



Horowitz



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“along with other candidates” to succeed Horowitz. White said last week, however, that he had yet to talk to any other candidates for the job. Finally, concerning Horowitz’s future relations with CPT, White said that the company “absolutely” will continue making use of Horowitz’s expertise in his new role as adviser. White added that he foresaw no immediate changes in the “policy and sales posture” of the firm.

Horowitz’s is the third major departure from high echelons of the programing world in as many weeks. Lennart Ringquist resigned as president of Metromedia Producers Corp. three weeks ago, but no successor has been named (BROADCASTING, Jan. 21). And two weeks ago, an executive shuffle at Time Inc. saw Bruce L. Paisner moved out as president and chief executive officer of Time-Life Films in favor of Austin O. Furst Jr., former executive vice president of Home Box Office. Paisner, however, remained a corporate vice president (BROADCASTING, Jan. 28).

The Baptists’ best

The Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission has selected eight broadcasters who will be considered for its two top Abe Lincoln Awards (one in television, one in radio). The other six are to be merit award winners.

The final decisions will be revealed Feb. 28 at the awards ceremony at the Kahler Green Oaks Inn, Fort Worth.

The eight broadcasters:

Mardee McKinlay Birchfield, director of public affairs, KBTU(TV) Denver; Kathryn F. Broman, president, Springfield Televi-

Monitors

Off the ground. Bob Johnson kicked off his Black Entertainment Television at well-attended reception on Capitol Hill and BET began transmitting first of weekly, two-hour programs to cable systems across country via satellite time leased from UA-Columbia Cablevision (Satcom I, transponder 9). First program, one of 39 films BET has rights to, was United Artists’ “Visit to a Chief’s Son.” Reception, held in one of House office buildings, drew large crowd of local politicians and communications people, including FCC Commissioner Tyrone Brown, House Communications Subcommittee Chairman Lionel Van Deerlin (D-Calif.) and FCC’s deputy chief of Broadcast Bureau, Frank Washington. Also among crowd were representatives of six companies that have bought advertising time on BET—Anheuser-Busch Inc., Time Inc., Champale Inc., Pepsi-Cola Co., Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Kellogg Co.—and Gil Lucas of Tele-Communications Inc., giant MSO, which bought 20% interest in Johnson’s venture.

Mark your calendars. Thirty-second annual Emmy awards of Academy of Television Arts and Sciences have been set for Sept. 7. NBC-TV will telecast from Pasadena (Calif.) Civic Auditorium.

On line. CBS-owned WCBS-TV New York and KMOX-TV St. Louis have signed to carry Group W Productions’ new *John Davidson Show*, talk-program that syndicator is introducing to replace *Mike Douglas Show* (BROADCASTING, Jan. 21). O&O’s were first of 78 stations to sign for show, including Westinghouse Broadcasting’s five outlets.

Advance notice. Following practice started last fall, NBC-TV will give affiliates this week its March-May schedule of miniseries and movies so they can develop local sales and promotion strategies, Brandon Tartikoff, new president of NBC Entertainment (BROADCASTING, Jan. 21), told Dallas regional meeting of 40 NBC-TV affiliates. Tartikoff, making first appearance in new role, also said NBC will have seven new comedy series ready for prime time by spring. He also reiterated plan to curtail game shows in daytime, replacing them with variety-talk and other formats, including *Today*-like half-hour at 11:30 a.m. NYT (BROADCASTING, Jan. 7).

In the marketplace. *Arthur & Company*, WPLG-TV Miami’s children’s show for past decade, goes into national syndication next spring (M.A. Kempner is distributing). *Arthur*, featuring people and puppets, also has been airing on WPLG-TV’s co-owned Post-Newsweek Stations ... *Road to the White House*, 34 60-second TV shorts from David Blumenthal Associates, is being distributed by King World Productions. It’s series of presidential profiles, each with different celebrity hosts, said to include Bob Hope, Henry Fonda, Michael Landon, Dina Merrill, among others ... *Future Flipper* is new animated series from NTA, featuring hero dolphin 100 years hence. NTA’s also offering off-network *Music Country, USA, Flip Wilson* and *Dean Martin*, formerly on NBC-TV. So was original *Flipper* ... *Tell Me on a Sunday*, “musical chronicle of a young Englishwoman who has four love affairs in New York,” is available from Metromedia Producers Corp. BBC-TV/MPC special has score performed by London Philharmonic and arranged by Andrew Lloyd Webber (“Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Evita”) ... Three joint pacts make news: Scholastic Productions and BBI Communications pool resources to develop children’s TV syndicated series for 1980, Metromedia Program Productions and Jim Owens Productions join forces for minimum of three prime-time television specials for next season and Television Syndication Group and Janus Television have entered joint distribution agreement for TSG’s first-run syndication series ...

Joining the fray. Competition for afternoon air continues to grow, with Viacom, Post-Newsweek Stations and Michael Krauss Productions proposing *Hittin’ Home* for early 1981. There’s no decision yet on host but “family of regulars” in studio and on road would include Art Linkletter on children; Cathy Cronkite with human interest stories, John Steinberg on consumer affairs, and “San Diego Chicken” of baseball fame who “will handle lighthearted gripe sessions.” Pilot week taping is planned this fall.

HBO’s wonder years. Home Box Office doesn’t expect to continue doubling its subscriber base each year but from year-end 1978 to year-end 1979, it claims to have done just that, from two million to more than four million subscribers. Affiliated cable systems rose from 731 to 1,700. HBO acceptance within systems grew from 37% to 43% of basic subscribers and from 20% to 23% of all homes passed by systems.

Teleworld is learning. Teleworld Inc., New York, has been named worldwide television distributor for Learning Corp. of America, New York, producer of ABC-TV’s *After School Specials*, NBC-TV’s *Special Treats* and prime-time feature films made by its Highgate Pictures Division. This division recently opened a West Coast office to expand development and production of prime-time programs.