



This Bud's for Tribune. Former CBS Entertainment President B. Donald (Bud) Grant and Tribune Broadcasting Co. last week announced an agreement in principle for the formation of Grant/Tribune Productions, a joint venture that Grant described as similar in structure to the one Grant Tin-

ker has with Gannett. Under the 10-year deal, Grant will serve as chief executive officer of the new company, which will become operational in March 1988 and be housed at Tribune's KTLA-TV lot in Hollywood. Grant will appoint a head of business and creative affairs as well as a chief financial officer. GTP will begin with some production commitments from CBS, with that network getting the first look at product under the deal Grant signed before he left the network last October.

The new company will also produce programming for the six Tribune-owned stations, beginning with sitcoms and later moving into other forms. The likely air date for the first series is midseason 1988-89, according to Grant. Tribune Broadcasting President James Dowdle said at a press conference last Thursday (Feb. 18) in Los Angeles that Tribune will continue to enter joint ventures with other suppliers, which currently supply its stations with 60%-70% of their programming. Tribune made the deal with Grant to help the company control the increasing cost of syndicated product, Dowdle said.

delines. Survey found commercial stations now average eight minutes, 38 seconds of commercials per hour. It found that network children's programming contained an average of eight minutes, 28 seconds commercial time; network programming averaged nine minutes, 10 seconds, and syndicated or barter programming averaged eight minutes, 43 seconds. The Association of Independent Television Stations supported the NAB's conclusions, adding "there is no reason to prohibit so-called 'program-length commercials.' Not only is there no evidence that children are harmed by programming based on toy themes, but no party has raised a meaningful definition of 'program-length commercials.'"

Proposal by Representative Matthew Rinaldo (R-N.J.), linking cable regulation to must carry, received mixed reviews from industry groups. Two weeks ago, Rinaldo suggested conditioning deregulation of rates and services under Cable Act to compliance with must-carry obligations agreed to in 1986 industry compromise (BROADCASTING, Feb. 15). Association of Independent Television Stations President Preston Padden said in letter that INTV "enthusiastically embraced," proposal. Idea did not get strong endorsement from NCTA President Jim Mooney who registered concern.

on Television Syndication announced new **New York clearance Hollywood Squares** Friday, Feb. 19, of last week, WPIX(TV). Series will air on New York station when WABC-TV recently dropped it for **entertainment Tonight**.

Television Systems reported increases in both fourth-quarter and year revenue and operating cash flow (operating profit before depreciation and amortization) over previous periods. Operating cash flow was up 28% for quarter, to \$20.9 million, on revenue of nearly \$90 million. For full year, company operating cash flow increased 48%, to \$91.8 million, on revenue of nearly \$300 million, for full year 1986. Company said increases reflected inclusions of recent acquisitions.

Stephen Salyer, currently senior VP, marketing and communications, WNET(TV) New York, **won job as American Public Radio president** last Friday at APR board meeting in New York. "My goal is to support the renaissance in radio," said Salyer, who had directed WNET's educational division, program development and corporate communications during eight-year stint there. He will join APR in St. Paul on April 1. APR has been without full-time president since last July.

Ted Koppel has asked ABC News officials for permission to create independent news programming production company while continuing as host of network's successful late-night news program Nightline. Network sources confirmed ABC newsmen wants to set up production company that would produce number of prime time news specials for ABC annually, featuring Koppel. But Koppel has also proposed that his company be allowed to produce programs for other news services, excluding CBS, NBC and CNN.

NAB asks FCC to drop UHF-land mobile action. The provisions of a combined inquiry and proposed rulemaking adopted by the FCC on ways to reduce interference between UHF-TV broadcasters and land mobile operators "are untenable and should be abandoned," the National Association of Broadcasters said in comments filed last week.

The FCC order proposed "that all new applicants for construction permits for channel 14 or 69, and for site changes of existing operations on either channel, satisfy certain technical criteria designed to protect existing adjacent-channel land mobile operations" (BROADCASTING, Oct. 26, 1987). TV stations would be required to be separated by between 10 and 25 miles from the nearest land mobile operation, depending on the TV station's effective radiated power.

If the TV station does not meet the technical criteria, the commission proposed that a broadcast applicant privately negotiate the level of interference with land mobile licensees on the adjacent channels. In cases where settlement cannot be reached, the FCC proposed that ch. 14 and ch. 69 spectrum be allocated for nonbroadcast purposes, such as broadcast auxiliary and cable relay service.

NAB argued that the physical separation proposal "would create a plethora of obstacles to the provision of new or improved television broadcast service that ultimately would embroil television applicants as well as the commission in extensive deliberations." It claimed that a broad protection rule is unnecessary because interference is only present for "land mobile facilities located within one-half mile of the TV transmitter, and within 1 mhz of the TV channel edge." For ch. 14 stations, filtering of "out-of-channel emissions" would eliminate interference, NAB claimed, but it conceded that filtering is not possible for ch. 69.

But the proposed negotiation of interference level between broadcasters and land mobile service is "considerably more troublesome," NAB said. It claimed that many technical and legal questions would be raised by adopting such a policy. NAB suggested a more orderly process would be to follow the precedent "whereby the 'newcomer' bears the burden of correcting the interference problems that it creates."

NAB disagreed with the proposal to use channels 14 and 69 for non-broadcast uses because "it could affect the development of an advanced television system by over-the-air broadcasters. . . . Such a system would make a major industry transition [to ATV] more difficult." In the original order, the FCC assured "we will not act on or implement any of the new broadcast or nonbroadcast uses. . . until the commission has had an opportunity to study the impact such use may have on ATV."

The filing deadline for the UHF-land mobile interference proceeding has been extended from Feb. 17 to March 21. Reply comments are due April 4.