

separate complaints with the commission charging KLAC with "gross prejudice, bias, and slanted news broadcasting in favor of Proposition 9 [the referendum]."

However, the commission, in a wire to the group, said that the licensee, Metro-media Inc., has furnished evidence that it has presented the viewpoints of those opposing Proposition 9. The commission said the licensee provided recordings of portions of news programs broadcast between Oct. 10 and Oct. 18 airing both pro and con viewpoints.

Although the fairness doctrine requires that a licensee which has presented one side of a controversial issue of public importance "play a positive role in bringing about a balanced presentation of the opposing viewpoints," those opposing viewpoints need not be presented in a single broadcast or program series, the commission said.

What is required is that the licensee, in its over-all programing, attempt to present opposing views, the commission said, adding that KLAC appears to have met that test in connection with the referendum issue.

When informed that the commission had rejected his group's complaints, Harry Lerner, Southern California manager of the campaign against the referendum, and representing Whitaker & Baxter Campaigns Inc., San Francisco, said: "We certainly will not let it [the case] drop," he said. "Furthermore, we will demand to know why the FCC did not demand and get from Metro-media responses to the specific allegations of bias and prejudice that we made and that are in the hands of every commissioner on the FCC. We're not just going to let them dismiss this complaint with a wave of the hand."

The commission last week also responded to a complaint filed by M. S. Novik, broadcast consultant to the AFL-CIO, with a statement calling licensees' "attention to the desirability of making their facilities effectively available" to political candidates, even if it requires modification of station format.

Mr. Novik wired the commission three weeks ago stating that station policies limiting or prohibiting acceptance of paid political advertising are causing a "major problem" (BROADCASTING, Oct. 21).

The commission statement did not refer specifically to the Novik complaint. It said only that the commission has received information indicating that some licensees have policies proscribing or limiting political broadcasts. However, commission officials said the Novik wire was what the commission had in mind.

BMI, radio committee resume negotiations

A new round of talks was held in New York last week on new rates for radio stations' use of music in the Broadcast Music Inc. catalogue. The meetings will continue some time next week.

The meetings, on two days (Oct. 28 and 29), marked a resumption of negotiations which broke off abruptly after the initial meeting on BMI's request for a rate increase more than a month ago (BROADCASTING, Oct. 21, Sept. 23). Current BMI licenses, which expired Sept. 30, were extended by BMI to Dec. 1.

Sessions were not set for this week because of the national elections, it was pointed out by BMI officials and by the All-Industry Radio Music License Committee. Both groups declined comment on deliberations, other than to acknowledge that BMI's request for higher radio fees was reviewed.

Attending for the all-industry group at one or both of the meetings were Elliott M. Sanger, chairman; George W. Armstrong of Storz Stations; A. A. Church, assistant secretary of Storer Broadcasting Co.; David H. Morris, president of KNUZ Houston, and Michael P. Malardi, vice president and general manager of the Straus broadcast group. Mr. Sanger, retired execu-

tive of WQXR New York, has continued as a member of the station's board of directors and executive committee. Of the other committee members in attendance, all with the exception of Mr. Armstrong, were named recently in an expansion of the committee (BROADCASTING, Oct. 21). Also present were Emanuel Dannett, William W. Golub and Benard Buchholz, attorneys representing the all-industry group.

BMI officials in attendance were Edward M. Cramer, president; Justin Bradshaw, vice president, broadcaster relations, and Edward J. Molinelli, vice president in charge of finance, and board members Dwight W. Martin of WDSU-TV New Orleans and Merrill Lindsay of WSOY Decatur, Ill. Mr. Martin is also a member of BMI's executive committee.

SG sells CBS-TV package deal

The motto at CBS-TV in the feature films area is apparently "plan ahead." A package of 19 feature films acquired by CBS-TV from Screen Gems for \$17 million, carries telecasting dates varying between September 1969 and September 1974. Screen Gems said the transaction represents the highest average price per picture it has ever obtained. A spokesman for the TV distribution company said titles of the features could not be revealed at this time.

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