DROP IN MUSIC FEES SOUGHT

Radio licensing committee ready for next round of negotiations with ASCAP, BMI, SESAC

The committee to negotiate new radio station music licenses served notice last week that it feels "a substantial reduction" in current license fees is in order.

This objective was announced by Robert T. Mason of WMRN Marion, Ohio, chairman of the All-Industry Radio Music License Committee, after a meeting of the committee Tuesday.

The meeting focused particularly on licenses granted by the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers and by Broadcast Music Inc., Mr. Mason said, because these licenses come up for renewal next year. He said the committee also "re-examined the situation relating to SESAC licenses," which come up for renewal at different times for different stations.

Current ASCAP radio licenses expire Dec. 31 of this year; BMI licenses expire March 11, 1964. In the last negotiations, Mr. Mason's committee won reductions averaging about 9% in both ASCAP and BMI contract terms.

The radio committee's meeting came at a time when its television counterpart, a committee headed by Hamilton Shean of WSVA-TV Harrisonburg, Va., is locked with ASCAP in a court battle over new tv music license terms—a battle that seems apt to continue for several months (BROADCASTING, Jan. 21).

Complicated Deals = The complexity of these negotiations is indicated by the time they require. The current TV distribution with ASCAP has been in progress for approximately 16 months; the last radio negotiations took two years to complete.

If usual procedure is followed, Mr. Mason's committee probably will begin preliminary talks with ASCAP next summer and then, as prescribed by the consent decree under which ASCAP operates, will formally ask ASCAP to state its terms for new licenses. If these are not acceptable to radio broadcasters, negotiations will follow and, if necessary, legal action seeking court determination of fair fees.

Emanuel D. Goldrick, Dannett, Horowitz and Golub, New York counsel to the committee, and Bernard Buchholz, his associate, participated in last Tuesday's meeting.

Committee members in addition to Chairman Mason are George W. Armstrong, Storz Stations, vice chairman; Elliott M. Sanger, WQXR New York; treasurer; Robert D. Enoch, WXIL Indianapolis, secretary, and Thomas E. Carroll, Time-Life stations; Herbert E. Evans, Peoples Broadcasting Co. stations; John J. Heywood, WLW Cincinnati; J. Allen Jensen, KID Idaho Falls, Idaho; William S. Morgan Jr., McLendon stations, and Calvin J. Smith, KFAC Los Angeles.

Film sales...

Cavalcade of the 60's, Group I (Allied Artists Tv): Sold to KHJ-TV Los Angeles; CKLW-TV Windsor-Detroit; WANE-TV Ft. Wayne; WISH-TV Indianapolis; KNBC (Tv) Los Angeles and WDAU-TV Scranton. Now in 65 markets.

Maverick (Warner Bros. Tv): Sold to WCHS-TV Charleston, W. Va.; WLVA-TV Lynchburg; WVEC-TV Norfolk; WBRZ (Tv) Baton Rouge; WTVR (Tv) Richmond; WHJL-TV Johnson City-Bristol, Tenn. and to Rinks Bargain City for WCPO-TV Cincinnati; WTIM-TV Lima and WHIZ-TV Zanesville, all Ohio. Now in 47 markets.


Sugarfoot (Warner Bros. Tv): Sold to WCHS-TV Charleston, W. Va.; WLVA-TV Lynchburg; WTVR (Tv) Richmond; WRGP-TV Chattanooga and WHJL-TV Johnson City-Bristol, Tenn. Now in 35 markets.


Bronco (Warner Bros. Tv): Sold to WLVA-TV Lynchburg; WRGP-TV Chattanooga and WHJL-TV Johnson City-Bristol, Tenn. Now in 21 markets.


AP opens new photo circuit

The Associated Press, which has formally opened the link between its North American and European wire photo networks on a 24-hour-a-day basis, becomes the first wire service to lease a transatlantic photo circuit for full-time operation, making simultaneous two-way transmission possible. AP's 'round-the-clock photo facsimile facilities now extend from San Francisco to Rome.