

Richmond (63)	WRLH (35)	Times Mirror
Toledo (65)	WOMA (36)	Toledo TV
Syracuse (67)	WKAF (62)	Syracuse Ch 62
Green Bay (68)	WXGZ (32)	Appleton Bcstg
Springfield Ill (69)	WRSP (55)	Bahakel
Rochester (71)	WUHF (31)	Mainite
Rnoke Lynch (72)	WJPR (21)	Carnex Bcstg
Portland Me (76)	WPXT (51)	Portland Bcstg
Lexington (77)	WDKY (56)	Backe
Spokane (78)	KAYU (28)	KAYU Inc
Chattanooga (80)	WDSI (61)	WDSI Inc
Johnstn Altoona (81)	WWCP (8)	Evergreen
Tucson (82)	KMSB (11)	ProviJourn
Kingsport (86)	WETC (39)	Media Cent Grnville
Sioux Falls (95)	KTTW (17)	Poppen
Las Vegas (96)	KVVU (5)	Meredith
Colo Springs (99)	KXRM (21)	KXRM Inc
Peoria (100)	WYZZ (43)	Bloomington
Fargo (102)	KVRR (15)	Fargo Bcstg
Chrlstn, S C (106)	WTAT (24)	Charleston TV
Savannah (108)	WTGS (28)	Sudbrink
Wichita Falls (126)	KJTL (18)	Wichita Falls TV
Boise (136)	KTRV (12)	Idaho Indie
Albany, Ga (150)	WTSG (31)	Gordon Commun
Anchorage (158)	KTBY (4)	Totem Bdcg Inc

\*WXNE-TV, ch. 25, will be affiliate if Fox acquires station as proposed

## Interference AM's main problem

**That is problem FCC should address first in trying to improve band, according to comments at commission**

In its effort to improve AM broadcasting, the FCC should first concentrate on reducing interference.

That appeared to be the consensus among the industry comments available last week.

In its comments, the National Association of Broadcasters recommended that the commission first concentrate on taking steps to aid all of AM broadcasting. Among the areas NAB suggested for prompt attention: reducing man-made interference; providing nighttime operation by Class III daytime-only stations at "second hour" post-sunset power levels and power increases for full-time Class III radio stations, where such increases meet existing interference protection criteria; permitting synchronous AM transmitter technology to aid technical penetration of AM markets; evaluating the sufficiency of existing second adjacent channel interference protection ratios; exploring changes in FCC's main studio and local program origination rules, and considering changes in the FCC's duopoly, one-to-a-market and cross-interest rules.

NAB also stressed that it believed the commission should defer or reject other concepts advanced by the FCC staff. "For example, NAB strongly opposes the concept of 'ancillary use' of AM broadcast main channels for nonbroadcast purposes," NAB said. "Also, due to the need for forceful, concentrated FCC action on a core of AM improvement concepts, we urge that the agency defer consideration of the overall issue of whether there should be a review of the service balance among various classes of AM stations operating on domestic clear channels."

Alfred Sikes, a former radio broadcaster and now head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, made it clear in an interview last week that

he believed that unless efforts were made to improve the quality of the AM signal, the future of the AM service was at stake.

In its draft comments, the NTIA also said the most important and immediate need of the AM service was to improve overall fidelity and signal quality. It also recommended that the commission act expeditiously to relax or eliminate the AM duopoly and one-to-a-market rules. "While the staff report includes several other important proposals, we believe the commission should not permit other proposals for regulatory change to distract or impede the commission from taking prompt steps to help improve AM fidelity and signal quality," NTIA said.

Improving AM fidelity will require coordinated action by AM broadcasters, equipment manufacturers and the FCC, NTIA said. "The commission must devote renewed efforts to control any inter-station interference from co-channel and adjacent channel stations. The commission should study existing and predicted interference protection ratios based on the assumption that wideband AM signals will be broadcast and received by improved AM receivers. Broadcasters should operate in accord with any voluntary preemphasis standard established through joint industry efforts and should be diligent in maintaining transmission equipment and antennas to guard against spurious emissions. We hope that receiver manufacturers will design new AM products that incorporate (a) a deemphasis curve following any voluntary standard

adopted by the industries; (b) AM stereo; (c) continuous tuning from AM through FM channels; (d) expansion of the AM band to 1705 khz, and (e) improved selectivity. Manmade RF noise in the AM band should be promptly addressed in an appropriate commission proceeding in which the costs and benefits can be weighed of imposing noise suppression requirements on manufacturers of RF-emitting devices and on receiver manufacturers."

Group W, owner of clear channel KDKA(AM) Pittsburgh, said it believed that the single highest priority for the FCC should be to reduce deleterious interference present throughout the AM band. Group W also said the FCC staff's recommendation to eliminate or reduce protection to skywave service east of the Mississippi River would eliminate a valuable service to many listeners and increase the level of interfering signals within the local service areas of clear channel stations. "At the minimum, skywave protection should not be eliminated without strengthening nighttime adjacent channel interference protection standards to preserve the current quality of local clear channel service," Group W said.

In joint comments, Bonneville International Corp. and Northern Television Inc. said they believed the best way to add vitality to AM broadcasting was to strengthen technical and engineering regulation, limit nontechnical regulation and foster AM's inherent signal advantages by continuing protection for wide-area service. They also ap-



**Welcome aboard.** The FCC's newest commissioner, Patricia Diaz Dennis, was feted by four who preceded her to the slender ranks of women commissioners (there have been but six in history) last Thursday with a reception at Washington's Chevy Chase Club. Pictured on the veranda during that occasion (l to r): Dennis; Anne P. Jones (1979-1983), now a communications attorney with Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan; Margita White (1976-1979), coordinator of the Television Operators Caucus as well as board member of ITT and Taft Broadcasting, and incumbent Commissioner Mimi Weyforth Dawson. Also a hostess but not present was Charlotte Reid (1971-1976), now retired and living in Illinois and Michigan. The first woman commissioner, now deceased, was Frieda Barkin Henneck (1948-1955).