

closed circuit.

IN THE MARKET? • Is J. H. Whitney & Co. about to purchase another important radio-tv property, this time in Midwest? That report was neither denied nor fully confirmed last week but it was ascertained that Whitney & Co., which now owns ch. 6 KOTV (TV) Tulsa, and acquired ch. 11 KGUL-TV Galveston-Houston in past fortnight, had made oral offer (\$10 million was mentioned) for CBS am-tv combination in major market, along with companion am and uhf-tv outlet in smaller market under same ownership.

B•T

CONSTANTLY recurring reports on Madison Ave. of imminent sale of ch. 9 KWTV (TV) Oklahoma City (CBS) resulted in statement by its board of directors that it had "refused to consider an unsolicited offer in excess of \$6 million" for station and that station "had not been offered for sale and rumors to the contrary have no basis in fact."

B•T

MEN OVER MACHINES • Like New York Stock Exchange ticker-tapes, FCC's mimeographing machines fell behind last week, unable to cope with crush of precess actions of Wednesday and Thursday. Result: About two dozen actions, mainly broadcast, won't see official light of day until this week. Among these: Award by 6-0 vote of ch. 3 in Hartford to Travelers' (WTIC, et al) over Hartford Telecasting (see page 52).

B•T

HELD UP for another reason at FCC last week was official notice of 4-3 decision approving \$850,000 transfer of WQAM Miami from Miami Herald to Todd Storz' Mid-Continent. Delay was occasioned by request of Comr. John F. Doefer for time to write dissent in favor of hearing on program grounds, involving giveaways and contests. Hearing would have meant denial since purchase contract expires Aug. 15. Consistent with FCC procedure, announcement of decision has been held up until Mr. Doefer's dissent is read. It is promised for this week, or next at latest (story page 31).

B•T

COMEBACK • Both radio and television broadcasters who had been singing blues about drop-off in national spot business few weeks ago now talk about sudden revival, beginning in latter July and for fall. There had been seasonal lull in some areas since mid-June. Hot buying months are ahead—August and September. Station representatives and exploitation groups (RAB, TvB, SRA) acknowledged that some stations may have been hit in past few weeks but that there hasn't been general downward movement.

B•T

FRED WEBER, former general manager of Mutual and more recently operating

head of WHTN-AM-TV Huntington, W. Va. (transfer to Cowles awaiting FCC approval), has rejoined Friendly Stations in consulting capacity and will operate out of Steubenville, Ohio (WSTV-AM-TV), headquarters. Mr. Weber left Friendly two years ago as manager of WFPG-AM-TV Atlantic City to take on Huntington assignment.

B•T

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD • At least two resignations from FCC may have been averted by action of Senate last Friday in approving executive pay-raise bill, which includes boost for FCC members from \$15,000 to \$20,000 (chairman \$20,500). Measure has passed House, with settlement of differences between two bodies indicated, and presidential signature final act. It's open secret that Comrs. John F. Doerfer and Robert E. Lee have talked about returning to private life if raise had not been forthcoming, and that two others were seriously pondering same decision.

B•T

WITH WINDUP of Senate Commerce Committee hearings on television matters (except for possible reopening to go into political telecasts), Kenneth Cox, special counsel, plans to return to law practice in Seattle. He'll still be attached to committee staff, however, tying up loose ends, and available for special assignments.

B•I

NBC GOES CALLING • One important stop in NBC's four-market quest for new radio affiliates to replace defecting Westinghouse stations (see story page 42) is WHK Cleveland, long-time affiliate and minority stockholder of Mutual. Though discussions have been held, nothing had been set late Friday. In countermove, Mutual's station relations vice president Bob Carpenter has scheduled early visit to restress Mutual's case with 5 kw WHK (1420 kc). Because Westinghouse stations are clear channel outlets, NBC probably will fill in coverage with additional stations to "ring" areas now served, and expects to have everything set by Aug. 26 deadline.

B•T

CUBAN INTERESTS headed by George E. Quigley, former New York-Hollywood film executive, have gathered about \$4 million kitty to lure tv film producers there for fresh locales and to pep up Havana tv film business, including that of Mr. Quigley's Cuban Colorfilm Corp., which is offering studio-processing facilities in color and monochrome. Group will go 60-65% in financing series. Hollywood attorney Morton E. Feiler is representing on West Coast with New York office scheduled soon.

B•T

UNDER FIRE • Political fur is expected to fly at Senate Permanent Investigating Subcommittee inquiry into affairs of Mur-

ray M. Chotiner, vice president Nixon's former campaign manager, which involve purported exertion of influence in tv areas. Subcommittee last Friday voted strictly along party lines to hold public hearings. Meanwhile, Committee staff had been pursuing its study of tv cases in which Mr. Chotiner may have been involved. Only case so far mentioned is ch. 12 in Fresno, which went to KFRE over KARM, but which is now proposed by FCC for deintermixture.

B•T

APPOINTMENT of Robert F. Hurleigh as general manager of WGMS Washington expected this week. RKO Teleradio Pictures Inc., owns station. Mr. Hurleigh will continue his duties as director of Washington operations for Mutual and as conductor of early morning news program over network.

B•T

ON THE MOVE • Samuel Thurm, associate media director, Young & Rubicam, New York, resigning to join Lever Bros.' advertising department in near future. His replacement at Y&R has not been named.

B•T

AUTOMATIC radio programming system developments (such as "Autostation" revealed by Gates Radio Co., story page 71) may prove boon to transcription services. Standard Radio, Chicago, for example, has already produced several 45 rpm libraries for Seeburg Corp. to be prepared to supply station market, if it should develop large-scale, with more than 1,500 selections recorded. Seeburg record-changer is incorporated in new Gates system.

B•T

SITUATION NORMAL • Foul-up in West Coast processing plant almost spoiled plans of Federal Civil Defense Adm. to supply stations in Conelrad clusters with standard recorded announcements for use during Friday afternoon's broadcast blackout. Material was supplied to recording laboratory in plenty of time but accident to master upset schedule. Many stations barely got recordings in time for defense test. In another snafu, ABC and MBS affiliates on coast refused to carry national broadcast during Conelrad period. They were set up to program locally, and received notice of national broadcast only hours before alert.

B•T

STAFFERS at Democratic National Committee headquarters in Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel are relieved that local promoter has agreed to postpone his International Amphitheatre wrestling card for Aug. 3. Delay will enable workman crews to install necessary equipment in time for Democratic nominating convention.