

In Brief

Tele-Communications Inc. and Comcast have closed \$2.8 billion purchase of Storer Communications Inc., placing Connecticut systems in trust while companies work to solve system transfer problems there. Comcast, acting alone, last week filed application for three Storer systems in state ("Closed Circuit," Oct. 31). Offer of settlement includes promises to upgrade systems, including 22-channel Clinton system to 36 channels within six months. Settlement also sets forth service standards and support for local advisory councils and access programming. State spokesman said: "We think there is some positive movement" with application, and said state public utility commission, which blocked earlier transfer, will take up new application in hearing. TCI said that depending on outcome of negotiations "some adjustments may be appropriate" in deal. If Comcast takes control of Storer's 112,000 subscribers in state, it will likely necessitate adjustments elsewhere in 50-50 transaction to make up difference. Deal would give Comcast approximately 17% of subscribers in state, leaving TCI's stake, through United Artists-United Cable, at 26%.

MGM/UA has restructured its television production operations under one umbrella—MGM/UA Television Productions Group, to be headed by David Gerber as chairman/CEO. Gerber had been president of MGM/UA Television Productions. Under regrouping, he will be responsible for network and first-run television production, as well as cable programming, international co-productions and licensing of MGM/UA feature films to television. In addition, Gerber will develop several low-budget films with MGM/UA Film Group President Richard Berger. Gerber joined MGM/UA in 1981 when he brought his production company to studio. Company's current on-air network product includes *thirtysomething*, *In the Heat of the Night* and *Baby Boom*. It also has first-run show, *Group One Medical*.

President Reagan had until midnight last Saturday (Nov. 5) to sign children's television bill (BROADCASTING, Oct. 24). Bill's proponents were anxiously waiting to see what President would do; if he fails to sign measure it would die. Legislation would reimpose limits on amount of advertising during children's programs and require broadcasters to serve "special needs of children."

Commonwealth Broadcasting of Northern California has agreed to sell KROY(FM) Sacramento, Calif., to Great American Television and Radio Co. Terms of transaction were not disclosed, but sources estimate price is \$11.5 million-\$12 million. Seller is San Diego-based group principally owned by Dex Allen and partners of Thorsnes, Bartolotta, McGuire and Padilla, San Diego law firm. It also has interest in KYXI(FM) Yuma, Ariz. Buyer is subsidiary of Great American Broadcasting, Cincinnati-based group headed by Carl Wagner; it also owns seven AM's and nine FM's. KROY is on 96.9 mhz with 50 kw and antenna 500 feet above average terrain. Broker: Media Venture Partners.

Diocese of Tucson is selling KDTU-TV Tucson, Ariz., to Clear Channel Television Inc. for \$8.5 million. Seller is owned by Roman Catholic Church. Buyer is division of Clear Channel Communications Inc., publicly traded group headed by L. Lowry Mays, which owns eight AM's and eight FM's. It is purchasing WPMI-TV Mobile, Ala., pending FCC approval. KDTU-TV is independent on ch. 18 with 2,519 kw visual, 251 kw aural and antenna 1,970 feet above average terrain. Broker: Kalil & Co.

French Direct Broadcasting satellite, TDF 1, launched successfully Oct. 27 by Ariespace, is on course to reach operational orbital position at 19 degrees west longitude 24 days after launch, following three apogee kick motor (AKM) maneuvers effected last week. Crucial deployment of energy-gathering solar panels also occurred last Thursday. Co-designed West German DBS bird, TV-SAT 1, never became operational due to failure to deploy one solar panel following Anane launch earlier this year (BROADCASTING, Feb. 29). TDF 1 is one of four planned birds in



Interactive TV. *Geraldo Rivera* underwent surgery on Friday, Nov. 4 to repair a broken nose suffered during a melee that occurred during last Thursday's taping of his syndicated talk show *Geraldo*. Rivera was hit in the face by a chair thrown during a fight erupted among civil rights activist and white supremacists. Civil rights representatives included Roy Innis, chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality, and Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman, president, Center for Jewish Living. White supremacists were John Metzger, director, *White Arayan Resistance Youth*; Michael Palasch, director, *Skinheads of National Resistance*; Bob Heick, director of the *American Front*.

A spokesman for Rivera said when the show airs later this month, all footage of the fracas will be shown. "The whole point of the show was to expose these roaches who scurry in the light of exposure, and it did just that," he said.

After order was restored, the show finished taping the final 20 minutes. Rivera then taped two more shows. No charges have been filed, in the incident the spokesman said: "He [Rivera] does not want to be legally entangled with these roaches," said the spokesman, adding: "besides, Geraldo landed as many punches as he received."

Franco-German joint venture, TV-SAT-TDF. By Christmas week, France should know whether it has working satellite, intended to carry five channels of television programming to home dish owners—although programmers had precommitted to only one channel by launch time (BROADCASTING, Oct. 31). TDF launch was Ariane's eighth consecutive successful launch since September 1987. (As of last week, GTE Spacenet still had not finalized plans to use station-keeping motors and fuel to get some use from GStar III; AKM failed earlier this fall, causing certain loss of operational life for that domestic U.S. Ku-band bird [BROADCASTING, Sept. 26].)

Ed Allen's InterMedia Partners announced that its five principals will seek to acquire cable systems and newspapers for its newly formed limited partnership. Joining Allen, former president of Western Communications, are Leo Hindery Jr., former chief planning and financial officer of Chronicle Publishing (which owned Western Communications), who is managing general partner of Intermedia. Other general partners, in addition to Allen, are David Rozzelle, senior partner with law firm Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth; Alan Mutter, former assistant managing editor of *San Francisco Chronicle*, and Edward Liebst Jr., vice president, BankAmerica.

Tele-Communications Inc. may seek control of Cable Value Network. TCI left possible acquisition of CVN open in SEC filing that accompanied \$7 million purchase of additional 3.24% of CVN. Purchase brings TCI ownership of company to 17.24%. Kenneth