Don Lee Sale
(Continued from page 21)
for filing this week or next.
In Los Angeles, President H.
Leslie Hoffman of Hoffman Radio &
Television Corp., which with a
group of associates had bid $111,-
200,000 for the Don Lee properties,
issued a statement last week con-
gratulating the Hoffman company,
and expressing hope that the Don Lee
network would be kept intact.
He also made clear that his company
is not abandoning hope of identifying itself with ownership of a regional network.
General Tire's $12,320,000 bid
came as a surprise to the Hoffman
group, whose offer had been ten-
ticed by the FCC as representing the
Lee estate—subject to court approval—in preference to the earlier bid of $10,525,000 by
General Tire [BROADCASTING, Oct.
9, 1968].
The revised bid—10% higher than
the Hoffman group's, as required
by law—was made and accepted
in Los Angeles Superior Court on
Oct. 29.
The Hoffman group could have
stayed in the running by bidding
$1 more than General Tire's new
offer, but decided against it.
Consultant for the Hoffman
firm asked, however, that acceptance
of General Tire's bid be subject to
the condition that, if FCC should fail
to approve the transfer, then Hoff-
man's $11,200,000 bid stand
subject, again to a higher bid and
FCC approval.
The Hoffman group included the
Hoffman company, Industrialist
Edwin W. Prange, Pullman &
Co., representing a group of Pacific
Coast bankers and businessmen,
and WOR New York.
'Fair Business Appraisal'
Mr. Hoffman said their original
bid was a "high evaluation," based
on a "fair business appraisal of
the property, taking into consider-
ating its net worth and earning
power."
The Hoffman bid, he said, "was
$1 million more than net worth of
the Lee estate. It was based on
the sound business judgment of the
value of the property and never
was intended as the premise or
beginning point for auction bid-
ing of open court," he said. "Ob-
viously, the purchaser's need for
the property was greater than ours
and the higher bid was made ac-
cordingly."
Mr. Hoffman reiterated that he
felt "the business philosophy . . .
the common interest between a
great radio and television manu-
f acturing concern and a great
radio and television network,
. . . which prompted our original
bid, is still basically sound. It is
my hope that in the future the
Hoffman company will still find
a way to bring this about."
Announcing the Los Angeles
Times' intention to acquire com-
trol of KTTV when CBS disposes of its interest, Presi-
dent Norman Chandler expressed
regret at dissolution of the asso-
ciation with CBS but said KTTV
would "go forward to become the
finest independent television sta-
tion in the country."
Leaves CBS Dec. 31
Mr. Chandler said KTTV's affil-
iation with CBS will continue
through Dec. 31 and probably sev-
eral months afterward. He said:
The network's personnel has been
most cooperative to work with and
I am sorry we will be disassociated as
result of CBS' purchase of another
television station. However, I am con-
fident that KTTV, with its splendid
facilities and availability of great
Hollywood talent, will become the
nation's finest independent television
station. It is in a position to create
and purchase the best in entertain-
ment and educational programs
and access to The Times' unsurpassed
facilities for gathering and present-
ing the news.
KOWL ACTION
Cuts Rev. Russell's Shot
REV. CLAYTON RUSSELL, min-
ister of People's Independent
Church, Los Angeles, who has been conducting a weekly half-
hour religious commentary pro-
gram, News and Comments by Rev.
Clayton Russell, on KOWL Santa
Monica, has been taken off the sta-
tion because of the Civil Defense
Commission's complaint that
because of alleged "association with
Red front organizations."
Mr. Croghan notified Rev. Rus-
sell of the action Oct. 18. He
stated the pastor was listed in Myron C. Fagan's book, Red Stars
in Hollywood, which claims to ex-
pose Red activities in the movie
industry, and that a check with
state, county and federal author-
ties showed the minister was as-
sociated with what were termed
"Red front organizations."
Mr. Croghan said, however, that
during the 15 months the program
was on the air, he heard nothing
that could be termed Communist
or subversive. The program, which
had been on KFOX Long Beach
for 12 years prior to going on
KOWL, consisted of religious com-
mentary, music and occasional
guests.
Rev. Russell, denied that he is
a Communist or Red sympathizer.
FREQUENCY NEEDS
May Switch Amateur Bands
REASSIGNMENT of some ama-
teur radio frequencies for use by
the military and in particular for
utilization by the proposed Civil
Defense Administration was
weighed last week by Pentagon
officials and a communications offi-
cer of the National Security Re-
sources Board's Civil Defense
Office.
A meeting was set regarding the
problem of what frequencies should be assigned to the military, in view of growing
defense needs, and what role the
civil defense agency will play in
the communications picture.
The NSRB office, which President
Truman will set up as an independ-
ent agency by executive order, is
attempting to obtain some fre-
frequencies in the amateur radio band
as well as of the spectrum space
provided in FCC's proposed
1750-1800 kc disaster network
covering intrastate emergency
needs.
FCC had originally set a deadline
of Sept. 15, later extended to Oct.
15, for comments on its disaster
communications system. Robert
Burton, NSRB civil defense com-
munications officer, filed a list of
probable national needs with the
Commission. Mr. Burton has held
a number of discussions with Pen-
tagon planners.
Meanwhile, the civil defense office
is preparing a communications
manuscript, scheduled to be released
late next month, for guidance of
state and city defense directors. It
will contain data on use of fre-

quencies, steps in obtaining them,
civil defense organization, person-
nel needs, and other material, and
is patterned after the guide issued
by the Office of Civil Defense
during World War II.
Manual will be issued as a fol-
low-up to the President's plan for
United States Civil Defense which
described communications as the
"nerve center of civil defense" op-
eration and sets forth its functions
in the event of a national emer-
25].
President Truman is expected
shortly to create a Civil Defense
Administration on a par with other
government departments and agen-
cies. For the present, it is pointed
out, the civil defense office func-
tions as an operational agency
within the NSRB, which is merely
a planning body. The Chief Ex-
ecutive has not indicated who
would head the new agency.
Skeleton Force at Outset
It was believed that it would
operate with a mere skeleton force
at the outset, having as its nucleus
present civil defense personnel and
facilities. As head of its communi-
cations, Mr. Burton would work
with FCC, the military, and
NSRB's Leighton Peebles, who
would staff of himself communica-
tions, with special emphasis on
manpower and equipment prob-
lems.
It also was revealed that the
District of Columbia had applied
to the FCC for a construction per-
mits involving use of three frequen-
cies for special emergency use.
Simultaneously, FCC and District
officials disclaimed reports that the
district's CD planning was being
hampered while FCC "dallied"
over the disaster system proposal.
FCC's proposed disaster superin-
tendent of communications for the
District of Columbia, stressed that
the local CD office is seeking emergency, not disaster or other band space,
which he said is "a short story." He
will purchase transmitters once
FCC has approved the request for
CP. The office is seeking space in
the 40-50 mc band.
FCC issued its proposed disaster
service rules last August following
hearings earlier this summer.
Broadcast stations already licensed
by the Commission, as well as
others, would be eligible. They
would be expected to organize vol-
untarily into area net wor k s [BROADCASTING, Oct. 9, 17].
Mr. Friede said he was preparing
a communications blueprint
— for the District—which he will
submit for recommendations to
radio representatives and local
radio representatives of local stations
and to the District commissioners.
The D. C. civil defense office is
operating with a budget of $150,-
000, which includes manpower
of people, including one radio tech-
nician. Six transmitters—two of
them to be located at command
centers — also will be purchased from
that fund.

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