

MORE DEINTERMIXTURE CLEARED

THE FCC last week cleared up the remaining five of its original 14 deintermixture proposals—and went one step further.

Announcing orders to the staff, the Commission instructed papers to be drawn to accomplish the following:

- Add ch. 6 to Miami, Fla.
- Add ch. 4 to Charleston, S. C.
- Add ch. 13 to Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News, Va.
- Add ch. 10 to Duluth, Minn.-Superior, Wis.

A proposal to add ch. 5 to Columbia, S. C., will be denied, the Commission reported.

In New Haven, the FCC proposed to move ch. 8 out of that city, where it is now occupied by WNHC-TV to the Providence, R. I.-Fall River-New Bedford, Mass., area. In exchange, the Commission proposed to move ch. 6 from New Bedford, Mass., to New Haven for WNHC-TV.

Ch. 6 was allocated to New Bedford last year. Before that it was assigned to WNHC-TV in New Haven, but ch. 8 was substituted in 1952 when the Commission issued its Sixth Report and Order lifting the freeze on tv applications.

WNHC-TV is owned by the Radio-Television Div. of Triangle Publications Inc. (*Philadelphia Inquirer-WFIL*), which bought the ABC affiliated outlet and its am and fm adjuncts last year for \$5.4 million.

The proposal to switch channels in New Haven was affirmed by all commissioners except Comr. Robert E. Lee, who dissented. Comr. John C. Doerfer abstained.

The Commission's announcement pointed out that transmitters for ch. 8 in Providence and for ch. 6 in New Haven would have to be sited carefully in order to meet mileage

separations.

In New Haven this means, it was understood, that WNHC-TV would have to move its transmitter northward toward Hartford in order to meet the 170-mile separation between it and ch. 6 WFIL-TV Philadelphia (also owned by Triangle Publications).

Commenting on the proposals, Roger W. Clipp, Triangle vice president-general manager for broadcasting, said last week: "Our engineers are studying the proposal. If it is practicable and feasible and can provide additional service to the people of Connecticut and Rhode Island, Triangle will not object despite the additional costs which are apparent."

The cost of moving WNHC-TV's transmitter, building a new tower and buying a new transmitter and antenna to operate on ch. 6 has been estimated as high as \$250,000. It was noted that the move of ch. 6 to New Haven was predicated on the move of that same frequency from Schenectady, N. Y., to Syracuse, N. Y., as ordered by the Commission earlier this month [B•T, March 4].

Comments on the New Haven proposal were requested by April 29.

The addition of ch. 6 to Miami will give that city its fourth commercial tv channel. Miami now has the following stations operating: Educational WTHS (TV), ch. *2; WCKT (TV), ch. 7; WTVJ (TV), ch. 4; WITV (TV), ch. 17; WGSB-TV, ch. 23. There are also two grantees: WPST-TV, ch. 10, and WMFL (TV), ch. 33.

A third commercial vhf channel assigned to Charleston leaves the new v, an educational v and commercial u open for applications. Operating in Charleston are WUSN-TV, ch. 2, and WCSC-TV, ch. 5.

Norfolk will be getting its third vhf assignment. Already operating are WTAR-TV,

ch. 3; WVEC-TV, ch. 15 and WTOV (TV), ch. 27. WAVY-TV ch. 10, is about to go on the air. Educational ch. 21 and commercial ch. 33 are allocated, but not granted. Substitution of ch. 12 for ch. 13 at New Bern will mean that cp-holder WBNE-TV New Bern will move from ch. 13 to ch. 12.

Assignment of an extra vhf to Duluth-Superior will give that city its third commercial vhf. Now operating are KDAL-TV, ch. 3, and WDSM-TV, ch. 6. WFTV (TV) holds a permit for ch. 38. Still available are educational ch. *8 and commercial ch. 32.

The proposal to add ch. 5 to Columbia, S. C., in addition to its present ch. 10 (on which WIS-TV is now operating) was made by ch. 67 WNOK-TV that city. Also available are chs. 19 and 25.

Earlier this month the FCC acted on deintermixture proposals in 10 cities, resulting in the proposed removal of the single vhf channel in Springfield and Peoria, Ill.; Elmira, N. Y.; Fresno, Calif., and Evansville, Ind.; two vhf frequencies from the Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N. Y., area. It also added additional vhf channels to New Orleans, Houma, Lake Charles-Lafayette, La., and Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tex., subject to further proceedings.

The vhf channels deleted from the deintegrated cities were assigned to St. Louis. Davenport-Rock Island-Moline, Santa Barbara, Terre Haute, and Syracuse.

KTVI (TV) Readies to Shift From U to V in St. Louis

AMIDST protests against its planned ch. 2 operation, KTVI (TV) St. Louis went dark on ch. 36 last Wednesday midnight in preparation to begin operations on the vhf channel April 15, authorized by the FCC in its deintermixture rulemaking [B•T, March 4].

Filed last week with the Commission were petitions by Louisiana Purchase Co.

CASES LEFT IN THE 'MILL'

THE FCC has wiped the slate clean on pending deintermixture proposals—but still awaiting action are almost 30 moves to add or subtract vhf channels.

Deintermixture still pending involve these cities:

Ft. Smith, Ark.—Move ch. 5 from Ft. Smith to Fayetteville, Ark., making Ft. Smith all uhf. KNAC-TV is operating on ch. 5.

Raleigh, N. C.—Move ch. 5 from Raleigh to Rocky Mount, N. C., making Raleigh all uhf. WRAL-TV is operating on ch. 5.

Corpus Christi, Tex.—Add ch. 3 to Corpus Christi from Nuevo Laredo; move ch. 13 to Nuevo Laredo from Laredo; or delete chs. 6 or 10 from Corpus Christi or reserve chs. 6 or 10 for education; or add ch. 2 to Corpus Christi, making Corpus Christi all vhf or all uhf. KRIS-TV operates on ch. 6 and KSIX-TV on ch. 10 in Corpus Christi.

Jacksonville, Fla.—Change educational reservation from ch. 7 to uhf, or delete

ch. 12 and add uhf, making city predominantly vhf or uhf.

Erie, Pa.—Move ch. 12 to Cleveland, Ohio, to make Erie all uhf. WICU (TV) operates on ch. 12.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Add ch. 7 to Knoxville from Spartanburg, S. C., to make Knoxville all vhf; Spartanburg all uhf. Also move ch. 7 to Columbia, S. C., and Augusta, Ga.

Sacramento, Calif.—Add ch. 12 to Sacramento from Chico; add ch. 11 to Chico from Yreka; add ch. 8 to Yreka. KHSL-TV Chico operates on ch. 12.

San Francisco, Calif.—Add ch. 13 to San Francisco from Stockton; add ch. 6 to Stockton; remove educational reservation on ch. 6 in Sacramento.

Flint, Mich.—Move ch. 12 from Flint to Ann Arbor, Mich. WJRT (TV) holds a grant for ch. 12 Flint.

Charlotte, N. C.—Delete ch. 9 from Charlotte, to make city predominantly uhf.

Gulfport, Miss.—Change educational

reservation from ch. 44 to ch. 13 to make city all commercial uhf.

Columbus, Ga.—Move ch. 4 from Columbus to Panama City, Fla., or to Dothan, Ala., to make city all uhf. WRBL-TV Columbus operates on ch. 4.

Those are the deintermixture petitions. The Commission also has these drop-in petitions to handle:

Carter, Ill., add ch. 13; Harrisburg, Ill., add chs. 3 or 8; Carbondale, Ill., add ch. 3; Clearfield, Pa., add ch. 3; Lamar, Colo., add ch. 12; Moultrie, Ga., add ch. 8; North Platte, Neb., move ch. 9 from Hay Springs, Neb., and add ch. 4 to Hay Springs; Bunnell or New Port Richey, Fla., add ch. 10; St. Joseph, Tenn., add ch. 11 (from Lexington, Tenn.); Ainsworth, Neb., add ch. 3; Vancouver or Longview, Wash., add ch. 2; Presque Isle, Maine, add ch. 10; Farmington, N. M., add ch. 12; Thermopolis, Wyo., add ch. 3; Wausau, Wis., add ch. 9 from Iron Mountain, Mich., and add ch. 8 to Iron Mountain; Waycross, Ga., add ch. 6; Brookings, Ore., add ch. 6.