

NEXT MOVE ON FM LINE RATES? AT&T filed rates for FM-sought 15 kc lines this week, to take effect Feb. 18. But whether or when anyone intends to file formal objection to them no one will say. However, Maj. Armstrong decided to buy a month of lines instead of an hour (Vol. 4, No. 3) and chances are he and Dillard (Continental FM Network) will give lines exhaustive tests, prepared to label them "experimental" if they fail to measure up.

Here are the rates for continuous use of 15 kc: \$10 per airline mile per month (vs. \$6 for AM's 5 kc) with station connection charges of \$150 for 16 hours daily, \$25 for next hour, \$25 for next 2, \$25 for last 5 (5 kc is \$75, \$15, \$15, \$15 for same segments). Occasional use is 28¢ per mile per hour (5 kc is 15¢) with station connection charges of \$60 per month plus \$3 for each hour of use (5 kc is \$20 and \$1.75 for same).

FMers feel rates are too high, of course. But broadcasters probably will always gripe about line rates. Here's way Armstrong looks at it: "AT&T says rates are predicated on amount of bandwidth taken up, displacing telephone use. Comparing 15 kc rates with 5 kc charges, they don't look too bad. But if you compare them with rates originally proposed for TV (Vol. 3, No. 23), they're far too high."

SIGHT AND SOUND

Proposed TV channel reshuffle to accommodate Canadian border cities (in which only Buffalo loses a frequency; see TV Addenda 1-H herewith), gives evidence pending 44-50 mc decision is imminent, way cleared for issuance of extended TV allocation plan (Vol. 3, No. 51). At same time, decision on 1,000-13,000 mc allocations is expected, allowing TVers to operate intercity microwave relays, at least on temporary basis (Vol. 3, No. 51). Whether FM is to get some 50 mc space is still moot; sentiment seems to favor some arrangement to permit FMers to continue relaying on low band frequencies, perhaps even give them a channel or two.

FM signals of 360 kw were pumped out by RCA recently. Prototype of new 50-kw transmitter fed 60 kw into 4-section Pylon antenna (gain of 6). Eight-section Pylon, with gain of 12, would give 600 kw. Company gave no indication when it could deliver new transmitters. WTMJ-FM, Milwaukee, says it's due to get one this spring, expects 90-mi. coverage from 550-ft tower at Richfield, 20 miles from Milwaukee.

Emphasis on national TV sports is meaning of DuMont appointment of popular, hard-working Les Arries as network sports director. Arries, 1917 All-America end (Northwestern) and president of Washington's Touchdown Club, will be stationed in both New York and Washington—continuing as DuMont's Washington representative. Succeeding him as WTTG station manager is Walter Compton, now program manager.

"TV" tag to AM call letters continues to grow in popularity. Latest is *Chicago Tribune's* WGNA, which this week switched to WGN-TV and *San Francisco Chronicle's* KCPR, which changed to KRON-TV (KRON is FM call). Other calls assigned recent grantees: WAGA-TV, WCON-TV, WSB-TV, Atlanta; WGAL-TV, Lancaster, Pa.

Zenith's Phone Vision will be demonstrated for FCC Comr. Sterling and TV engineering chief Plummer in Chicago Jan. 27. Plummer and TV allocation aide A. Prose Walker are scheduled to sail for Geneva Telecommunication Conference Jan. 27, returning in May. TV engineering will be in charge of Hart Cowperthwait until then.

Film Producer Sam Goldwyn on TV, as reported in UP interview Jan. 17: "It can help us. It will make us produce better pictures to attract audiences away from their television sets and into theaters."

Interrogation of FCC Charman Coy and Comr. Sterling by Senate Commerce Committee Tuesday was short, quite sweet. Answering New Hampshire Senator Tobey's query on rotating chairmanship (item in revised White Bill; Vol. 3, No. 52), Coy disagreed, said it wasn't good administrative practice, maintained it took chairman at least year to learn ropes. Replying to same question, Sterling thought rotation all right, but for 2 years rather than one. Coy promised he'd serve out term (till 1951), said FCC should be up-to-date on FM in 30-90 days, big backlog being AM. Both seemed to make good impression on committeemen present: Senators Tobey, Reed, Brewster, Moore, McFarland, McMahon, latter two Democrats. Full committee meets next Thursday.

Clear channel hearing groaned to an end, after some 2 years, with this week's oral argument. It's now finally up to FCC to make up its mind as to what to present NARBA conference next August in Canada. As far as argument was concerned, mixture was as before (Vol. 3, No. 43), with attorneys Louis Caldwell and Paul Spearman (clear and regionals, respectively) doing most of the arguing, each taking 4 hours to blast other's position.

Virginia Erwin, first (and only) FCC woman engineer, who studied E.E. at Tennessee U, headed wartime all-girl technical staff of WGPC, Albany, Ga., has joined E.C. Page Consulting Engineers, Washington. H. Underwood Graham has left Page firm to return to FCC as chief of Standard Allocation Section, succeeding Neal McNaughten, now asst. chief of NAB engineering dept.

Newspaper columnist Fred Othman, after sitting in on Petrillo hearing, plugged for AM-FM duplication, even if "bootlegged." He told of a station operator near his Virginia home who duplicates ABC: "Perhaps he hasn't the strength to pull the switch when the music comes on Speaking as a music critic (which I'm not), these programs never sounded so good."

House hearing on Rep. Lemke's FM resolution (H.R. 78) will be held Feb. 3 by Rep. Wolverton's Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee—postponed from Jan. 27 date reported here last week (Vol. 4, No. 3).

TV sponsor list is growing—January *Television Magazine* reporting 181 current accounts using video medium, local and national, 73 advertising agencies represented.

CBS has tied up TV along with broadcast rights to Kentucky Derby, plans film coverage next May.