group acquisitions of major-market stations.

NTIA had proposed that the FCC waive the radio multiple ownership rules, including the seven-station limit and the television-radio crossownership ban, and the three-year, antitrafficking rule in cases where the applicant is 25% owned by minorities, 50% of whom are integrated into the proposed station management (BROADCASTING, Oct. 22, 1979).

That proposal, as Geller noted, has been denounced by minority groups who feel 25% is inadequate. "They want control," Geller said. "They do not want to be at the sufferance of a majority owner."

Geller said NTIA had been aware of that but felt that group owners would have no incentive to acquire, say, an eighth station if an outside group were to own 51%. NTIA "wanted to be practical," he said. In any case, he said NTIA felt that 25% would provide a base from which minority owners could grow into majority owners.

The ideas advanced at the meeting, Geller said, hold the promise of resolving such conflicts.

Ragan Henry, of the National Association of Black-Owned Broadcasters, suggested that the seven-station limit be waived for a broadcaster seeking an outlet in the top 25 markets if it arranged financing for a minority group interested in acquiring a station in a comparable market. Details of the proposals would have to be worked out.

The second idea was offered by Milt Maltz, of Malrite Broadcasting, who suggested a stock ownership plan. A waiver would be granted a broadcaster who provides substantial financing for a station that minorities would control; the broadcaster would own nonvoting preferred stock that would provide a financial return but no control.

Malrite, which owns WHK(AM)-WMMS(FM) Cleveland, is pioneering a form of the idea in connection with an application for ch. 19 in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Malrite's principals are supplying one-third of the capital equity and would own preferred, nonvoting stock in the station. Voting stock and the remaining capital equity would be divided 50-50 between two blacks (Hubert Payne and William Derrick) and two whites (Robert Weiss and Norman Wein).

Geller said other ideas involving tax incentives as a means of promoting minority ownership had been offered by members of the group, and he said he will discuss them with the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS would have the responsibility of deciding whether to approve them.

Geller seemed enthusiastic over the ideas that had been offered. He said the meeting had been "fruitful," and expressed regrets he had not called one like it sooner.

Indeed, he said the meeting allowed him an opportunity for offering a "mea culpa" for NTIA's failure to sound out more group owners and minority groups than it did before filing its petition in October. He was sorry, too, that none had approached him sooner with alternatives to NTIA's proposal.

The result, he said, will be a delay. He said NTIA would proceed with its examination of the proposals as speedily as possible and ask the commission to expedite consideration.

However, Geller also made clear NTIA was still open to ideas: One reason for publicizing the meeting, he said, was to encourage anyone with proposals to submit them.

But he also laced his evident enthusiasm with one caveat. "We need feedback from [the group owners]," he said. "We want to get a feel from them regarding the proposals." He would want any proposal NTIA offered to be "realistic," he said.

Group owner representatives at the meeting were not prepared to do much more than listen. Later, some said their boards and officers would have to focus on the matter before making any decision.

One point that was left ambiguous was whether the proposals would be limited to radio acquisitions, as is the case with NTIA's petition now pending before the FCC. Henry's idea, which seemed particularly to intrigue the NTIA officials who discussed it, "wasn't limited to radio," NTIA's general counsel, Gregg Skall, said later. "It didn't necessarily extend beyond radio, either," he added. "If we develop the proposal, we'll need to face that issue. We'll probably only apply it to radio, but we have not looked at it yet."

If NTIA's waiver idea has run into serious opposition, the other proposal it submitted—to expand the "distress sale" policy—has received widespread support, according to Geller. NTIA would permit broadcasters whose licenses have been designated for revocation or nonrenewal hearing to sell their stations to minority groups at any time before the commission's final decision. At present, such sales are permitted only prior to the setting of a hearing.

Besides Maltz, who attended with Drayne, broadcasting representatives included Andy Jackson, of Capital Cities Communications; Thomas Dougherty, of Metromedia Inc.; and Wallace Dunlap, of Westinghouse Broadcasting Co.

The minority and women representatives, besides NABOB's Henry, included Barbara Mann, of the American Women in Radio and Television; John Bustamente, of the First National Bank Association, of Cleveland; Eugene Jackson and Nate Boyer, all of NABOB; Maria Torano, of the National Association of Spanish Broadcasters; Terry Noble of the National Black Media Coalition, and Nate Long, an official of Television for All Children, a Los Angeles-based production and distribution company, who was present as a representative of the NBMC.

Sitting in on the meeting with Geller and general counsel Skall were NTIA staff members William Lucas, associate administrator for telecommunications applications and Darlene Palmer, program manager for the minority telecommunications development program.

Changing Hands

PROPOSED

■ WJAZ(AM) Albany, Ga.: Sold by Dowdy Brothers Broadcasting Corp. to Charles E. Finney for $790,000 plus $150,000 for covenant not to compete. Seller is owned by three brothers: Roy (85%), Bobby (10%) and Jim (5%). None has other broadcast interests. Finney is Albany physician with no other broadcast interests. WJAZ is 5 kw daytimer on 960 khz.

■ KRIG(AM) Odessa, Tex.: Sold by K-RIG Radio Inc. to BBC Broadcast Inc. of Midland, Tex., for $800,000 plus $50,000 for agreement not to compete. Seller is owned by R.D. Brown; his son, Alan, and Billy W. Clayton. None has other broadcast interests. Buyer is principally owned by James M. Blakemore, Texas real estate investor with no other broadcast interests. KRIG is on 1410 khz with 1 kw full time. Broker: George Moore & Associates.

■ WCAM(AM) Camden, N.J.: Sold by City of Camden to JNW Broadcasting Inc. for $850,000. Seller is city of Camden, N.J., which has no other broadcast interests. Buyer is James N. Wade, Harrisburg, Pa., management consultant. He owns 30% interest in applicant for Philadelphia cable franchise but has no other broadcast interests. WCAM is on 1310 khz with 1 kw day and 250 w night.

■ WEIC-AM-FM Charleston, Ill.: Sold by Withers Broadcasting of Eastern Illinois Inc. to Macomb Broadcasting Co. for $700,000. Seller is principally owned by James K. Withers, who also owns 40% of KGMO-AM-FM Cape Girardeau, Mo. Buyer is owned by Ernest H. Huls (70%) and William Earman (30%). They also own WKIO(FM) Urbana, Ill., and KPER(AM) Hobbs, N.M. WEIC(AM) is 1270 khz with 1 kw day and 500 w night. WEIC-FM is on 92.1 mhz with 2.2 kw and antenna 140 feet above average terrain.

■ WDBM(AM)-WOOO(FM) Statesville, N.C.: Sold by Radio Statesville Inc. to Metrolina Communications Corp. for $600,000. Seller is principally owned by Helen Zachry, who also owns WRLD(AM) Lanett and WJHO(AM) Opelika, both Alabama. Buyer is owned by Bernard Kaplan (60%); his wife, Norma (20%), and James J. Shipley (20%). Group also owns WMJK(AM) Kissimee, Fla., and sold