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STATIONS VS. CATV ON THE HILL: Jockeying & lobbying were going great guns in Congress last week, as Western stations and CATV operators did their utmost to affect CATV & booster legislation. NAB's CATV committee met, promptly sought to prod Rep. Harris (D-Ark.) into advancing the Senate-passed pro-booster bill (Vol. 15:37 p3). At same time, committee members urged their Senators to tighten & force through the CATV-control bill (Vol. 15:36 p1).

CATV operators meanwhile, through NCTA, were attempting to persuade Senate Commerce Committee members to tone CATV bill down. Both sides were dubious about getting any action during debate on civil rights, or even during this session. It was difficult to get judgments about possibility of action on bills. However, Sen. McGee (D-Wyo.), one of staunchest pro-booster & anti-CATV members of Commerce Committee, had this to offer:

"I'm a little more optimistic about action on the booster bill in the House. As for the CATV bill, I'm hoping for action during a respite in the civil rights debate—or after it, by March 1. We have a very fair CATV bill, and the CATV people had agreed to it. Now they've backed off and are trying to go around the Committee. It's a breaking of trust."

Sen. Allott (R-Colo.), in a letter to Harris, urged action on booster bill, hadn't received reply by week's end.

Congress

DISC JOCKEYS ARE 'SQUIRCHING': The House Commerce Legislative Oversight Subcommittee, which helped put "payola" into common American usage and has learned what "freebies," "lay-on," "hype" and "break-out" mean to disc jockeys, added "squirching" to its glossary of broadcasting probe terms last week.

The new word, derived from the hillbilly patois of his home state, was put into the Oversighters' record by Chmn. Harris (D-Ark.). He used it to describe what witnesses were doing as the Subcommittee plodded through the 2nd week of hearings on payola practices, which had first been scheduled for only one week.

In monotonous succession, Boston area record distributors & jockeys took turns on the stand to admit that money had been paid out by the former & received by the latter. But almost without exception, the witnesses insisted that the money wasn't payola for popularizing particular platters on the air.

As Arnold (Woo Woo) Ginsburg of radio WMEX Boston put it characteristically, \$4,000 he took in during the past 3 years from record firms was for "goodwill" & "tokens of appreciation"—not for on-air promotion of favored music.

"If you & the rest think we are going to swallow this as though it was just an incident, then you must think we're pretty naive, too," Harris told Ginsburg heatedly, protesting "all this reluctance, this squirching back on the facts." Interpreting the word later for reporters, Harris said it meant that the witnesses had been "retreating or drawing back" from telling the full truth.

Harris also suggested a big reason for the "squirching"—the knowledge that FCC could take away station licenses overnight. He didn't say so, but radio licenses in all 6 New England states will be up for renewal April 1, and it could be presumed that FCC will tell several of the licensees that renewal hearings seem to be indicated.

The Subcommittee got so bogged down in Boston testimony last week that it didn't have time before recessing

its hearing to get back to Miami Beach and the most exciting item on its agenda—a fun-&-frolic convention there last May, when record manufacturers picked up more than \$100,000 worth of tabs (Vol. 16:7 p6).

Jack L. Sandler, gen. mgr. of Storz Stations' WQAM Miami and vp of the radio chain which was official host at the convention, was served with a Subcommittee subpoena to produce a list of persons who attended it. But the Oversighters didn't get around to calling him, and testimony about the affair—to which girls were reported flown from N.Y. & Chicago—was put off, probably until mid-March.

Meanwhile, the liveliest incident at last week's hearings was provided by Harry Weiss, promotion man for Boston's Music Suppliers Inc. He threw a green, paper-covered book at UPI photographer E. Ed Alley and lunged at the cameraman in an effort to prevent him from taking a picture of the firm's Pres.-treas. Harry Carter. A Subcommittee staffer had to break it up, and the picture was taken anyway.

Record Labeled 'Hit' Before Going On Sale

On the stand later, Weiss swore that it was part of his job to contact Boston jockeys, but that he was unaware of any payola passed out to them by his company, although other testimony indicated \$27,121 had been paid. He also testified that he used letterheads of radios WBZ, WBOS and WHIL to submit his own entries for "top 10" record popularity polls conducted by *Cash Box*.

Pleading poor health, Carter was excused from testifying in public, but the Subcommittee questioned him in a closed session, then released a transcript. In answer to questions put to him by Subcommittee counsel Robert W. Lishman, Carter conceded that his firm had managed to promote "Growing Love" on radio as a hit before the record was put on sale. It turned out to be a flop, Carter said.

Another witness heard in private was Pres. Samuel H. Clark of AB-PT's subsidiary Am-Par Record Corp., who also pleaded ill health. A former co-owner with Carter of Music Suppliers, he was asked by Harris whether ABC-TV's Dick Clark (no relation to Samuel) plugged Am-Par products on *American Bandstand*. Lishman noted