

director, WCCO Minneapolis, at the opening session of the convention, to be held at the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel. Mr. Bormann will emphasize the role of broadcast communications in "these years of crisis."

The Swezey-Rhyne debate may prove somewhat academic, depending on action taken by ABA's House of Delegates at its four-day Los Angeles meeting this week. A special ABA committee has recommended only superficial relief from the prohibition against broadcast or photographic coverage of courtroom trials or other proceedings. [CLOSED CIRCUIT, TRADE ASSNS., Aug. 11].

RTNDA President Jack Krueger, WTMJ-AM-TV Milwaukee, has commended the City Council of Scranton, Pa., for permitting radio-tv coverage of its weekly meetings, now regularly filmed and recorded for broadcast by WDAU-TV and its am affiliate, WGBI.

Mr. Krueger wrote Jerome Parker, council president, "You and your fellow council members can rightfully be proud of such leadership in this era of modern reporting. I'm sure such broadcasts will educate the Scranton people to this great public service."

The agenda of the RTNDA convention is near completion. Aside from Canon 35, the meeting will take on a political flavor with talks Oct. 16 by Meade Alcorn and Paul Butler, chairman of the Republican and Democratic National Committees, respectively, and an election coverage workshop on Oct. 18 [TRADE ASSNS., Aug. 11]. At the annual banquet Oct. 18 the RTNDA national awards will be announced.

Entries must be postmarked no later than Sept. 1 to be eligible, according to Prof. Baskett Mosse, Northwestern U. Medill School of Journalism and awards committee chairman.

### Georgia Group Convenes

Mary Jane Morris, FCC secretary, will address the summer meeting of Georgia Assn. of Broadcasters Tuesday (Aug. 26) at the GAB banquet. The association's meeting opened yesterday (Aug. 24) at the King & Prince Hotel, St. Simons Island. Second banquet speaker will be Joseph Fields, of WIRK W. Palm Beach, Fla. GAB sessions include election of officers, panel discussions and a talk by Vincent T. Wasilewski, NAB government relations manager.

### Sowell Heads NAB Am Committee

F. C. Sowell, WLAC Nashville, Tenn., was named chairman of the NAB Am Radio Committee by President Harold E. Fellows. Other members are: Gerald A. Bartell, Bartell Family Radio; Grover Cobb, KVBG Great Bend, Kan.; Mig Figi, WAUX Waukesha, Wis.; Harold R. Krelstein, Plough Stations; Richard H. Mason, WPTF Raleigh, N. C.; Vernon A. Nolte, WJBC Bloomington, Ill.; Jerome Sill, WFPG Atlantic City, N. J.; Todd Storz, Storz Stations; W. H. Summerville, WWL New Orleans; C. L. Thomas, KXOK St. Louis; Jack S. Younts, WEEB Southern Pines, N. C.; E. J. DeGray, ABC; Arthur Hull Hayes, CBS; Armand Hammer, MBS; P. A. Sugg, NBC.

## CANADA BILL SPLITS CBC CONTROL

- Government-sponsored plan moving through Commons
- Opening of major cities to tv competition provided

The long-awaited move to separate Canadian Broadcasting Corp. from its dual judge-and-jury control over the Dominion's radio and television service reached the legislative stage in Ottawa last week and now is moving through Parliament.

Revenue Minister Nowlan George introduced a bill in the House of Commons Aug. 19 which was given its first reading Aug. 21. It proposes a complete overhaul of Canadian regulation and is expected to bring major tv expansion in large markets.

This development came out of lengthy hearings that culminated in the spring of 1957 in a committee report calling for separation of government station-network operations and the regulatory functions of CBC. The hearings were conducted by the Royal Commission on Broadcasting, which held it unfair for the CBC to regulate its competition [INTERNATIONAL, April 8, 1, 1957].

As recommended by the commission, the bill calls for the divorcing of CBC from regulation, limiting it to operation of publicly owned stations and networks.

A new Board of Broadcast Governors is provided in the bill. This board would regulate all phases of private and CBC broadcasting; set regulations for advertising content, use of Canadian talent, program standards and political broadcasts; and require all stations to use network programs of public significance.

The board would have three fulltime members appointed by the government to seven-year terms and 12 parttime members appointed to five-year terms. No board member could have any connection with the broadcasting industry.

The CBC board would continue with a membership of 11, a fulltime president and vice president being appointed for seven years and nine members for three years, with reappointment permitted. Retirement at age 70 is specified.

While the end of the current session of Parliament is near, the legislation is believed to have a good chance of enactment since the Conservative party controls 200 of the 265 seats in the House of Commons. Government-sponsored bills move through the parliamentary process quickly as a rule. Final passage next month is predicted. Signature of the Governor General is described as practically automatic.

An important result of the new regulatory system would be the opening of six major cities to competitive television. At present the CBC has a tv monopoly in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, Vancouver and Winnipeg. Private broadcasters operate two score stations in other markets. They will be able to apply to the board for network permits.

The CBC would receive annual operating grants under the new plan. At present it has a \$61 million budget. Provision is made for advance planning on a five-year

basis. Both the CBC and governing boards would report annually to Parliament. The governing board would meet at least six times a year.

### ABROAD IN BRIEF

**MOB VIOLENCE:** Attacks on Radio Mundial and Radio Deportes, both Managua, Nicaragua, reportedly by followers of the country's President, Louis Somoza, have been condemned by Raul Fontaina, president, Inter-American Radio Assn., Montevideo, Uruguay. Manuel Arana Valle, manager of Radio Mundial, was seriously injured and both stations badly damaged in the attacks. They later were closed down by Nicaraguan government action. Mr. Fontaina demanded "restoration of freedom of expression," in Nicaragua. He asked for support from the Inter-American Press Assn.

**PARISIAN BLUE PENCIL:** The French National Assembly's radio and cinema committee has protested Information Minister Jacques Soustelle's "aggravation of the tendency for unilateral and partial information on radio-tv." The committee said, "Such a policy of directed information, if continued, risks discrediting the [government-operated] French radio-tv and depriving it of any audience."

**SWISS PUBLISHERS AG'IN IT:** Only 1,634 tv sets were sold in Switzerland during July. (Total registered receivers Aug. 1 were 42,793.) The slow rise in sets-in-use is attributed by observers to the absence of commercial tv. Swiss tv is financed with a monthly receiver tax and by voluntary contributions from publishers who maintain that advertising must be kept off tv.

**SPONSORS LOSE ONE:** Europe will lose a commercial tv station when Tele Monte Carlo, Monaco, starts carrying non-commercial programs from the official French Broadcasting Service. The outlet is being rented to the French for 20 years.

**RECEIVING END:** Northern West Germany's official broadcasting organization, North German Radio, received more than \$13 million from receiver taxes over the current fiscal year. Set owners paid 88% of the total. NGR puts approximately \$750,000 a year into local tv programming (excluding network production and technical facilities). The organization plans to add commercial segments in the near future.

**ARAB COVERAGE:** A radio outlet is under construction in Beirut, Lebanon, to cover the Near Eastern Arabian areas. The transmitter is about 25 miles from the city. A tv station also is planned, but no date has been announced for the start of construction. The radio work is being done by Siemens & Halske of West Germany.