

## Party ties

Surprising in days of media neutrality, CBS Inc. was wearing Democratic heart on its sleeve in Atlanta last week. President and chief executive, Larry Tisch, has long and prominent ties to party, and appears to be surrounding himself with others of that political persuasion. Jay Kriegle, CBS senior vice president and Tisch confidante, is former aide to one-time New York Democratic Mayor John V. Lindsay. Last month, Kriegle brought in new Washington vice president, Martin D. Franks (BROADCASTING, June 27), who was director of House Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for six years under Representative Tony Coelho (D-Calif.) and before that was national research and issues director for Carter/Mondale presidential committee. Latest addition to CBS executive ranks (he was not in Atlanta) is David Burke, former executive vice president of ABC News, who will succeed Howard Stringer, new president of CBS/Broadcast Group, as head of CBS News. Burke is former Ted Kennedy aide.

## Family affair

Communications appears to run in Kerry family. Senate Communications Subcommittee member John Kerry's (D-Mass.) brother Cameron is attorney for Boston-based Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, whose clients include Cablevision Systems, Turner Broadcasting System and California Cable Television Association, and whose partners include Charles Ferris, former FCC chairman and counsel to ex-House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.). Cameron, who is representing Cablevision in dispute with town of Braintree, Mass. (see page 78) says his brother does not know "who my clients are," and they have "agreed not to discuss" such cable issues as pending home satellite legislation (S. 889). "I do not lobby him," he said. Senator Kerry has expressed concern about possible anticompetitive behavior by cable programmers toward such cable competitors as wireless cable.

Another Mintz, Levin attorney with familial connection on Capitol Hill is John Markey, whose brother Ed is chairman of House Telecommunications Subcommittee. John is firm's criminal trial counsel in Boston.

## Ammunition

Fox Broadcasting Co. has locked in second "writer proof" original program for its new Saturday lineup next fall, scheduled to debut at 9 p.m., Sept. Show is adaptation

of popular Australian show, *Beyond 2000*, reality-based show that explores effects of science and technology and societal changes on people's lives in next century. It will follow previously announced *Reporters*, debuting July 30 and continuing into fall. Two new Saturday night entertainment shows—*City Court*, and *Angels '88* have been delayed by strike. Also, in move to generate greater sampling for *The Late Show* with Ross Shafer, two *Late Show* prime time specials have been scheduled for next month, Aug. 6 and 20. And on Sept. 3, FBC will air special dealing with one women's struggle with aids, that originally aired on HBO. But 20th Century Fox Television put up some of money to produce show, *Susie's Story*, and thus retained broadcast network rights.

## Patent problems

Word is that effort by group of broadcasters to organize funding for VISTA high-definition television transmission system, invented by William Glenn of New York Institute of Technology, "has come to a screeching halt." That is according to Harold Protter, general manager, WTV(TV) Milwaukee, who has been leading group. Obstacle, he said, is "certain patent questions involving Glenn and NYIT," with school claiming rights to some Glenn inventions. Negotiations ended, said Protter, because "NYIT, I guess, decided they didn't want our money on the basis that had been tentatively discussed." Next step is for school to either find funding from another source or come to mutually agreeable terms with group as far as return on their investment in event VISTA is successful, Protter said.

## Face-off

Outlet management and Wesray/Mutual continued to negotiate over future of Outlet Communications last week, although face-to-face discussions subsided while Outlet Chairman Bruce Sundlun attended Democratic Convention in Atlanta, where he was delegate. Both sides in dispute (BROADCASTING, July 18) are seeking to avoid litigation, and indication of their success may be whether they come up with announced resolution in time for this Thursday's (July 28) annual shareholder meeting in Providence, R.I.

## Getting set

Sale of some of George Gillett's stations will move step closer this week; Gillett has asked station broker Howard Stark to assist in sale of Gillett's WMAR(TV) Baltimore, as

well as other stations Gillett may decide to sell. WMAR is expected to bring about \$285 million. Added to Act III Communications' announced purchase of WRLH-TV Richmond from Busse Broadcasting (see "In Brief"), at price thought to be about \$7 million-\$8 million, total for both stations would be just under \$300 million, considerable return on original \$200 million purchase of two stations from A.S. Abell Co. in 1986 ("Changing Hands," July 14, 1986).

In other Act III news, there is word on street that company has discussed with group owner Woody Sudbrink possibility of buying out programming contracts of Sudbrink's WVRN(TV) Richmond.

## AM and PM on MTV

Speaking at Television Critics Association meeting in Hollywood this week, MTV executives will reveal plans to take on likes of Johnny Carson and Jane Pauley with, respectively, late night and morning programs. Possible host mentioned for late night show is Buster Poindexter, club performing alter ego of rock singer David Johansen. Debuting in next several months, New York-produced additions to schedule are part of what is described as "evolution" in MTV programming approach toward involving more regular programming elements, such as news inserts, movie review features and game show, *Instant Replay*. Other MTV efforts along those lines have included Nickelodeon's *Double Dare* and *Finder's Keepers*.

## Bond, Julian Bond

NBC-owned WRC-TV Washington has agreed to serve as production site, and to carry, public affairs show *America's Black Forum*, country's only nationally syndicated weekly black news magazine, according to its producers, Uniworld Entertainment. Show, hosted by black political activist Julian Bond, will launch October 2 with 39 half-hours to be syndicated by Raymond Horn Associates. Program has been carried on smaller independents and public television for number of years, but is being revamped by producer Gene Davis, creator of just-cancelled black magazine show *Essence*.

## On stage

Look for Westwood One Radio Networks to announce shortly that it has secured exclusive national radio rights to Amnesty International Tour, which kicks off in mid-September. Headlining pop concert event will be Bruce Springsteen, Sting, and Peter Gabriel.