mutual understanding of the positions and problems of the two groups.

BMI contends it had never raised its radio rates but must do so now because stations are using its music more than ever and thus contributing, since BMI royalty payments to writers and authors are based on the number of times their music is played, to a deficit in BMI operations.

The committee says it is not convinced an increase is justified. In addition, it is engaged in a lawsuit seeking a reduction in radio-station payments from BMI's competitor, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Some committee members fear that sanctioning an increase in BMI fees would prejudice their efforts to reduce ASCAP's.

Movie-TV complex planned for New York

Madison Square Garden Corp. has outlined plans for a $50-million "Cinema Center" in New York City that would contain an integrated film workshop for production of all types of TV and motion picture films. Irving M. Felt, president, last week said construction of the three-part building on a 160,000-square-foot site would begin late in 1967 for completion in 1970. Its seven-story middle section, measuring 360 by 200 feet, would be characterized by an 80-foot-long glass-enclosed "galleria" across the center.

He indicated the inside would offer three studios with 100 by 80 by 25-foot stages for filming, tapping and recording material for television series and spectaculars, feature pictures for motion picture theater showing and for television, television commercials, as well as industrial and educational films.

The next level up would house four movie theaters, each with 750 seats, and above that would be two 1,500-seat legitimate theaters. Twin 39-story office towers would flank either side of the middle section.

The project, replacing the 41-year-old Madison Square Garden sports arena now located at the proposed site, would coincide with the opening of MSG's $116-million sports and entertainment center at Pennsylvania Station. Control of the film activity would be maintained by another MSG affiliate, still to be organized. There are three such groups now associated with MSG events: MSG-ABC Productions Inc., MSG-RKO General Sports Presentations Inc. and MSG Attractions Inc. (Broadcasting, Feb. 14).

Outlook good for uniform time bill

The House Commerce Committee has reported favorably on a bill to establish uniform dates for the start and end of daylight savings time, which, if adopted, would eliminate some of the problems of television program scheduling.

The bill, HR-6785 (amended), advocates a much stronger policy on the time situation than does its Senate-passed counterpart, S-1404.

The bill provides that the starting time for DST, with no exceptions, would be the last Sunday in April and that the change back to standard time would be made on the last Sunday in October.

However, if a state does not wish to adopt the DST period, it can pass a bill in its state legislature that will provide for year-round standard time, again, with no local exceptions.

States now adopt their own individual dates for DST. Also, many local communities within these states either change over on their own selected date or completely refuse to change to DST at all.

Not only would the bill allow no local exceptions to the state-passed law regarding DST or standard time, but it also specifies that all the states that do not wish to convert to DST must pass a law to that effect not later than 1967.

Commerce Committee spokesmen said that although the bill will face the usual questions on state's rights, it should stand a good chance of passage once it reaches the floor of the House.

The measure was introduced by Harley O. Staggers (D-W. Va.), chairman of the Commerce Committee.

It is expected that the bill will reach the floor this week provided that Representative Staggers is able to get a ruling from the House Rules Committee.

Selznick negatives sold to ABC-TV

Chalk up 26 more movies to television's continuing demand. The features, produced by the late David O. Selznick, are going to ABC-TV. They are past releases, not first-run. They were sold to the network by The Selznick Co. for an undisclosed sum, which, it was indicated ran into multi-million dollar figures.

The deal calls for outright sale of negatives to the features in perpetuity. The Selznick Co., though, retains interest in 100 episodes of TV's The Farmer's Daughter series and also continues to hold title to all unproduced scripts, stories and treatments developed under direction of Mr. Selznick before his death last year.

Among the more prominent titles in the package bought by ABC-TV are "Notorious," starring Ingrid Bergman and Cary Grant; "Rebecca," with Laurence Olivier and Judy Garland's "A Star Is Born." With such powerful box office draws to offer, it's rumored that ABC-TV may now add another prime-time feature film program to its 1966-67 schedule to go along with its already established Sunday Night Movies. NBC-TV and CBS-TV both are prepared to program two nights of movies next season.


Also sold were: "The Wild Heart," "Paradise Case," "Portrait of Jennie," "Made for Each Other," "Young at Heart" and "Spellbound."