

it happens, the operator has no license, the Justice Department may prosecute. For the most part, the maximum sanctions available to the government are one year in prison or a \$10,000 fine, or both, and forfeiture of equipment.

And successful prosecutions, studies indicate, are the most potent means of impressing on CB operators the wisdom of obeying rules. The court action and the expense of paying a lawyer, said Ralph Haller of the FOB, "makes a community aware" of the difficulties violating rules creates for an operator. Since the beginning of fiscal year 1976 (July 1, 1975) more than 100 cases have been filed against citizen band operators, and the government has prevailed in most.

Whatever the effectiveness of that program or others, commission officials know they are dealing with what may be a sleeping giant. "There are 12 million CB licensees," Mr. Spence said. "Can you imagine what kind of lobby they would have if they organized? They'd be bigger than anything else."

AMST asserts no need for erosion of UHF frequencies

Association supplies FCC with data it says supports its claim that land-mobile channels don't get sufficient use to warrant additional spectrum space

The Association of Maximum Service Telecasters last week took advantage of another opportunity to press its contention that land-mobile radio operators do not find the frequencies assigned to them so heavily congested that they need additional space. Usually, the spectrum space mentioned is that assigned to UHF television. The occasion AMST seized last week was in connection with an FCC inquiry into ways of assuring greater efficiency in the use of land-mobile frequencies.

In the course of its comments, AMST presented a table, constructed from spectrum monitoring data contained in the notice of inquiry, which indicates that even during peak hours the use of their channels by licensees of 10 land-mobile services is not great.

The table shows that, on the average, 55% of the 237 channels in the 10 services monitored were carrying signals up to 15% of the time, which is considered low usage. It also shows that 33.3% of the channels were found to have medium use (signals on the air 16%-40% of the time), and 11.4% of the channels, medium high use (signals on the air 41%-60% of the time). None of the channels was found to have very high use—anything above 60%.

What's more, the average waiting time to gain access to a channel in peak hours was said to be 8.01 seconds. The longest wait was found in the business radio service—31.58 seconds; the shortest, in the

forestry service—less than half a second. And AMST said in its comments that the wait-time figure "is the key to understanding the quality of service on a channel or in a particular service."

Elsewhere in its comments, AMST supported four objectives of the commission's proposed program for land-mobile spectrum management: developing accurate data on land-mobile spectrum use, improving the frequency coordination program, undertaking effective land-mobile spectrum monitoring and exploring methods to improve land-mobile spectrum efficiency through increased sharing between land-mobile services.

Technical Briefs

Date stayed. FCC Broadcast Bureau has stayed Nov. 1 effective date of new order National Association of Broadcasters said may force AM stations to reduce signal strength (BROADCASTING, Oct. 10). NAB said new rule would restrict stations to use of only monitors approved for measuring their positive modulation peaks. FCC delayed effective date until March 1, 1978.

VTR update. Ampex Corp. plans to convert its existing VPR-1 one-inch nonsegmented helical scan video tape recorders to standard format beginning next summer. New standard is near adoption by Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers working committee. Ampex will install "update kits" for owners of machines at Ampex service centers for \$3,500. Company said that new machines on standard format will also be available next summer. Sony, other nonsegmented VTR manufacturer, has indicated similar plans for introduction of standard-format BVH-1,000s.

Best to come. Sales of RCA color television sets to dealers thus far this year have topped record year of 1973 by 5%, according to Jack K. Sauter, division vice president, marketing, RCA Consumer Electronics. RCA does not reveal number of sales for its receivers, but Mr. Sauter predicted that color TV industry as whole will reach second highest level of sales in its history in 1977. He estimated that industry sales this year will be about 8.8 million units, compared with 9.3 million in record year of 1973 and 8.4 million units in 1972, previous second best year.

\$3.3 million to boot. RCA Broadcast Systems, Camden, N.J., reports order valued at approximately \$3.3 million for RCA video tape and film systems to be used initially in covering 1978 world championship soccer matches in Argentina. Order was placed by Argentina 78 Televisors, organization responsible for TV coverage and transmission of matches.

Putting it together. RCA Photophone Systems has introduced ServoLock synchronizer for composing and recording composite video-tape from two RCA film projectors. Company said applications in-

clude animation, special effects, film titling and other post-production techniques. Unit sells for \$3,000 and is available now.

More time. FCC, at request of Consumer Electronics Group of Electric Industries Association, extended deadline for filing comments in commission's inquiry into AM stereophonic broadcasting (Docket 21313) from Oct. 15 until Dec. 21. Reply comments are now due Jan. 23, 1978.

Keys's company. Lyle O. Keys, founder and former president of Telemation Inc., has formed new firm, Utah Scientific Inc., which will design and manufacture television products for sale to broadcast, industrial, government and production users. Company is located at 2276 South 2700 West, Salt Lake City 84119; (801) 973-6840.

Retriever. Adda Corp., based in Campbell, Calif., is offering new line of digital, computer-controlled, NTSC frame storage-retrieval systems. On-line storage can vary from 200 to 3,000 frames and systems have full editing capabilities.

That's a switch. Solid state, remote controlled audio switching components have been added to Dynair Electronics's audio distribution equipment. Basic switch module provides FET switching of five sources to one balanced output and includes on-board control latching and tally drive. For information contact Dynair at 5275 Market Street, San Diego 92114.

Towering disaster

KSLA-TV antenna structure collapses, station back on air, but coverage is cut by half until new one is built

The 1,800-foot transmitting tower of KSLA-TV Shreveport, La., fell victim to a "galloping guy wire" and collapsed, knocking the station off the air for 14 hours, but not injuring anyone.

According to KSLA-TV President and General Manager Winston B. Linam, the problem was in a supporting cable anchored at the 800-foot level that began to "gallop" or ripple back and forth in the wind but, he added, the wind that day, 30-35 knots, was not unusual. The rippling action built up and became so great that the wire finally snapped. Then the tower broke at the 400-foot level and fell on the transmitter building below. The building, made of reinforced concrete, was undamaged.

The crash occurred at 2:30 a.m. Oct. 8. By 4:30 p.m. the station was back on the air using a 400-foot stand-by tower. While it is operating at full power, the shorter tower has reduced the VHF station's coverage radius from about 90 miles to 45 miles, according to Mr. Linam.

Mr. Linam is hopeful that a new tower will be in place by February. A new tower, identical to the old one, will cost \$1.2 million, with most of that coming from a \$915,000 insurance policy. That's compared to the \$450,000 price 12 years ago when the old one was erected.