

closed circuit

CBS NOW IN ACT • Philadelphia federal grand jury investigation of NBC-Westinghouse swap of Philadelphia-Cleveland stations now has been extended to CBS. Company records and memoranda bearing on Westinghouse-NBC, it's understood, have been subpoenaed by grand jury, which previously had examined top executives of both NBC and Westinghouse. It's presumed that data sought covers not only affiliation matters but also Westinghouse sponsorships on CBS networks.

B•T

NARTB this week is mailing to its "opinion leader" list new brochure titled "Americans Speak Out for Free Tv." It quotes independent surveys, newspaper polls and letters to FCC as overwhelming vote of confidence for present system of free broadcasting as against pay television. "Opinion leader" list includes members of Congress, governors, college presidents, school superintendents and others in upper strata, to extent of about 3,000 names.

B•T

MONEY IN THE POT • Still cooking on front burner is \$10 million dollar offer of J. H. Whitney & Co. for Midwest radio-tv properties (one vhf tv and one am in major market, plus one uhf tv and 250-watter in secondary) with likelihood that it will go one way or other this week [CLOSED CIRCUIT, July 23]. Stations' identities not revealed by B•T in event principals decide not to sell. Acquisitions would give Whitney company (Jock is brother-in-law of CBS Chairman William S. Paley) its third and fourth CBS-TV affiliates. Whitney now owns ch. 6 KOTV (TV) Tulsa and controls ch. 11 KGUL-TV Galveston-Houston.

B•T

FRANK P. SCHREIBER, former vice president and general manager of WGN-AM-TV Chicago, is functioning in executive capacity these days at Chicago Local 1031 of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He's assistant to President Frank Darling, with whom he's enjoyed close personal friendship for years. It seems better than even bet, however, he will return eventually to radio-tv.

B•T

INTERESTING QUESTION • There will be surprise in "dissenting" opinion of FCC Comr. John C. Doerfer on transfer of Miami's WQAM from *Miami Herald* to Todd Storz' Mid-Continent for \$850,000—approved by FCC at its final pre-recess meeting July 26—official announcement of which is being withheld until Doerfer opinion is ready. Mr. Doerfer, instead of chastising Mr. Storz' giveaway contest operations, will pose question whether FCC shall regulate "by lifted eyebrow" or whether it should frankly admit to Congress and to broadcasters that it has no power to involve itself in programming.

FORMER FCC Comr. Frieda B. Hen-nock, who entered private law practice in Washington upon expiration of her term year ago, on Aug. 1 leaves law firm of Davies, Richberg, Tydings, Beebe & Landa. It is understood she plans to open her own law office, specializing in communications and administrative matters.

B•T

SUGG'S SOJOURNS • With approval by FCC fortnight ago of \$3.5 million sale of ch. 13 WTVT (TV) by Tampa Television Co. to WKY Radiophone Inc. (Oklahoma Publishing Co. subsidiary, which also owns WKY-AM-TV Oklahoma City and WSFA-AM-TV Montgomery, Ala.), P. A. (Buddy) Sugg, executive vice president and general manager of OPC's broadcast properties, personally will manage Tampa facilities, spending three weeks each month there. Eugene B. Dodson, now assistant manager of WKY-AM-TV, becomes resident manager of those stations upon formal transfer.

B•T

WHATEVER happened to Dr. Edward Bowles, MIT professor, and his ad hoc committee of engineers? They're not in limbo, although news of activities has been mighty slim in recent months. Report to Senate Commerce Committee has been drafted by subcommittee under Ralph Harmon, Westinghouse Broadcasting Co. This draft was submitted to Dr. Bowles, who hopes to get full committee to okay it so it can be submitted to Senate by mid-September. Proposal is, unless changed by full committee, for major Congressional appropriation so FCC can farm out research contracts among universities and laboratories to make independent audit of spectrum from technological as well as economic and social viewpoint.

B•T

BRANCH OFFICE: SEATTLE • Kenneth Cox, special counsel of Senate Commerce Committee on its tv investigation, returned last week to his home in Seattle to resume his regular law practice, but he also will establish committee branch office there to handle assignments from Chairman Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) and to complete editing of transcript and preparation of final draft report. There are still some 4,000 pages to be digested.

B•T

BEFORE embarking for Seattle, Counsel Cox and Nicholas Zapple, communications expert of committee, spent couple of days in New York checking on "talent end" of network-syndication operations in tv. That phase was launched early this year, and then dropped to give full attention to allocation (vhf-uhf) controversy. It's logically presumed that at new Congress next January, talent aspects will figure prominently, notably in connection with exclusive arrangements by networks, and activi-

ties of talent booking agencies like MCA and Wm. Morris organization.

B•T

MATERIALIZING • Shuffling of NBC-TV's fall nighttime program plans still in process but probable outcome is beginning to take form. It's all still unofficial but Goodyear and Alcoa reportedly have now agreed to cut their alternate sponsorship of Sunday 9-10 p.m. period from 26 to 20 apiece, with 10 of remaining 12 being filled by *Bob Hope Chevy Show* on monthly basis and other two to be filled by "one-shots." Dinah Shore, who had been slated to share Tuesday nights with Hope under Chevrolet sponsorship, seems headed for Friday 9-10 period once a month, while Tuesday 8-9 time is apt to be filled by half-hour shows three nights out of four. Hallmark's six Maurice Evans productions seem destined to move from Sunday afternoon to Sunday evening time, some at 7:30-9 p.m. and others at 9-10:30.

B•T

NEGOTIATIONS are underway for sale of ch. 5 WJNO-TV West Palm Beach (NBC and CBS affiliations) by Theodore Granik-William H. Cook and WJNO that city, to John H. Phipps, owner of WCTV (TV) Thomasville, Ga., WTAL Tallahassee and WTYS Marianna, both Fla., for sum in excess of \$750,000. Sales agreement may be signed this week.

B•T

BIG 10 PLANS • Big 10 is on the threshold of precedent-departing deals involving its live basketball and filmed football packages. On former, innovation in network tv is involved with proposed formation of independent network comprising 30-plus tv stations in conference's seven state area. Newly-formed Sports Network Inc., New York, which has been serving as sort of cable broker with AT&T, is handling deal now and obtaining station clearances. Plan is to sell 13-game series (starting Dec. 15) to one national advertiser or two co-sponsors. If that fails to materialize, co-op arrangement among stations is seen possible by Big 10.

B•T

RE BIG 10 football: Conference, which has been faced with stops and starts on its fall filmed football highlights package, has finally decided on syndication, now that ABC and one other party have dropped option. Arrangement has been approved by Big 10 Tv Committee and officials and is now in selling stage.

B•T

ONLY BEGINNING • Any notion that Celler monopoly subcommittee has let down on its investigation of business of television broadcasting and regulation can be written off. Attorneys and investigators of committee last week resumed their examination of files of networks, advertising agencies and talent offices in New York.