

Reid marries and resigns

She'll leave FCC July 1, day after Robinson is due to go also, which could reduce commission to five members; her new husband is former in-law from her hometown

FCC Commissioner Charlotte Reid provided a double-barreled surprise last week. She got married, and she announced her resignation from the commission effective July 1, two years before the end of her seven-year term.

Commissioner Reid, 62 and a widow since 1962, married H. Ashley Barber, 65, of her hometown of Aurora, Ill., and a widower for two and a half years, on Wednesday evening, in Prince Frederick, Md. They will make their home in Aurora.

On Thursday morning, Commissioner Reid—she is retaining that name through her final weeks on the commission—wrote President Ford a letter of resignation that, she said, reflected her “mixed emotions.” She will “miss the excitement and challenge” of Washington, where she was a Republican member of the House of Representatives for almost nine years before joining the commission in October 1971. “But I’m leaving for a happy reason,” she told a reporter.

Commissioner Reid has known her new husband, who will retire on May 30 as chairman of the board of Barber-Greene Co., of Aurora, a manufacturer of heavy road-building equipment, for 40 years. In fact, they were in-laws; he had been married to the sister of her late husband.

The families have been “very close,” Commissioner Reid said, and “the children are delighted” with the marriage. She has four grown children, he has three.

It was a determination to avoid the complications so many children would pose for a formal wedding that prompted the couple to decide several weeks ago to get married as quietly as possible. Three close friends attended the wedding at Christ Church. And no one at the commission was aware of her plans until she told Chairman Richard E. Wiley on Tuesday. He informed the other commissioners the following evening at a dinner party at the home of Commissioner Benjamin L. Hooks.

Mrs. Reid’s connection with broadcasting antedates her association with the commission by several decades. In the 1930’s she sang for a living, on WGES(AM) Chicago and then with *Don McNeill’s Breakfast Club*.

And her new marriage brings her full cycle. In 1962, she was content to be the wife of the Republican party’s nominee for Congress from the 15th district, Frank Reid, an attorney. When he died of a heart attack, Mrs. Reid was chosen to fill the gap. She was elected that year and in four succeeding Novembers. (Her years in Congress and at the FCC will mean an annual pension for her of some \$9,600.)

In Brief

- President Ford continues to benefit from **free time provided by radio and TV stations** and news conference coverage. Friday was Rhode Island’s turn: representatives of two TV and two radio stations and six newspapers from state interviewed Mr. Ford in White House. Two days earlier he held news conference in Columbus, Ohio, that was televised live. Latest spurt began May 20 when news people from 17 Kentucky stations participated in White House news conference. Next day, more than 20 radio and TV reporters from Tennessee appeared at White House conference. On road, President gave interviews to California TV stations in Anaheim, San Diego and Los Angeles, to TV stations in Portland, Ore., and to 42 Oregon radio stations in single Portland session. He also found time in Las Vegas for interview with three TV stations.
- Dispute between **National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences** and its Hollywood chapter heated further last week as NATAS threatened to revoke chapter’s charter unless its trustees attend June 13 meeting in Beverly Hills. Hollywood trustees did not attend May meeting after filing suit seeking dissolution of NATAS and asking for return of “Emmy” rights (BROADCASTING, May 24). “Irreconcilable differences” cited in suit are understood to be retention of Robert Lewine as NATAS president (his term expires in September), greater representation, more restrictive membership in academy and streamlining of Emmy awards and changes in their presentation. Unless case can be settled out of court, says Nick Aronson, national trustee from Chicago, “the academy as we know it is gone.” Hollywood chapter has approximately 4,800 of organization’s 11,000 members.
- FCC has modified **program logging rules** for AM, FM and TV to **simplify and clarify logging process**. Requirement for initialing corrections to program logs is eliminated; instead, when signing off duty, person keeping log certifies that log, as corrected, is accurate representation of what was broadcast. In case of automatically maintained logs on data, responsible person certifies equipment is working properly. Requirements for entries identifying sponsor of commercial matter and showing sponsorship identification have been combined into one.
- Some 60 public interest groups and five members of Congress plan to petition FCC this week to adopt **rules designed to open up radio and TV time to groups’ public service announcements**. Proposals would require stations to carry three public service announcements for every two hours of broadcasting, including prime-time hours, and limit number of PSA’s from single source—provision aimed at what is said to be Advertising Council’s monopoly. MC’s who have signed petition: Representatives Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.), Fortney Stark (D-Calif.), Thomas Rees (D-Calif.), Les Aspin (D-Wis.) and Benjamin Rosenthal (D-N.Y.).
- Bill to permit **broadcast translators** to originate limited amount of programming and to permit **FM translators** to run unattended passed Senate and was reported out by House Commerce Committee last week. Hold by Senator William Roth (R-Del.) on **bill to permit FCC to fine cable systems** for rule violations was lifted Friday, clearing it for Senate passage. Senator wants FCC’s signal carriage rules changed to permit southeastern communities in his state to import Philadelphia signals. He’s been promised Communications Subcommittee hearing.
- **KBUZ-AM-FM** Phoenix has been sold by Number One Radio (Edwin G. Richter, H. Lee Druckman, Frank Kalil and Howard D. Duncan) to Southwestern Media (Lowell Homburger, Bay City, Mich., broadcast consultant) for **\$1.2 million**, subject to FCC approval. Broker: R.C. Crisler & Co.
- **Late Fates**. *Gerald M. Levin*, president of Home Box Office Inc., Time Inc.’s pay cable arm, named chairman and chief executive officer. He’s succeeded by *N.J. Nicholas Jr.*, who’s been president of co-owned Manhattan Cable TV. *E. Thayer Bigelow*, Manhattan executive VP, becomes president, and is succeeded by *Charlotte Schiff Jones*, VP. ■ *Sir Lew Grade*, board chairman and chief executive officer of Associated Television Corp., London, and of U.S. subsidiary, Independent TV Corp., named a lord of the realm. Citation notes his “contributions to television.” ■ *Barbara Gallagher*, associate producer and writer for NBC’s *Saturday Night* series, named assistant to Fred Silverman, president of ABC Entertainment. ■ *H. Stephen Halloway*, of Justice Department’s civil rights division, joins Senate Commerce Committee as minority counsel handling communications and consumer matters. ■ *Francis Graham Wilson*, 74, president of Accuracy in Media, press watchdog organization, died in Washington last Monday (May 24).