

has asked. However, CBS source said its interest was for 1992 launch of program, not fall 1991. One station executive also reported that Group W Broadcasting was interested in participating in consortium, but that could not be confirmed at deadline.

Up in the air

At least one major—Warner Bros.—has adopted “wait and see” approach to presence at Monte Carlo TV market next Feb. 10-15. According to studio’s international TV distribution head, Michael Solomon, company will make final decision within about a week on attending elite annual Riviera gathering, citing continued uncertainty over fallout of Gulf war. Talk last week among internationally minded attendees at NATPE reflected numerous concerns about safety of travel and region’s proximity to conflict, although canceled plans and pullouts remained only rumors.

WASHINGTON

On tap

Likely successor to Capital Cities/ABC’s Stephen Weiswasser as general counsel, David Westin, is both expected and unexpected. That he is partner at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is not surprising since law firm does much legal work for company; Weiswasser himself is alumnus. However, Westin is little known in communications law circles, specializing instead in international law. Appointment thus may reflect company’s widening vision. Westin, who is expected to start in mid-February, clerked for former Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell. Last month Weiswasser was named executive vice president of ABC Television Network Group (BROADCASTING, Dec. 24, 1990).

Where the action is

Thomas Goodgame, president emeritus of Group W’s TV division, and former chairman of National Association of Broadcasters television board, has moved to Washington. Goodgame will work out of Group W’s Newsfeed office on “acquisitions and industry things.” He is expected to run for NAB’s joint board chairmanship, but says he has not made final decision. Living in Washington will make Goodgame “readily available” to carry out NAB duties. At same time Good-

game emphasized that he is not interested in running association on day-to-day basis.

Lining up Bell

Government Affairs Policy Council of Regional Bell Operating Companies is among Tom Tauke’s new clients. Tauke, former Republican congressman from Iowa who ran for Senate, and Doug Walgren, Pennsylvania Democrat who lost re-election last year, have opened Washington lobbying firm (BROADCASTING, Jan. 14). Tauke, prominent member of Telecommunications Subcommittee, was key sponsor of bill to lift restrictions on BOC’s that kept them from manufacturing equipment and providing information services.

Theatrics

FCC staged bit of what Commissioner Ervin Duggan likes to call “kabuki theater” at Jan. 10 open meeting when it pulled from agenda proposal to start license revocation proceeding against WXFL(TV) Albany, Ga., and denied licensee Timothy Brumlik opportunity to sell under distress sale policy. Brumlik is in federal prison, serving time for drug money laundering

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Underachiever and sole male offspring of *The Simpsons* clan, Bart Simpson, was honored when New Orleans City Council proclaimed Jan. 17-18 Bart Simpson Days and proclaimed him an “an international icon for both adults and children.” According to several Twentieth (Fox) Television sources there, the city picked up the tab for Bad Bart’s street signs, which replaced Convention Boulevard for the two days.



conviction. At meeting, Mass Media Bureau Chief Roy Stewart asked to withdraw item from consideration, saying that bureau had received information that might have bearing on case. That’s true enough. According to FCC sources, agency received affidavit last week making further “serious allegations” against Brumlik. But what neither Stewart nor anybody else mentioned was that all commissioners other than Sikes had reservations about way item was written, and at least two wanted item yanked until some of legal underpinnings could be firmed up. In particular, they wanted to strengthen case for denying distress sales and did not wish to run afoul of congressional mandate against tampering with distress policy, which allows licensees in trouble at FCC to sell out to minorities at below market price. Using affidavit as reason for pulling item was convenient way of deferring matter so item could be rewritten. According to one source, FCC will vote to begin revocation within next couple weeks “on circulation.”

LOS ANGELES

Encouraging words

In impromptu appearance at Fox affiliate board and general affiliates meetings at close of INTV convention Jan. 5, News Corp. CEO Rupert Murdoch assured affiliates that debt refinancing on reported \$8 billion long-term debt with banks has been completed without hitch. One affiliate board member said Murdoch restated that Fox Broadcasting Co., Fox Television Stations’ seven stations and Twentieth Television syndication remain “strong profit centers” of News Corp. and that “everything is on track” for continued expansion of FBC.

AMARILLO, TEX.

Texas turnover

Fox affiliate KCIT(TV) Amarillo, Tex., has been sold by Ralph C. Wilson Industries Inc. to KCIT Acquisition Co. for price confirmed to be in excess of \$2 million. Sale, brokered by Kalil & Co., gives F. Lanham Lyne, principal owner of KCIT, second Fox station (other property is KJTL(TV) Wichita Falls, Tex.) For Wilson, owner of NFL’s Buffalo Bills, it’s second sale in less than year; his KICU-TV San Jose, Calif., went to KICU Inc. for \$34 million last April.