Syndicated numbers. The most current Nielsen averages for syndicated programs containing better advertising show that The New Newlywed Game (Bel-Air), Small Wonder (Mereon- dia Producers Corp.) and G.1. Joe (Tribeune) are the leading game show, sit-com and cartoon show, respectively. (The Niel- sen figures are based on data gathered from Oct. 7 through Nov. 3).

The New Newlywed Game, cleared in 91% of the country, has an 8.7 seven-week average, based on its coverage-based ratings. Its average in NTV is 8.0. Catch Phrase (Telepictures), cleared in 92% of the country, has a seven-week coverage-based average of 3.4, and 2.3 in NNT. Break the Bank (Blair), cleared in 61% of the country, has a seven-week coverage-based average of 1.6, and 2.3 in NTV. Dr. Kildare (Bear), cleared in 78% of the country, has a coverage-based average of 3.5 for the seven weeks for which data is available, and a 3 in eight weeks of NTTI numbers.

Among the season's new weekly first-run sit-coms, Small Wonder, appearing in 73% of the country, has a 7.1 average in seven weeks of coverage-based ratings, and 5.1 in NTTI ratings. What's Happening Now (Columbia Pictures Television/LBS), cleared in 77% of the country, is averaging a 6 in coverage-based ratings and a 4.6 in NTTI numbers after five weeks, and It's a Living (LBS), carrying 28.4% of the country, is averaging 6.1 in coverage-based ratings after six weeks, and 4.3 in NTTI numbers.

In animation, G.1. Joe, cleared in 88% of the country, has averaged 4.6 in six weeks of coverage-based ratings, and 4 in NTTI ratings. She-Ra, Princess of Power (Group W), cleared in 77% of the country, has averaged 4.3 in coverage-based ratings for its first six weeks, and Thundercats (Telepictures) has averaged a 4.2 in coverage-based ratings for its first eight weeks, and a 3.3 in NTTI numbers. Data also shows that the one-hour American President (NBC) averaged a 3.7 in NTV average in the country, or 41 weeks, primarily as a news lead-in, has a seven-week average of 4.1 in coverage-based ratings, and a 3.4 in NTTI numbers. The two-hour daytime block, Indy (LBS), has a four-week average of .9 in coverage-based ratings, and 7.1 in three weeks of NTTI data.

Pole attachment case is on its way to Supreme Court. That was clear last week after U.S. Court of Appeals for Eleventh Circuit refused to grant rehearing in case in which three-judge panel of that appeals court declared unconstitutional 1978 law authorizing FCC to regulate pole attachment fees (BROADCASTING, Nov. 4). Requests for rehearing were filed by FCC, NCTA and two cable television companies. On Friday, FCC lawyers appeared confident commission would authorize them to move forward with Justice Depart- ment in appeal to Supreme Court. And NCTA made clear its determination to carry on light—but necessary— with statement asserting its intention "to pursue vigorously an appeal in the Supreme Court."

Senate bill that would require broadcasters to provide candidate with free "equal time," if candidate is subject of negative commercial fund- ing by political action committees, is slated for vote when Senate returns from Thanksgiving holiday. Dec. 2. Bill's author, Senator David Boren (D-Okl.), tried to bring measure to floor last week as rider to another bill, but was persuaded to attach it to another measure at later date. National Association of Broadcasters op- poses measure and worked along with network lobbyist to press for postponement of any action. They will continue to push for its defeat. (Bill's chief purpose, however, is to limit contributions candidates may accept from PAC's, concept not likely to be en- closed by majority of Senate). Measure, co-sponsored by Senate Communications Subcommittee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), would also require "disclaimer for PAC's that make..."

Field of component satellite delivery systems has narrowed to one—Scientific-Atlanta's B-MAC. At Nov. 14 meeting of standards organization, Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), alternative component system developed by CBS was withdrawn from consideration, with CBS weight thrown instead behind B-MAC. Research will continue at CBS, however, on two-channel high-definition television transmission methods which spawned its version of MAC. ATSC has scheduled consideration of B-MAC as standard for component satellite delivery of enhanced television systems at meeting week of Jan. 20. Meanwhile, Direct Broadcast Satellite Association has nearly completed its own $250,000 re- view of transmission systems for DBS which involved several-month-long comparison of B-MAC with General Instrument's B-NTSC system. DBSA subcommittee will meet this week (Nov. 19- 20) to consider selection of one system as DBS standard, with DBSA final recommendation to be forwarded to FCC in December.

Agreement between National Cable Television Association and Mo- tion Picture Association of America to replace existing formula for calculating cable operators' compulsory copyright royalties with flat per-subscriber fee appears to be on track. Presidents of MPAA and NCTA, Jack Valenti and Jim Mooney, respectively, have had at least one face-to-face meeting and have made slow but steady progress toward deal. One sticking point is reportedly Valenti's insistence on "reopener"—opportunity to renegotiate flat fee if cable industry's revenues grow more quickly than expected in years ahead. NCTA's board, meeting in Phoenix this week, will be briefed on status of talks.

Senate last week passed budget reconciliation package that in- cludes cost-of-regulation fees for FCC licensees and applicants (BROADCASTING, Sept. 30). Fee schedule to schedule FCC forwarded to Congress last spring. House adopted similar measure last month, although Senate version includes provision that would reauthorize Corporation for Public Broadcasting for fiscal 1987 through 1990. CPB provision may be subject of debate during House-Senate conference on measure. Included in fee schedule are: $30 fee for renewals, $75 charge for applications to transfer FM call letters, $80 fee for new television stations, $500 charge for minor change applications for commercial radios, and TV's, $2,250 for major changes and new commercial TV's and $2,000 for new AM's and $1,800 for new FM's.

FCC Commissioner Dennis Patrick has released statement dissent- ing in part from order implementing equal employment opportunity provisions of Cable Communications Policy Act of 1994. Patrick said he disagreed with majority's decision to incorporate processing