

RADIO MUSIC LICENSE SIGNED

Compromise accord reached with ASCAP

Agreement between radio broadcasters and ASCAP on terms for new music licenses was reached Friday afternoon in chambers of Judge Sylvester J. Ryan of U.S. District Court for Southern District of New York. Matter had been in air since expiration of old licenses Dec. 31, 1958.

New formula calls for reduction in blanket commercial fee from 2.25% of net time sales to 2.125% of net times sales. Sustaining fee was changed as follows: for stations with annual net receipts between \$50,000 and \$150,000—from one-quarter hour rate to twice station's 1-minute rate; for stations with annual net receipts above \$150,000—from half-hour rate to 2½ times station's 1-minute rate.

Agreement calls for combined blanket sustaining commercial license and combined program sustaining commercial license, giving broadcaster choice of one or other. Terms of latter category were not announced. New licenses are for five years retroactive to Jan. 1, 1959.

Representing All-Industry Radio Music License Committee, negotiating for stations: Chairman Robert T. Mason, WMRN Marion, Ohio; George W. Armstrong, Storz Stations; Sherwood J. Tarlow, Tarlow Stations; Emanuel Dannett, counsel to committee, and William Golub, associate counsel.

For ASCAP: Judge Ferdinand Pecora, Herman Finkelstein, David Horowitz and Jules Collins.

Agreement would seem to represent compromise between ASCAP and industry positions. Mr. Mason had indicated stations would seek reduction in commercial fee (which they got) and elimination of sustaining fee (which they didn't). Rate issue had gone to court under provisions of 1950 ASCAP consent decree, which provides that if acceptable formula could not be reached within 60 days of expiration of old contracts, matter could be taken to court for settlement. ASCAP initiated move late in January.

Blackley, WTON Staunton; E. S. Whitlock, WRNL Richmond; C. T. Lucy, WRVA Richmond and Carl Lindberg, WPIK Alexandria (earlier story, page 60).

Sec. 315 bill hearing still drawing blood

Short but loud outburst between Lar (America First Daly and Sen. John Pastore (D-R.I.) and repeated clashes over how broad equal time amendments can get through Congress highlighted Friday (June 19) hearings by Senate Commerce Communications Subcommittee on Sec. 315 of Communications Act.

NBC Board Chairman Robert Sarnoff (see earlier story, page 50) and ABC Vice President John Daly both urged Congress to act immediately to repeal "the gag" on political news placed on broadcasters by the FCC-Lar Daly decision. Both said broader amendments to Sec. 315 were needed but industry could live with lesser relief in time for 1960 campaigns.

Sen. Pastore, chairman of subcommittee, maintained that this is all broadcasters can hope for from this session of Congress. Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.), author of S 1858, also granting broadcasters relief from libel and defining qualified candidates, questioned witnessess at length on his proposals.

Mr. Sarnoff said NBC would be "most grateful" with reversal of Lar Daly decision that candidates must be given equal time on news shows but that network would not be content with just this. Sen. Pastore asked both network executives for comment on FCC proposal (see page 50), which he indicated frequently is favored plan. He said he will call FCC, Justice and networks back before Committee to definitely spell out just what types of news, panel, interview, special event and discussion shows would be exempted from equal time under amendment, proposed by Comr. Frederick Ford.

ABC's Daly said that "first of all, I want to assure that next year we can operate as a news media." ABC is concerned, he said, lest push for broader amendments of Sec. 315 delay action on limited change sought.

Lar Daly, perennial political candidate whose race for mayor of Chicago started current furor, started smaller

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NAB: repeal Sec. 315; commend Martin role

NAB Board of Directors stuck by its historic stand for repeal of Sec. 315 of Communications Act at joint board meeting Friday (June 19) but instructed NAB staff to support pending legislation which seeks to remedy some of section's defects (early stories pages 50 and 55).

Board instructed special committee to negotiate contract renewal with President Harold E. Fellows, whose term expires June 1, 1960. In accordance with Mr. Fellows' request, contract will be for 13 months (June 1, 1960-June 30, 1961 or following June 1961 board meeting). It calls for \$75,000 yearly, his present salary, and expenses up to \$13,000. Board resolution voiced hope Mr. Fellows will remain in presidency until his retirement in 1964 when he will be 65.

High commendation was given Donald N. Martin, who has resigned as public relations assistant to President Fellows after 2½ years service to operate his own public relations firm. G.

Richard Shafto, WIS-TV Columbia S.C., Tv Board chairman, introduced resolution which was seconded by E. J. DeGray, ABC Radio vice president.

John Couric, NAB news-publications head, was promoted to manager of public relations department. He had been with UPI for a decade, joining NAB in 1957 as chief writer.

Va. group elects

Resolutions urging repeal or drastic modification of Sec. 315, equal time provision of Communications Act, and for repeal of Canon 35, barring radio-tv from court room coverage, were unanimously adopted by Virginia Assn. of Broadcasters at its business meeting Friday at Irvington, Va. Tom Chisman, WVEC-AM-TV Hampton-Norfolk, was elected president for new year with Robert C. Walker, WCHV Charlottesville, elected vice president and N. Wilbur Kidde, WAYB Waynesboro, elected secretary-treasurer. Directors for ensuing year, in addition to outgoing president Milton B. Henson, WREL Lexington, are Hamilton Shea, WSVA-AM-TV Harrisonburg; Charles