

either, in light of the probable ratings decline the program will suffer. "That's the scary thing," said Thomas Cookerly, president of the Allbritton television group, which includes WJLA-TV Washington, an ABC affiliate. On Thursday at 10 p.m., he said, it was "a good show and a good showcase for us. We are proud of its performance. For years it has done very well with a lousy lead-in." Although he understands the network had a tough decision, Cookerly said he was "disappointed" that *20/20* is being switched.

Andy Fisher, vice president and general manager of ABC affiliate WSB-TV Atlanta, also expressed concern over the *20/20* move, which he described as "inexplicable and dangerous." Some of the network's moves, he said, "look quite clever." But he said he hoped the *20/20* move "will be revisited" because it provides ABC affiliates with their best news lead-in throughout the schedule.

"This one is too big," he said, to move and risk a potentially sizeable audience drop.

There are also fewer movie time slots going into next season, which some cite as the result of better than usual regular series development. Both CBS and ABC have programmed one less movie slot for next season. NBC continues with two movie slots. Sunday and Monday nights. ABC reduced its *Disney Sunday Movie* to a one-hour *Disney Hour*, and moved its Sunday movie to Thursday night. A spokesman said the network doesn't consider the reduction in the Disney time period as a cutback in movies of the week per se, since that product comes from a single source. He also said that a number of the *Disney* programs airing in the Sunday 7 to 8 p.m. period would be two-part episodes, or movie-length programs. ABC plans to air 23 made-for-television movies next season, he said, the same as last season.

At NBC, the network aired 40 made-for-television movies this season. It is unclear whether there will be a cutback next season. All the network will say at this point is that it plans "more than 30" made-for-television movies next season. At CBS, the Tuesday movie has been eliminated, leaving only a Sunday movie. However, the network has reportedly also ordered more than 30 major television movies for next season.

On the comedy front, the three-network total for the new season is the same as it was last September 29, with each planning to carry the same load this time around as well. Eight new half-hour comedies were ordered for September, two each by NBC and CBS and four by ABC. NBC has the most comedies, with 13, including the hour-long mid-season entry, *Rags to Riches*. ABC has 10 comedies, as it did last season, and CBS has six, also the same as last season.

Prime time production led by Lorimar

When the dust had settled and the television network prime time schedule for the 1987-1988 season became clear, Lorimar Telepictures emerged as the top supplier of programs to the networks, overtaking Universal Television, the long-time leader in the field.

If the current new network schedules hold, Lorimar, by itself or in association with others will have nine programs in prime time including the new *Slap Maxwell* on ABC and *Full House* on CBS. Renewed programs include *Our House*, *ALF* and *Valerie* on NBC; *Knots Landing*, *Dallas* and *Falcon Crest* on CBS, and *Perfect Strangers* on ABC. That amounts to seven-and-a-half hours of programming.

Universal was a close second with seven programs totaling seven hours, including the new *Private Eye* and *A Year in the Life* on NBC and *The Law and Harry McGraw* on CBS. Universal's renewed series include *Murder, She Wrote*, *Magnum PI* and *The Equalizer* on CBS and *Miami Vice* on NBC. *Simon & Simon* has also been renewed by CBS, but only as a midseason replacement.

In the last two years New World Television has come from nowhere to rank third in network television production output. Going into the new season it has five programs totaling four-and-a-half hours including the new *Tour of Duty* on CBS and *True Colors* on ABC. Three New World programs were renewed—*Crime Story* and *Rags to Riches* on NBC and *Sledge Hammer!* on ABC.

Tied for fourth in production output on the networks were Warner Bros and Coca-Cola's Columbia Embassy unit. Both companies accounted for four hours of programming. Warner Bros.' four hours came from six renewals: *Spencer: For Hire*, *Growing Pains*, *Head of the Class* and *Ohara* on ABC; *Night Court* on NBC, and *My Sister Sam* on CBS. Embassy had four half-hour comedies renewed: *Who's the Boss* and *The Charmings* on ABC and *Facts of Life* and *227* on NBC, while Columbia's two hours comprised the new *Everything's Relative* on CBS and the renewed *Designing Women* and *Houston Knights*, both also on CBS.

Rounding out the top six network program suppliers is Stephen J. Cannell, which, after having *A-Team* and *Stingray* canceled early on, received a renewal order from NBC on *Hunter* and a buy order from the same network for *J.J. Starbuck* and a buy order from CBS for *Wiseguy*.

Depending on how the shows are counted, Paramount also has three hours going into the new season, if *Bronx Zoo* is included, which NBC picked up as part of its "designated hitter" rotation (BROADCASTING, May 18). But at the start of the new season, only two hours of its programming will appear on the

network rosters: *MacGyver* on ABC and *Cheers* and *Family Ties* on NBC.

The Walt Disney production units came up on the short end, losing a net one-hour of programming compared to last season. ABC canceled Disney's *Ellen Burstyn Show*, *Harry and Sidkicks*, and pared back the *Disney Sunday Movie* from two hours to one. However, NBC renewed *The Golden Girls*, and CBS bought a new hour, *The Oldest Rookie*.

Two other companies each account for two-and-a-half network hours—20th Century Fox and Viacom. Fox received a renewal for NBC's *L.A. Law* and got buy orders from CBS for *Leg Work* and the half-hour *Hooperman*. It lost another two-and-a-half hours, however, with cancellations of *Heart of the City*, *The Wizard* and *Mr. Belvedere*. Viacom had NBC's *Matlock* renewed and received buy orders from CBS for *Jake and the Fatman* and the half-hour *Frank's Place*.

Both Aaron Spelling and MTM will have two hours of programming on the networks this fall. Spelling lost *The Colbys* on ABC, but received ABC's renewals for *Dynasty* and *Hotel*.

MTM was another studio that improved its lot with the help of NBC's designated hitter concept. At the start of the season, MTM will have the renewed *Newhart* on CBS and *St. Elsewhere* on NBC. Its new *Beverly Hills Buntz* is expected to appear about a month later in the rotating DH slot.

Two new players broke into the network production scene, including Republic Television, which picked up a buy order from CBS for the action/fantasy *Beauty and the Beast*. The other new company is Dolly Parton's Sandollar Co., which is producing her new variety show on ABC.

Other companies with programs on the network schedule include: Tri-Star (*Buck James* [ABC] and *Who's Dad* [NBC]); Carsey/Werner (*Cosby* and its spin-off, *A Different World* [both NBC]); Reeves/Lachman (*Kate & Allie* [CBS] and *I Married Dora* [ABC]); Michael Landon (*Highway to Heaven* [NBC]); MGM (*Thirtysomething* [ABC]); Orion (*Cagney & Lacey* [CBS]); Carson Production Group (*Amen*), and Witt-Thomas-Witt, (*Mamma's Boy* [the third designated hitter on NBC].)

If the networks are included in the supplier group helping their own causes, then ABC would be high on the list, tied for fourth with Warner and Columbia Embassy, with four hours in prime time, including *Monday Night Football* and *Moonlighting*. CBS will account for one hour in prime time next season with *60 Minutes*, and maybe two hours, if *West 57th* gets final approval for a fall run. NBC won't start the season with any of its own program hours in prime time. Last year it began the season with *1986* and in midseason came out with its own sitcom, *Roomies*, neither of which will be back in the fall.