

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
9 am Radio-Television General Assembly (With Engineers)	8 am Radio Workshops Television Workshops	8 am Radio Workshops Television Workshops
10:15 am Radio Panel Television Panel	9 am Radio Session Television Session	9 am Radio-Television Workshops
11:30 am Radio Workshops Television Workshops	12:30 pm Radio-Television Luncheon	10:30 am Joint Session with the FCC (With Engineers)
1 pm Radio Luncheon Television Luncheon (With Engineers)	2 pm Radio Session Free Time to visit exhibits	12 noon Adjournment
2:30 pm Free Time to visit exhibits Television Session		

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
9 am General Assembly (With Management)	8 am Radio-Television Workshop	8 am Radio-Television Workshop
10:15 am Radio-Television Workshop	9 am Radio Session Television Session	9 am Radio-Television Session
1 pm Luncheon (With TV Management)	12:30 pm Awards Luncheon	10:30 am Session with FCC (With Management)
3 pm Radio-Television Session	2:30 pm Free Time to visit exhibits	12 noon ADJOURNMENT

Blocked out. A general view of the NAB convention schedule.

Pay cable status report. Industry estimates indicate that pay cable subscribers passed the 500,000 mark in January, with over 300,000 of that number linked to Time Inc.'s Home Box Office Inc. The business became a coast-to-coast proposition on Dec. 11, 1975, when the satellite earth station for Teleprompter's Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., systems became operational. As of last week HBO service was reaching 25 cable systems in 14 states via 19 earth stations: in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Oregon and Washington. Iowa is scheduled to join the list with a Des Moines connection on Feb. 19. Some 30 other earth station applications are in various stages of processing at the FCC. HBO serves five other states by microwave networks: New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Massachusetts and Vermont.

Monday morning, and there also will be a series of workshops for TV, looking at new developments in syndication, at electronic news gathering and its effect on union labor, and at financial management for managers with little or no financial background. These workshops will be repeated at 8 a.m. both Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Monday luncheon for the TV conventioners will be shared with those attending the concurrent NAB engineering conference. At the luncheon will be a presentation celebrating the 20th anniversary of the video-tape recorder. The main performer will be the VTR itself with perhaps some commentary by news personnel.

The Monday afternoon session for television will begin with an hour-long simulated TV talk show, featuring Mr. Wallace, moderating a discussion, "Pay TV: Will it Supplement or Supplant?" Participants selected so far include Everett H. Erlick, senior vice president and general counsel, ABC; William Carlisle, NAB vice president for government relations, and former FCC chairman Frederick Ford, now with the Washington law firm of Pittman, Lovett, Ford & Hennessey.

Then Senator Hartke, a member of the Senate Communications Subcommittee, will speak, followed by a 15-minute debate titled "In the Box," on a controversial topic such as family viewing, news bias, or pay cable de-regulation. There will be four or five of these "In the Box" features interspersed throughout the TV program.

The Tuesday television program calls for a three-part session on short-term television economics, long-term TV economics and local TV sales. Also on Tuesday will be a session on issues that concern TV at the Federal Trade Commission, perhaps with some FTC directors on hand for Q & A.

Justice joins cable attack on FCC's siphoning rules

Antitrust division says pay cable is unfairly restrained by controls that broadcasters call too liberal

The tide of government opposition to the FCC's regulation of cable television continued to rise last week, as the Justice Department's antitrust division entered the court fight over the commission's payable rules on the side of the cable industry.

To the division, the rules limiting the right of pay cable entrepreneurs to carry movies and sports events are not only anti-competitive in effect but they also lack

economic and legal support. Accordingly, it said in a 38-page brief filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, the rules should be vacated.

The division's brief makes opposition to the rules virtually unanimous. Not only have cable interests appealed the rules, on First Amendment as well as anti-competitive grounds, but broadcasters have too. The broadcasters contend the rules are not sufficiently restrictive to protect broadcasting.

The division's brief was filed a week after the staff of the House Communications Subcommittee filed its report proposing legislative action to wipe out the regulatory structure the commission has erected for cable television; the staff said the structure was unduly restrictive (BROADCASTING, Feb. 2).

The spirit if not the substance of that report has been endorsed by the chief of the Justice Department's antitrust division, Thomas E. Kauper, in a speech to the antitrust section of the New York State Bar Association (see page 30). Meanwhile, the White House Domestic Council's regulatory reform group is proceeding with the task of drafting an administration bill on cable television, one that would be expected to reflect the administration's call for de-regulation.

Jonathan Rose, a deputy assistant attorney general in the antitrust division—and a member of the regulatory reform group—said in a press briefing that the administration might decide not to include any reference to pay cable in the proposed bill. "If the court were to throw out the rules, there would be no need for legislation," he said.

The FCC contends its pay-cable rules are needed to guard against the siphoning of programs now available to viewers of conventional television at no charge. Movies that will be shown on pay cable are limited as to their age.

Those that are less than three years old