

Chris Harper, ABC News Cairo bureau chief, was expelled from Egypt last week—said to be first time American reporter has been forced out in 11 years of President Anwar el-Sadat's leadership. Egyptian government has accused Harper of distorted coverage. At press time last Friday, Paris correspondent and former Cairo bureau chief Doreen Kays was enroute to replace Harper. ABC anticipated that Kays would be allowed to take over for Harper, despite reports elsewhere that Egyptian government would allow no ABC News coverage until apology was made. ABC had no plans to apologize and ABC News President **Roone Arledge** sent Egyptian ambassador in U.S. letter protesting "in the strongest terms the action taken by the Egyptian government." Arledge wrote that network takes pride in Harper's work. NBC News President **William Small** sent letter to Sadat, writing that "we strongly appeal to you to reconsider." Before expulsion of Harper, Sadat held press conference for foreign journalists and showed tape of Harper interview in Beirut with Sadat critic—British journalist expelled from Egypt in 1977—as example of alleged distorted coverage. Certain tapes, including that interview, had not made it out of Cairo airport earlier this summer.

Formal employment discrimination charges were filed last Thursday (Sept. 10) in Los Angeles against three commercial television networks, their owned-and-operated stations and seven major program producers. Complaint, filed with U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, was submitted by **Intercultural Media Action Guild for Equity (IMAGE)**, Los Angeles-based coalition of media advocacy groups representing ethnic minorities. In news conference held shortly after charges were filed, IMAGE released its own compilation of minority hiring statistics derived from FCC, performing unions, program monitoring and "sources within the industry." Co-Chairman **Paris H. Qualles**, television director, said IMAGE believes those named in complaint practice "ongoing systematic discrimination and exclusion as directed toward American ethnic minority workforce . . . [including] conscious racism and 'benign neglect' in hiring, training, upgrading [promotion] and support of qualified and qualifiable ethnic minorities." Qualles emphasized that producers named in charges were not necessarily "worst offenders," but were cited primarily because they are largest employers in TV production industry. Those named were: 20th Century-Fox, Aaron Spelling Productions, Spelling-Goldberg Productions, Universal Studios (MCA Inc.), Lorimar, MTM Productions and Paramount Pictures Television.



Last week, **Hearst Broadcasting Corp.** closed its deal to purchase **WDTN(TV)** Dayton, Ohio, (ch. 2) from **Grinnell Communications Corp.** for \$49.4 million—same week in which it contracted to buy **KMBC-TV** Kansas City, Mo., from **Metromedia** for \$79 million (see story, page 81). Shown at closing of WDTN sale are, l-r, **Gardiner S. Dutton**, chairman, Grinnell Communications; **Frank A. Bennack, Jr.**, president and chief executive officer, Hearst Corp.; **Franklin C. Snyder**, corporate vice president and president of Hearst Broadcasting, and **Ray W. Colie**, general manager of WDTN.

ABC News's Barbara Walters has new five-year contract with network. Moving New York office from *World News Tonight* to *20/20*, Walters will increase presence on newsmagazine and though not appearing each week, will be frequent contributor. Three to four Walters entertainment specials are planned yearly but with more news-oriented segments. Contract is understood to take effect around Oct. 1, with Walters receiving raise over previous salary which was estimated at \$1 million yearly.

Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer of public television's *The MacNeil/Lehrer Report* have signed agreement with **Gannett Co. to form company** to produce television news specials, documentaries and cable programming. New company, **MacNeil-Lehrer Productions**, will be half-owned by Gannett. MacNeil and Lehrer, who will have editorial control over all programming, will each own one-quarter of company. Lehrer said definite plans for company had not been laid, but he hoped company would "provide us with opportunity to try other things." MacNeil said company wouldn't produce for any particular market, but would try to sell to commercial networks, syndicators and cable. MacNeil said duo's current contracts with public television run through June 1982, but didn't think involvement with new venture would hamper their ability to continue *The MacNeil/Lehrer Report*.

Board of Cox Broadcasting Corp. voted last week **two-for-one split of common stock**, effective Sept. 21, and declared quarterly dividend of six and nine-sixteenths cents per split share, payable Oct. 15 to shareholders of record on Sept. 21. Although split will increase number of shares outstanding to 27 million, **Cox shareholders voted to double authorized common stock to 40 million.** "Additional shares," Cox said, "will be available for potential acquisitions and issuance to increase company's capital."

In letter to FCC Chairman **Mark Fowler**, **NAB endorsed recommendations** received by him from **CBS Inc.**, calling for repeal of **fairness doctrine and equal opportunities section of Section 315; reasonable access** provision of Section 312 and commission's own rules concerning **personal attacks and political editorializing** (see page 93). NAB noted that commission "handled more than 19,000 telephone inquiries and 4,551 inquiries and complaints" about fairness, equal time and reasonable access provisions during 1980 election campaign alone. "These figures document needless restraints on the vital flow of ideas and information," said NAB.

Broadcast journalists interested in getting their cameras in courtrooms may soon have champion on Supreme Court. Testifying before Senate Judiciary Committee last week, **Supreme Court nominee Sandra O'Connor** said she foresees time when cameras will be acceptable in courthouse. Technological advances will permit cameramen to turn off glaring lights and become less obtrusive, she said, O'Connor deferred full endorsement of concept: "I certainly want to wait until I have served on the court and discussed the issues with others," she said.

College Football Association delayed until **Sept. 18 deadline** for members to decide whether to accept **CFA's** four-year, \$180-million contract with **NBC Sports** or **National Collegiate Athletic Association's** contract with **ABC and CBS.** Original deadline was last Thursday (Sept. 10). CFA's move came after NCAA had set special convention for early December to consider rule changes that would give colleges with top football programs with more control over TV rights to their games. CFA's action also followed class-action suits against NCAA seeking judgment on these rights by three outstanding football colleges: **Universities of Georgia, Oklahoma and Texas.**