ABC is disputing FCC general counsel's contention that ABC representatives engaged in **ex parte contacts** when they discussed WABC-TV New York license-renewal case with Commissioners Anne P. Jones and Henry Rivera on June 21. Jones, in statement filed with FCC Managing Director Edward J. Minkel, said ABC Washington vice president Eugene Cowen and ABC lawyer Robert W. Coll had said that contact—dealing with allegations that station had engaged in false, misleading or deceptive programing—was not "restricted" and that her legal assistant had confirmed that view in call to "senior attorney" in Broadcast Bureau. However, commission two weeks ago removed WABC-TV item from agenda because of General Counsel Stephen A. Sharp's subsequent ruling that proceeding was indeed "restricted." Coll last week, in letter to commission, said that ruling was incorrect and asked commission to reverse it. He said renewal matter had been restricted because of petition to deny, filed in May 1978, by New Jersey group complaining of lack of New Jersey service by WABC-TV. State officials on same day filed complaint incorporating petition to deny. However after WABC-TV amended its renewal application, New Jersey group withdrew its petition and urged renewal of WABC-TV's license. Consequently, Coll said, renewal proceeding was not restricted since 1978 petition had been withdrawn and, "at most, informal objections remained." Furthermore, discussions with commissioners did not involve New Jersey service question. According to statements filed by Jones and Rivera, Cowen and Coll had argued that since ABC had identified and punished WABC-TV employes responsible for alleged wrongdoing, most severe sanction commission should impose was admonition—not short-term license renewal they understood staff had recommended.

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Senate Commerce Committee has asked to review bill to impose **reciprocity on Canadian denial of tax deduction** for commercial time purchased on U.S. border stations (S. 2051). Before leaving Finance Committee where it is now pending, bill is expected to pick up amendment to prohibit U.S. companies from taking tax deduction for cost of Canadian-made Telidon teletext and videotext systems. Attacking amendment last week, Videotext Industry Association Chairman Larry Pfister said it would "severely narrow the technological options available to U.S. companies" and "inhibit a brand new business which has great potential to inform people and make their lives more convenient."

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In expansion move, **ITC Entertainment in U.S. is reorganizing** to produce television programing and theatrical motion pictures in Hollywood. Marble Arch Productions, Hollywood, subsidiary of parent company, Associated Communications Corp., London, will be phased out and broadened ITC will take its place. Abe Mandell, president of ITC, said Marble Arch's activities were mainly in prime-time network production while ITC will be in all phases, including network, first-run syndication, pay television and cable TV.

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Revised version of controversial bill to set **national policy for regulating cable TV** industry (S. 2172) **has been finalized** by Senate Communications Subcommittee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and is likely to be brought to markup shortly after this week's July 4 recess. Offering to brief local officials in his state about bill, Goldwater criticized National League of Cities' Washington representative for failing to cooperate with subcommittee staff in revising bill and for creating "climate of misinformation" about its provisions. "The current campaign against my bill is the worst case of lying by a Washington representative that I have encountered," said Goldwater, referring, according to his staff, to activities of NLC lobbyist Cynthia Pols. Key changes in revised bill would require cities and states to renew franchises if they find cable operator has met terms of present agreement, has not had major change in legal, technical or financial qualifications that would impair continued service and if future service to be provided is reasonable in light of size, nature, needs and interests of community to be served, age and status of existing system, current availability of facilities and services in communities of comparable size and costs of construction and operation of cable facilities. Requirement that 20% of channel capacity be set aside for public and leased access would apply only to systems with 20 "available channels" not subject to "other use requirements imposed by FCC." Mandated carriage of local broadcast signals, sports blackout requirements and telco-cable crossownership are not addressed in revised bill. Neither FCC nor states or cities could restrict "nature of cable or telecommunications" services to be offered or prohibit ownership of cable systems by entities with other media interests, including broadcast, cable, newspaper, programing service or other printed or electronic information service. Franchise fee ceiling to be set by FCC under revised bill must be based on cost of regulation and is subject to waiver in cases where costs exceed ceiling. National Cable Television Association Executive Vice President James Mooney called revised Goldwater bill "overall a good bill" and one NCTA "will strongly support."

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Top-level changes in works at **Radio Advertising Bureau**. Miles David, president since 1965, is due to become vice chairman, but continue as chief executive officer. David confirmed that plan Friday after meeting with George Duncan of Metromedia, RAB chairman. He denied as "completely false" reports that he was being demoted or "pushed around." He said he and Duncan had been holding meetings "for some time" on how RAB might better meet radio's future needs in time of growing media competition. Duncan could not be reached for comment. One long-range possibility—for 1983 or later—reportedly is creation, under David, of separate RAB divisions for large and small markets, each with own president. If that isn't decided upon, new president presumably would be brought in. David, 56, has contract with about five years to run.

David

Lightstone

Ronald Lightstone named VP, corporate affairs for **Viacom International**, responsible for development of governmental relations and corporate communications activities, as well as for supervision of law and business affairs departments. He will move to New York from Los Angeles, where he has been business affairs VP of Viacom's entertainment group since 1980. Lightstone joined company as general counsel in 1976 after service on legal staffs of both CBS and NBC.

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James Loper, president and chief executive officer, noncommercial KCET(TV) Los Angeles, resigned. Loper leaves financially plagued station after 18 years. He was one of founders in 1964. Loper's decision follows resignation of Hartford Gunn, former senior VP there (BROADCASTING, June 7). In addition, station has suffered serious retrenchment.

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President Reagan has appointed **Justin Dart**, chairman of executive board, Dart & Kraft Inc., to three-year term on board of Communications Satellite Corp. Dart, 74, will succeed Carter-appointee Jesse Hill.