

was rejected by the Supreme Court in 1949, in a case in which the Justice Department sued the Interstate Commerce Commission. The court acknowledged that the attorney general's appearance as a statutory defendant created "a surface anomaly" but said the attorney general's role as challenger does not "prevent a full defense of the commission's order" by the commission and its allies. Justice said a 1972 Supreme Court decision NAB relied on was not relevant. NAB made its argument in a petition urging the court to dismiss Justice's appeal in a case involving the FCC's newspaper-broadcaster crossownership rule.



Cheers. Don Curran (l), president of Kaiser Broadcasting Co., and Andy Albeck, president of United Artists Broadcasting Inc., celebrate the merger of WUAB-TV channel 43 Cleveland with Kaiser. (BROADCASTING, April 14). The deal gives Kaiser a 36% equity interest in WUAB Inc. in exchange for certain assets of its WKBF-TV channel 61 Cleveland, which ceased operations last month. WUAB-TV is now the only commercial UHF station in the Cleveland market.

Dallas to hunt buyer

Council proposes sale of losing AM, retention of money-making FM

The Dallas city council last week asked the city manager to look into selling municipally owned WRR(AM). At the same meeting, however, the council recommended that the city hold onto co-owned WRR-FM.

According to Edd Routt, WRR manager, the council is divided on selling the AM station which lost \$120,000 from October 1974 through April 1975 and \$166,000 during fiscal 1973-74. He said many members do not want to risk more money on the station and do not believe it should

compete with privately owned stations.

Nevertheless, the council two weeks ago approved Mr. Routt's request to hook the station to NBC's new News and Information Service. Mr. Routt said he convinced the council that affiliation would make the station worth more money.

Mr. Routt explained that ratings for WRR had "bottomed out" before a format change last year from middle of the road to all news and talk. Ratings have since

risen and he expects a further boost after NIS affiliation becomes effective Wednesday (June 18).

He said the council wants to retain WRR-FM to assure a classical station for the area. He noted that WRR-FM is the only classical station in its market and WRR the only all news and talk station.

Mr. Routt said that the classical station previously had been losing money but is breaking even this fiscal year due to operational changes he instituted.

Liquidation of Avco group nears the end

Cincinnati V goes to Multimedia in sell-off of broadcast properties to shore up a sagging parent firm

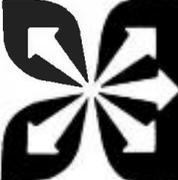
Avco Broadcasting Corp., which has sold seven of its 12 stations and its sales representation firm, last week sold WLWT(TV) Cincinnati to Multimedia Broadcasting Co., Greenville, S.C., a division of Multimedia Inc. The purchase price is reported to be near \$17 million.

John T. Murphy, Avco Broadcasting president, said that the parent, Avco Inc., "has decided to get out of the broadcasting business," and that negotiations for the sale of WLW(AM) Cincinnati to local interests and of WLWD(TV) Dayton, Ohio, are also under way. Mr. Murphy also said that Avco's other broadcast properties, KYA-AM-FM San Francisco and WRTH(AM) Wood River, Ill., are on the market.

Joining in the announcement of the WLWT transaction was Wilson C. Wearn, Multimedia Broadcasting president, who is chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters television board and faces no opposition in this week's election for chairman of the NAB joint board (see story page 34).

Already, Avco has sold KMOL-TV (formerly WOAI-TV) San Antonio, Tex., to 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. for \$9.3 million (BROADCASTING, Dec. 2, 1974 et seq.); WWDC-AM-FM Washington to Capitol Broadcasting Co., a new firm headed by a local builder, Morton Bender, for \$3.6 million (BROADCASTING, Oct. 14, 1974); WLWI(TV) Indianapolis to Edgar T. Wolfe family's Dispatch Printing Co. of Columbus, Ohio, for \$17,650,000 (BROADCASTING, March 31), and WLWC(TV) Columbus to The Outlet Co. (Joseph S. [Dody] Sinclair, 25%) for \$16 million (BROADCASTING, May 26). All sales are pending FCC approval. Avco has received commission approval for the sale of WOAI(AM) San Antonio to Clear Channel Communications, owned by L. Lowry Mays and B.J. McCombs, for \$1.5 million (BROADCASTING, May 5). Avco also has sold its broadcast representation firm, Avco Radio-Television Sales Inc., to Peter Lasker and other employees (BROADCASTING, May 20, 1974).

When KMOL-TV was sold, Mr. Murphy



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