

Tv Rulemaking Pleas On Shifts Flood FCC

COMMENTS, proposals, counter proposals and petitions for new rulemaking flooded the FCC last week in allocation proceedings stretching from California to Maine. And, there are many more to come as deadlines were extended and new cases were opened.

Although the Commission extended the time for comments on the proposal to shift ch. 8 from New Haven, Conn., to Providence-Fall River-New Bedford (the latter two cities in Massachusetts), this controversial question received the most replies last week. The deadline was extended (at the request of WMTW [TV] Poland Spring, Me.) from April 30 until 20 days after the Commission acts on a petition by WRGB (TV) Schenectady, N. Y., for reconsideration of the shift of its ch. 6 to Syracuse, N. Y.

The New Haven channel would be replaced by ch. 6, now assigned to New Bedford, and is dependent on the final move of ch. 6 from Schenectady. The majority of the comments filed were on the basis that any grant of ch. 8 at the proposed location would actually be for a Providence station.

Triangle Publishing Co., licensee of ch. 8 WNHC-TV New Haven (which will be required to shift to ch. 6 under the proposal), said that it had no objections providing a suitable transmitter site can be found. Triangle asked that an amendment be included in any action to cover the possible unavail-



ability of a satisfactory new transmitter site for WNHC-TV.

WHIM Providence said it is essential that a market the size of Providence have a minimum of three local services and that it will apply for ch. 8 if allocated there. Capitol Tv Corp. (Harry Pinkerson) said that the limitation of Providence to two local services is "manifestly unfair" but favored the assignment of ch. 3 instead of ch. 8.

Ch. 16 WNET (TV) Providence felt the assignment should go to Providence alone; asked that the educational reservation there be changed from ch. 36 to ch. 16, and that its cp be changed to specify operation on ch. 8. ABC also said that the new ch. 8 assignment should be for Providence as an individual city. ABC said Providence is the country's largest metropolitan area without at least three equal facilities.

Ch. 12 WPRO-TV Providence opposed the change on the grounds that "there are serious engineering problems present with respect to this proposal . . . which would appear to militate against adoption of the plan." Two of the three applicants for ch. 6 in New Bedford—E. Anthony & Sons Inc. and George F. Wilson—also opposed the proposal. They questioned the availability of a transmitter location for ch. 8 in the area and said that it would exclude local service to the 541,000 citizens of southeastern Massachusetts.

RKO Teleradio Pictures Inc., licensee of WNAC-TV Boston, said that the change would place its ch. 7 station at a competitive disadvantage with other Boston stations by limiting its power, antenna height and transmitter location.

The proposal to move ch. 8 Muskogee, Okla. (KTVX [TV]), to Tulsa was favored by that station and ABC, while three Tulsa stations opposed the move. KTVX claimed that Muskogee is incapable of supporting a vhf station; that it is at a disadvantage in competing against Tulsa stations for advertising, and that the change would provide a third competitive facility for Tulsa.

Arthur R. Olson, owner of dark ch. 17 KSPG (TV) Tulsa, said that he would have applied for ch. 8 in the first place if it had been allocated to Tulsa. He charged that the operators of KTVX have "engaged in a pattern of inconsistent, misleading and incorrect representations to the Commission . . ." and asked that if ch. 8 is reallocated to Tulsa, KTVX be assigned a uhf channel in Muskogee.

Tulsa's two operating v's, KVOO-TV and

THE FIRST group of American women broadcasters to tour Russia received a briefing Monday at the White House shortly before leaving the U. S. to present the first American fashion show ever seen in Russia. The tour of seven countries was arranged by Bea Johnson, KMBC-AM-TV Kansas City. Howard Pyle, administrative assistant to President Eisenhower, received the group at the White House.

Left to right: Paige Palmer, WEWS-TV Cleveland; Jean H. Harden, Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., writer-broadcaster; Mary Lou Rankin, KFH Wichita, Kan.; Eleanore Pagnotti, WPTS Pittston, Pa.; Leona Knight, WSPD-AM-TV Toledo, Ohio; Mildred Alexander, WTAR-AM-TV Norfolk, Va.; Bernice Hulin, WOI-TV Ames, Ia.; Mary Couper and Jean Loach Couper, WXYZ-TV Detroit; Miss Johnson, and Mr. Pyle.

Not in photo: Lou Atzenweiler, Atzenweiler Studios, Kansas City; Jane Burns, MacDougalls of Inverness, New York and London; Ruth Gallagher, Dept. of Agriculture; Dorothy Larsen, Knox, Kornfeld & Smith, Public Relations, Denville, N. J.; Martha McClung Roberts, KHSL-AM-TV Chico, Calif.; Florence Rosenfeld, WAKR-AM-TV Akron, Ohio; Winifred Seymour, WBET Brockton, Mass.; Warner Untersee, INS Kansas City; Dale Stepp Helmers, KMBC Kansas City, and Sherrill Thrailkill, Liberty, Mo.

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KOTV (TV), claimed that KTVX has been operating as a Tulsa station all along with a bare minimum of equipment and personnel in Muskogee. KVOO-TV said that the change would not result in any "additional service from any additional stations to any additional people."

One "yea" and one "nay" were filed on rulemaking to assign ch. 10 to Presque Isle, Me., first proposed by Northeastern Broadcasting Co. WTWO (TV) Bangor, Me., supported the proposal because, it said, the importance of Presque Isle and its continuing growth supports the need for competitive tv service there.

Ch. 8 WAGM-TV Presque Isle said that the proposal would not increase the efficient use of the spectrum as stated by Northeastern. WAGM-TV pointed out that ch. 19 is available in Presque Isle, but Northeastern