Committee's oversight hearings on FCC scheduled for April 21 and 22. Hearings on broadcast sex and violence are next on agenda of Mr. Macdonald's House subcommittee (following hearings on educational broadcasting facilities), but date has not yet been set.

AIM agrees to make amends for inaccurate ads challenging networks for fairness in news

Accuracy in Media has agreed to take advertisements in two newspapers to provide full details of fairness case involving NBC's *Pensions: The Broken Promise*. Agreement, submitted to U.S. District Court in Washington for approval, was part of over-all settlement with Securities and Exchange Commission, which said AIM had violated SEC rules in running original ads in *Wall Street Journal* and *Palm Beach News*. Ads were designed to persuade stockholders of CBS Inc. and RCA Corp. to vote for AIM-sponsored resolutions calling for "more accuracy and fairer coverage of the news on TV." SEC said ads constituted illegal solicitation of proxies. It said AIM did not provide shareholders involved or SEC with information required in connection with proxy statements; and that ad was misleading in simply asserting that commission found NBC violated fairness doctrine in connection with *Pensions*. SEC said AIM failed to report that panel of U.S. Court of Appeals had overturned commission decision and that full nine-judge bench, after first agreeing to rehear case, later reinstated panel's decision. Besides requiring AIM to take second ad, settlement calls on AIM to make written offer to return contributions it received in response to original ad. That had called attention to resolutions to be voted on by CBS stockholders at their annual meeting, on April 16, and by RCA's, at theirs, next month.

Minorities' cause pleaded at long-range hearing

Need for increased minority programing and employment in public broadcasting was given major emphasis in most testimony submitted on Public Broadcasting Financing Act (H.R. 4563) Thursday during third consecutive day of hearings before House Communications Subcommittee, headed by Torbert Macdonald (D-Mass.). As in previous days of hearings (story page 53), concept of long-range funding was supported by all.

But FCC Commissioner Benjamin L. Hooks, speaking for himself, and Pluria Marshall, Washington representative of National Black Media Coalition, advocated insertion in bill of provisions that would guarantee that portion of funds be earmarked for minority efforts. Representative William Clay (D-Mo.), of Congressional Black Caucus, though not present, asked for minority funding in written testimony. John Eger, acting director of Office of Telecommunications Policy, asked by Chairman Macdonald if he would recommend presidential veto if funding ceilings were increased, as amended by Senate Commerce Committee, said answer would be "premature" at that time. OTP wrote original proposal with federal matching funds peaking at $100 million; Senate Commerce Committee boosted ceiling to $160 million. Both Commissioner Hooks and Mr. Marshall favored boost, but Mr. Marshall reaffirmed position that funds alone are not enough to improve minorities' status in public broadcasting.

Pacific United to join Combined Communications

Combined Communications Corp., Phoenix has announced agreement in principle for Pacific United Services Corp. to be merged into CCC. Basic exchange ratio would be two CCC shares for each PUSC share, which translates to approximately $8,532,000 based on Friday's closing price for CCC common. Number of CCC shares will be decreased if average closing price for CCC common rises above $15 at closing of agreement. In event stock dips below $15, CCC will add up to $1.5 million in cash.

Principal assets of PUSC, controlled by Hal W. Brown family, includes $13-million promissory note stemming from CCC's 1973 acquisition of its Pacific Outdoor Advertising division; supermarket merchandising operation; candy manufacturing and indoor advertising business.

CCC, group broadcaster and outdoor advertising concern, is purchasing assets of Globetrotter Communications Corp., in move that ultimately could lead to 20-station portfolio (*Broadcasting*, March 10). Board Chairman John J. Louis Jr., President Karl Eller, and their families own about 40% of company's stock that is publicly traded on New York Stock Exchange.

Teleprompter seeks FCC's OK to keep on operating in Johnstown

Armed with new 10-year cable-television franchise from city of Johnstown, Pa., Teleprompter Corp. has made fresh start in seeking FCC authority to continue operating there. Already under consideration at commission is question of whether Teleprompter's involvement in bribery of city officials to obtain franchise in 1966 disqualifies it. Company last week filed new application for certificate of compliance based on franchise it received from city on April 8 following "extensive public hearings" regarding Teleprompter's character and other qualifications.

New franchise "complies in all respects with the rules and regulations of the commission," Teleprompter said. Accordingly, it said proceeding involving 1966 franchise is moot, and it asked commission to dismiss application based on 1966 franchise. However, commission is reported to have indicated opposition to Teleprompter's continued operation in Johnstown. Following oral argument on issue in January, commission is said to have reached tentative decision, on 4-to-3 vote, to disqualify Teleprompter for certification (*Broadcasting*, Feb. 3).

Pastore puts it in gear

Senate Commerce Committee has scheduled FCC oversight hearings April 21 and 22, to be presided over by Communications Subcommittee Chairman John Pastore (D-R.I.). FCC Chairman Richard Wiley and six commissioners, who will appear en masse, have been asked by committee to come prepared with progress report of agency's activities for year past as well as outline of major matters pending.

Following week, April 28-30, Communications Subcommittee will hold hearings on three pieces of legislation to alter Communications Act. First bill is Senator Pastore's S. 608, to exempt presidential and vice-presidential candidates from equal time requirements of Section 315. Other two are S. 2 by Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) and S. 1178 by Senator Roman Hruska (R-Neb.), primary provisions of which are to abolish FCC's fairness doctrine and to prohibit FCC from any influence of broadcast programing.

Satellite networking of pay cable in works

Plans for national pay-TV network via satellite have been announced by Home Box Office Inc., New York, and UA-Columbia Cablevision Inc., Westport, Conn. Under it, HBO programing of current movies, sports and special interest topics is to be extended from present Northeast to UA-Columbia cable systems in Florida, Midwest and West. RCA Global Communications Inc. is to furnish satellite communications facilities and UA-Columbia will build earth systems to receive HBO programs at sites adjacent to its cable systems in Fort Pierce and Vero Beach, both Florida; Fort Smith, Ark.; Laredo, Tex.; Yuma, Ariz.; El Centro, Calif.,