, network's affiliates will inevitably up first-quarter spot rates to reflect big increase in ratings.

No news. At week's end, there was still no meeting scheduled for House-Senate conference on license renewal bill (HR 12993). House Commerce Committee Chairman Harley Staggers (D-W.Va.), who has yet to name House's conferees, left Washington Thursday to speak in Florida, was en route to Boston Friday to watch his son play in last Harvard football game. Conference on renewal is unlikely this week, with House scheduled to recess for Thanksgiving Tuesday (Nov. 26), not to return until following Tuesday (Dec. 3).

No surrender. Justice Department has filed antitrust suit against AT&T, world's largest privately owned corporation, and company's board chairman has vowed "fight to the end." Justice's antitrust division, in suit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, charges company with monopolizing telecommunications service and equipment in U.S. and and seeks breakup of major portions of Bell System. John

D. deButts, AT&T board chairman, says company is not in violation of antitrust laws and will successfully defend itself against suit. Among other charges of antitrust law violations that Justice cites in its suit is allegation that AT&T and its subsidiaries obstructed interconnection with Bell System of miscellaneous common carriers, which transmit audio and video programming between networks and their affiliates.

Double devotion. Twice as many broadcasters availed themselves of National Association of Broadcasters fall regional meetings in 1974 as did last year. Body count after last two meetings (in Denver and Las Vegas last week) totaled 2,140, compared to 1,202 in 1973. Last week's affairs heard two FCC commissioners (James Quello in Las Vegas, Glen Robinson in Denver) advise industry to tone down sex and violence in programming. Message of both was identical: heat is on from Congress, commission doesn't want to get into censorship, but it may have to if broadcasters don't police themselves.

Sky's the limit. Home Box Office, subsidiary of Time Inc., exceeded its two-year goal of subscriber homes in four states nearly two months ahead of schedule. Target of 40,000 box-office homes by end of 1974, was reached on Nov. 8. Company's five-year objective is understood to exceed 300,000 homes.

Time subsidiary is using multipoint distribution service, land lines, CARS and other available means of interconnection and ultimately sees use of satellites in national distribution of pay programming. Service now is in four states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware) with service supplied from New York studio headquarters. Next year it hopes to extend to New England.

Late fates. Tom W. Judge, marketing and communications consultant and former head of RKO Television Representatives and of National Time Sales, joins H-R Television, New York, as VP and member of board and of executive committee...Richard D. Lichtwardt, management assistant to FCC Field Operations Bureau chief, named acting FCC executive director, replacing John M. Torbet, who resigned (*Broadcasting*, Oct. 21). Appointment is subject to Civil Service Commission approval...Comsat president Joseph V. Charyk will receive 1974 International Directorate Award of International Council of National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in ceremonies tonight (Nov. 25) at Plaza hotel in New York...R. Michael Senkowski of FCC's general counsel's office joins staff of Chairman Richard E. Wiley this week. He will have title of special assistant...John B. Gambling, 77, pioneer in early morning talk programs on WOR(AM) New York, died Thursday (Nov. 21) in Palm Beach, Fla. At his retirement in 1959, program, titled *Rambling With Gambling*, was taken over by his son, John A., who still conducts it. In addition to his son, Mr. Gambling is survived by his wife, Rita.

Headliners

Harold L. Neal Jr., president of ABC Radio, elected chairman of Radio Advertising Bureau, succeeding George R. Comte, WTMJ-AM-FM Milwaukee, whose term expired. Arthur Carlson, Susquehanna Broadcasting group, named chairman of RAB executive committee; Elmo Ellis, WSB-AM-FM Atlanta, elected chairman of finance committee, and Richard Chapin, Stuart Broadcasting group, chairman of committee for liaison with National Association of Broadcasters. Elected to RAB board for 1975: Sal Agovino, Katz Radio; Roger G. Berk, Group One Broadcasting; Richard Carr, Meredith Broadcasting; Don N. Nelson, Mid-America Radio, and George Wilson, Bartell Broadcasters.