

MERGER of Kansas City's time-sharing KMBC-TV & WHB-TV (Ch. 9) should be concluded next week when final sale papers are signed (Vol. 10:17)—FCC on June 9 having approved Cook Paint & Varnish Co. acquisition of Arthur B. Church's KMBC-TV, KMBC (5-kw on 980 kc, CBS) and satellite KFRM, Concordia, Kan. (5-kw daytime on 550-kc, CBS) for \$1,750,000 cash plus assumption of approximately \$865,000 obligations, plus 10-year consulting contract at \$25,000 a year. FCC also approved Cook's \$400,000 sale of its WHB (10-kw day, 5-kw night on 710 kc, MBS) to Robert H. Storz and his son Todd Storz, who own radios KOWH, Omaha, and WOTX, New Orleans.

Cook's WHB Broadcasting Co. changes name to KMBC Broadcasting Co., with Robert B. Caldwell as chairman; Lathrop G. Backstrom, pres.; Don Davis, first v.p. & chairman of programming board in charge of sales, advertising & promotion; John T. Schilling, who built original WHB in 1922, v.p. & gen. mgr.; George Higgins, TV-radio sales mgr.; Mori Creiner Jr., director of TV; Dick Smith, director of radio; Ken Greenwood, asst. director of TV; Henry Goldenberg, TV-radio chief engineer. Free & Peters continues as rep.

All activities will be centered in big KMBC building, which houses 2600-seat theatre. Old WHB-TV & WHB quarters in Power & Light Bldg. are being abandoned. New 50-kw RCA transmitter, to be equipped for color, is due for delivery July 15, to be installed before completion of new KMBC-TV 1079-ft. tower at 23rd & Topping Sts.

Aimed at tightening security, FCC this week initiated proposed rule-making which would deny commercial operator or amateur licenses to members of Communist Party, any group required to register as Communist-action or Communist-front organization under Internal Security Act, or any group advocating overthrow of Govt. by violence. It also proposed to limit licenses to persons of "good moral character," factors determining such character to include past Communist affiliations and convictions for felonies. Proposal would amend application forms to include questions on membership in Communist Party, etc., and require fingerprints. Comments may be filed by July 19.

Storer Broadcasting Co.'s challenge of FCC's authority to set limit on number of stations an entity can own (Vol. 10:4), supported by brief filed in Court of Appeals last week, is due to be answered by FCC June 26 but Commission is likely to ask for extension. Argument before Court won't come before fall, because current court session is almost over. Storer owns 5 TV stations, the limit now permitted by Commission, and is seeking to acquire another vhf in Cleveland and a uhf in Portland, Ore., through acquisition of Empire Coil Co. for \$10,000,000 (Vol. 10:22). FCC has proposed to permit owners of 5 vhf to acquire 2 uhf, but this is held up pending Senate vhf-uhf hearings (see p. 1).

Complying with FCC multiple ownership rule, John B. Poor, director and gen. counsel of General Teleradio Inc., General Tire subsidiary operating MBS and various TV-radio stations, has sold his WARE, Mass. (1-kw, 1250 kc). FCC on June 9 approved \$43,666 sale to H. Scott Killgore, now a sales executive of Emerson Radio, who owns WKXL, Concord, N. H. (.25-kw, 1450 kc, CBS), and is applicant for new AMs in Plymouth, Mass. (1-kw, 990 kc) and Dover, N. H. (1-kw, 1270 kc).

Type & TV tieup: To speed coverage of Army-McCarthy hearings, *New York Times* installed in communications room 2 TV sets with automatic recording discs attached, thus gets full text via playback and into type long before it's transmitted on wires.

Future of educational KTHE, Los Angeles (Ch. 28), was thrown into doubt this week when millionaire oilman G. Allan Hancock, station's underwriter and one of educational TV's most affluent backers, abruptly resigned as director of Allan Hancock Foundation and chairman of trustees of U of So. California, to which he had donated more than \$7,000,000 in last 15 years. He ascribed his action to "business considerations and personal plans" but *New York Times* reported crux of issue was his disagreement with university officials on operation of station. Foundation is licensee; university provides most of programming. He left \$2,000,000 in negotiable assets to Foundation. Educational TV was also reported in financial trouble in Denver, where school board, participant in grant for KRMA-TV (Ch. 6), voted unanimously to hold up further work on project until there was further evidence of public support. Fund-raising drive for \$250,000 reportedly produced only \$52,000 thus far.

TV's future role in law enforcement, as outlined by RCA chairman David Sarnoff in June 11 address at graduation exercises of FBI National Academy, Washington: Superhighways such as Pa. and N. J. Turnpikes, which now use microwave radio for communications, will eventually use TV to connect toll gates, service facilities, patrol headquarters, etc. "It is only a matter of time, moreover, before a coast-to-coast radio-TV network will transmit teletype messages, weather reports, photographs, fingerprints and other documents, [and] police cars without doubt will eventually include TV as an indispensable adjunct of their operations." TV tape recordings, too, will be used by police, "to catalog photographs, fingerprints and other pertinent data."

Resolution to ban televising of Congressional hearings (H.Con. Res. 239) was introduced June 10 by Rep. Rogers (D-Fla.). Referring to Army-McCarthy hearings, he said: "For the past 7 weeks the gladiators of politics have been putting on a show . . . I feel, and very strongly, that it is not a healthy situation for our people to daily look upon the present 'show' and conclude that all such workings of the committees of Congress are carried on in such a manner." His speech evoked burst of applause from Democratic side of House. Similar bill was introduced in Senate by Sen. Olin Johnston (D-S. C.).

Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D-Wyo.), member of Senate Commerce Committee and communications subcommittee, announced this week he won't seek re-election for second term in Senate because of ill health. He's second Democratic member of Senate Commerce Committee to announce retirement in recent weeks, Sen. Johnson (D-Colo.) having also decided not to run again, though he may seek nomination for governorship. Ranking minority member of House Commerce Committee, Rep. Crosser (D-Ohio), won't return next term, having lost Democratic primary.

Allen Woodall interests propose to sell half their 50% ownership of WDAK-TV, Columbus, Ga. (Ch. 28), to co-owner Martin Theatres Inc., and to devote more attention to their radio WDAK (250 watts on 1340 kc, NBC). Selling price is \$53,000. FCC application this week explains that Woodall proposes to boost WDAK power to 5-kw and shift to 540 kc, project costing about \$50,000. Martin Theatres also owns 35% of WJBF-TV, Augusta (Ch. 6), Woodall 25% of WRDW-TV, Augusta (Ch. 12).

Senate uhf hearings are scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. Tue., June 15 in Room G-16, U. S. Capitol. These names have been added to end of unofficial witness list printed in last week's issue (Vol. 10:23): Rep. Moss (D-Cal.); Paul Bartlett, KFRE, Fresno, Cal. (vhf applicant); Harry Tenenbaum, WTVI, Belleville-St. Louis, Mo. (uhf); Dr. Armand Hunter, TV director, Michigan State College, East Lansing (uhf WKAR-TV).