

Senator Fritz Hollings (D-S.C.) has introduced a bill—the Children's Protection from Violence Act of 1995—to ban violent TV programs when children are "reasonably likely" to make up a "substantial part of the audience." The odds of the legislation's passage in the Republican-dominated Congress are not good.

Most veteran syndicated series took steep ratings dives in the first full week of the February sweeps, likely the victims of viewer migration to cable coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial. Shows including King World's *Wheel of Fortune*, *Jeopardy!*, *Inside Edition*, *American Journal* and *Oprah Winfrey*; Paramount Domestic Television's *Entertainment Tonight* and *Hard Copy*; Twentieth Television's *A Current Affair*, and Multimedia's *Donahue* and *Sally Jessy Raphael* all fell more than 15% Feb. 6-12 from the comparable week last year, according to figures from Nielsen Media Research's weekly syndication rankings report. Exceptions were Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution's *Jenny Jones* and Columbia TriStar Television Distribution's *Ricki Lake*, which grew dramatically from a year ago, allowing them to register more than 40% growth over last year, and Multimedia's *Jerry Springer*, which grew 22%.

The WB Network has signed wciutv Chicago to carry its Kids' WB children's programming block. Debuting this fall, the block initially will consist of a three-hour Saturday and one-hour weekday block. wciutv-TV, which converted from Spanish- to English-language format in January, can run the weekend kids block on either weekend day and can run the weekday hour either mornings or afternoons. The station also has agreed to carry any programming that

FCC asks SF for more details on foreign investors, Fox link

The FCC wants more information about SF Broadcasting's relationship to its corporate parents, Savoy Pictures and Fox.

In a letter delivered to SF's lawyers last week, the FCC said it needed to know more about foreign investment in Savoy Pictures. The agency also wanted details about Fox's role in the appointment of SF's board of directors.

SF Broadcasting has agreements to buy four Burnham Broadcasting stations for \$267 million. The NAACP and NBC have opposed the transfers, alleging that Fox is using SF to evade the FCC's 12-station ownership limit. NBC announced recently that it would withdraw its opposition to Fox (see story, page 60).

SF's opponents have claimed that Savoy and Fox are not qualified to own stations because they each allegedly have foreign investors in excess of 25%. Fox is under investigation for allegedly violating the foreign ownership cap.

Savoy Pictures claims aliens own just over 23.8% of the company. But the FCC wants to know how Savoy calculated that number. "Explain whether that figure represents all of the equity held by aliens. If not, please provide the correct percentage," wrote Barbara Kreisman, chief of the commission's video services division. Kreisman also said the FCC would "not take a position" on Fox's foreign ownership, since it already is under investigation.—CSS

CBS Radio renews NFL contract

CBS Radio Sports has signed an exclusive four-year contract for broadcast rights to National Football League games beginning with the 1995st season. CBS Radio has held the broadcast rights to NFL regular and post-season games since 1978, with the exception of the 1985 and 1986 seasons, when NBC Radio held the rights.

In CBS's prior five-year contract with the NFL, signed in 1990, the network paid \$7 million annually for the rights. While not disclosing the terms of the latest contract, CBS officials said the new deal was "in keeping with" the terms of the 1990 contract.

The new contract provides CBS with a 53-game package of 41 regular season and 12 post-season games, including the Super Bowl. In addition, CBS Radio's Hispanic network, known as CBS Americas, will provide Spanish-language coverage to five post-season games, ending with the Super Bowl.—DP

the main WB affiliate in the market, Tribune's WGN-TV, cannot carry due to sports and other commitments, says Neal Sabin, wciutv-TV's GM.

Fox will debut *Sliders* at 9 p.m. Wednesday on March 29. On March 22, the network will premiere the show

as a two-hour special at 8 p.m. The show, from St. Clare Entertainment and MCA Television Limited, stars Jerry O'Connell, John Rhys-Davies, Cleavant Derricks and Sabrina Lloyd.

The WB Network has set its Saturday morning lineup with the

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