

than 14,000 individual determinations. Saddling the commission with the added responsibility of determining each signal's market share would require a new mandate for the FCC and therefore give the Senate Commerce Committee and the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Committee jurisdiction over the copyright bill, as they oversee the commission, MPAА contended.

In another filing, NBC pointed to many of the same inequities: a cable system in Carlsbad, N.M., which under the House bill is liable for about \$1,000 a year, would become liable for \$5,000 a year under the Teleprompter plan, NBC calculated. Teleprompter Manhattan, the third largest system in the country, would not "pay a penny" unless it imported distant signals, NBC said. NBC suggested a compromise of sorts to apply the bill's payment formula to systems with gross subscriber receipts under \$160,000. Bigger systems would pay a rate computed by multiplying gross subscriber receipts by the percentage of total network and broadcasting revenues spent on network and local station programming costs.

The Community Antenna Television Association saw "serious commissions" in the Teleprompter plan. To correct those problems, CATA proposed that "over and above the Teleprompter proposal" systems located outside the 35-mile zone of TV stations be exempt for any signals picked up.

The Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Cable TV Operators for a Fair Copyright Law objected to the Teleprompter plan because it includes the "legislative fiction" that receiving and distributing a broadcast signal by CATV is a "performance." Problems with defining the "copyright owners' percentage share" and the need for the FCC to approve one single rating service to use in defining market share were also addressed.

The National Cable Television Association is still studying the Teleprompter plan.

## Cable Briefs

**Go West.** Home Box Office Inc., pay cable program supplier, will open San Francisco office early next year. Donald E. Anderson, former director of government relations for National Cable Television Association and most recently manager of affiliate development at HBO headquarters in New York, will be Western regional manager.

**Membership drive.** National Cable Television Association, which had 1,328 member systems as of Oct. 31, is kicking off membership drive contest to run for next three months. Prizes, including tennis and golf trips, will be awarded to members who recruit largest number of subscribers in systems and those that recruit largest number of systems regardless of subscribers.

**From Lamb to Comcast.** Comcast Corp., multiple system operator, has purchased

cable TV systems in Michigan cities of Flint, Hillsdale and Jonesville from Lamb Communications Inc. Three systems total more than 22,000 subscribers and will increase Comcast's subscriber total by approximately 50%. Lamb, also in broadcasting, retains unbuilt franchises in Burton and Grand Blanc, both Michigan. Purchase price was not disclosed, but included both cash and 10-year 7% notes.

**Franchise bought.** Wometco Enterprises Inc., business conglomerate with both broadcast and cable TV interests, has purchased outstanding stock of Ultracom of Wilson Inc., CATV franchise holder in Wilson, N.C., for approximately \$50,000. Wometco plans to have system operational by spring 1976, serving city's 9,500 homes. Wometco owns other cable systems in North Carolina, as well as in New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Georgia, Mississippi and Freeport, Bahamas.

**Statewide look.** New York State Commission on Cable Television has initiated rulemaking inquiry into setting cable crossownership standards. Concern over trend towards consolidation of ownership in state prompted rulemaking, which commission will extend past confines of FCC rules that deal with cable-broadcast TV crossownership (BROADCASTING, Sept. 29). State commission will look at radio and newspaper ties with cable companies as well. Comments due Jan. 9, 1976; replies Jan. 30.

**Pay TV software.** Continental Communications Inc., Haddonfield, N.J., will offer pay TV programming in U.S. and Canada. Initial offerings include 1975 *International Cup Baseball Series*, featuring top amateur teams from U.S., Canada, Japan, Mexico, Colombia, Italy and South Korea, and history of the National Football League, including 26 one-hour shows. Other series scheduled for release are 13-episode *Great Moments in Women's Sports* (each half-hour program), and similar 13-episode series entitled *Great Moments in the National Basketball Association*. CCI plans to produce weekly pay-TV sports magazine called *Sportsbeat* in future.

## Anaconda bows to FTC, will sell cable subsidiary

The Anaconda Co., New York, has agreed to divest itself of Systems Wire & Cable Inc., the fourth-ranked domestic producer of semiflexible coaxial cable, or to sell its assets within two years.

The consent agreement, accepted by the Federal Trade Commission, also places a 10-year prohibition on Anaconda from acquiring any manufacturer of that cable without prior FTC approval. Semiflexible coaxial cable has its primary use in the cable-television industry.

In September 1974, the FTC issued a complaint alleging that Anaconda's December 1972 acquisition of Phoenix-based Systems Wire & Cable may substantially lessen competition or create a monopoly. The company was acquired by Anaconda's subsidiary, Anaconda Wire and Cable Co., the sixth-ranking domestic producer.

Under FTC procedures, the consent agreement does not represent an admission of a violation by Anaconda. Public comments will be accepted until Jan. 2, 1976, and the FTC said it reserves the right to withdraw acceptance after further consideration.

## HBO grabs more sports

Expanded pay cable coverage of live sports has been announced by Home Box Office, New York. HBO has signed an agreement with the National Basketball Association for showing selected home games of the Buffalo (N.Y.) Braves, the Golden State Warriors, and the Portland (Ore.) Trail Blazers. HBO also signed a three-year contract for broadcast and telecast of events from the Los Angeles Forum, including the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team, and the city's Kings hockey team. The Forum is principally owned by Jack Kent Cooke, principal owner of Teleprompter. HBO, which currently serves nearly 250,000 pay-TV subscribers, has been carrying home games of the New York Knickerbockers, New York Nets, Milwaukee Bucks and Boston Celtics.

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