

CLOSED CIRCUIT

WASHINGTON

Road trip

Bobby Kahn, Atlanta attorney representing some of political candidates suing stations for alleged lowest-unit-rate overcharges, made swing through FCC last Thursday to argue against agency's planned preemption of court cases. He left in wake of talk that he was intent on stirring up trouble for FCC on Capitol Hill and would attempt to force Commissioner James Quello to recuse himself from preemption proceeding on ground of prejudice. Back in Atlanta on Friday, he said he never made it to the Hill. Asked about recusal effort, he said, "We have no comment on that."

NEW YORK

Cosby companion?

Given early momentum CBS Station Group deal created for *You Bet Your Life* (see box), Carsey-Werner Distribution Co. President Bob Jacobs hinted to BROADCASTING that companion piece to half-hour gamedy is in infant stages of development, among other first-run syndication projects for 1992-93. One station rep who recently sat in on *You Bet Your Life* pilot presentation said Jacobs told his group that other first-run series are in development.

Stuart Glickman, chief executive officer of Carsey-Werner Co., would only say that production company is going to be "as selective as possible" in developing other potential syndicated series, but that it can't be assumed an hour-long block with *Bet Your Life* is in cards. "Certainly, if *You Bet Your Life* breaks out of the blocks quickly [in terms of ratings], Carsey-Werner would have the needed leverage to compete against King World's and Paramount's prime access blocks," concluded New York rep source.

Rep roundup

Interep Radio Store's Major Market Radio has been tapped by EZ Communications to represent three of group's stations involved in local marketing agreements. Rep will represent all stations involved in each of LMAs in EZ

HIGH STAKES 'BET'

Estimates from New York-based rep sources on the dollar figures for the CBS Station Group's acquisition of Carsey-Werner's *You Bet Your Life* range between \$6 million and \$7 million for signing the five O&O's to 52-week commitments (39 weeks of original episodes) for the 1992-93 Bill Cosby-hosted vehicle. Individual estimates on weekly cash license fees are: KCBS-TV Los Angeles, \$35,000-\$40,000 per week; WCBS-TV New York, \$30,000-\$35,000; WBBM-TV Chicago, \$25,000; WCAU-TV Philadelphia, \$20,000, and WCIX-TV Miami, \$15,000. Basing projections on off-network repeats of *The Cosby Show*, which have garnered 6-7 rating average in syndication, one rep source estimated a minute of national barter tagged to the license fee could generate \$8 million-\$9 million in gross revenues from the five metered markets alone, putting the value of the CBS deal in the neighborhood of \$14 million-\$16 million. Barter spots could draw near-optimum rates given the presumption that stations air *Life* in prime access (6-8 p.m.), which CBS Station Group President Jonathan Rodgers has promised with WCBS-TV and WCAU-TV. One rep source predicted that Paramount's *Hard Copy* could be a 7 p.m. casualty on WCBS-TV to make room for *Life*, but that Paramount's other reality strip, *Entertainment Tonight*, will likely stay at 7:30.

markets, Charlotte, N.C.; New Orleans, and Jacksonville, Fla.

Getting in on Act III

ABRY Communications (five TV's), which recently purchased Norman Lear's 35% interest in Act III (eight TV's) for roughly \$35 million, has concluded negotiations with institutional shareholders over remaining 65% of company. Prudential Insurance, largest institutional shareholder, and others are said to be selling some shares and waving tag-a-long rights (right to sell shares at same price offered Lear) on remaining shares. Closing of deal is not expected for another six months.

LOS ANGELES

Racking 'em up

Castle Rock's *Seinfeld*, starring comedian Jerry Seinfeld, has received its back-nine episode order from NBC bringing the season total to 22. More importantly for Castle Rock, latest order brings to 40 total number of episodes produced of show, nearly half-way point to syndication magic number. Other recent additional orders include Lorimar's *Best of the Worst*, which airs on Fox, and CBS Entertainment Production's *P.S. I Luv U*, which airs on CBS. *Best of the Worst's* order for

seven more episodes brings its total to 12 for season, and *P.S. I Luv U's* latest order for nine brings its season total to 22.

Piece of the action

KRON-TV San Francisco and KCAL(TV) Los Angeles want piece of 24-hour California cable news channel likely to launch next year. Although Cox Enterprises and Hearst Corp. continue stalemate over opposing plans to create service (and cable operators continue efforts to bring two sides together), broadcasters, which are being offered equity, are already showing interest. Walt Disney Co.'s KCAL "would like to make a contribution of our newsgathering abilities," to entity that ends up launching, according to Disney Channel President John Cooke, who is representing KCAL in talks. Chronicle Broadcasting's KRON-TV also would like to get involved, but most likely will get to do so only if Cox is out of picture, since it owns KTVU(TV), Fox affiliate in San Francisco.

Grim reality

Police and law enforcement formats, currently settings of choice for nearly all reality series on television, will be joined by latest reality entre, *Bellevue Emergency*, filmed almost entirely at