

**U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington** last week remanded case involving challenge of law prohibiting broadcast of "indecent material" 24 hours a day to FCC for "full and fair" inquiry on issue. FCC had asked for remand to build record in support of around-the-clock ban. Tim Dyk, attorney representing group of broadcasters and citizen groups that challenged ban, was disappointed by remand, but was heartened that court "made clear" it expects "full and fair" hearing.

**Paramount's new magazine program, *Hard Copy***, which debuts nationally in syndication today (Sept. 18), has gotten off to inauspicious start. New Jersey, through its State Police department, filed what department spokesman confirmed was criminal complaint against two *Hard Copy* staffers for inducing two teenagers to gamble illegally at Atlantic City-based TropWorld Casino. Spokesman, trooper Daniel Cosgrove, said investigation determined two producers were apparently working on story concerning underage gambling in Atlantic City and set up teens so they could film arrest. Complaint calls for two producers to appear in Atlantic City court Oct. 6 to answer charges. Paramount was not commenting on matter last week. However, *Hard Copy* spokeswoman did say its story on underage gambling would run tomorrow (Sept. 19), and that program continues to "stand behind" reporters and producers involved.

Chicago Cubs rights holder superstation **WGN-TV Chicago** added 45 Chicago White Sox and 25 Chicago Bulls games to its 1989-90 schedule. **SportsChannel Chicago** also added inventory, signing deal to carry 52 Bulls games (up from 40 last season) and 95 White Sox games (up from 75 minimum this season), none of which are available to other SportsChannel America affiliates.

**Senate Appropriations Committee** marked up \$340.5 million public broadcasting appropriation for 1992, including \$260 million for CPB and \$80.5 million for satellite replacement. All figures are higher than House committee passage of \$242.06 million for CPB and \$72 million for satellite.

Association of Independent Television Stations is on war-path. Target this time is Time Warner. **INTV will file complaint with FCC** alleging that Time Warner is violating agency's cable-broadcast crossownership rules. INTV says Time Warner's operation of channel on its Rochester, Minn., cable system is same as independent TV station and therefore in violation of rule (BROADCASTING, July 31).

**CNN completed deal with GTE Spacenet** last week for end-of-life leases of three Ku-band transponders aboard GStar II satellite, expected to fly through February 1995. Terms of "good deal" were not disclosed, although knowledgeable source said Ku rates are approaching \$2.4 million per year. Expansion from single unprotected to two full-time protected and one part-day protected transponders was necessary to handle current 500-hour monthly traffic and to prepare for 1992 elections and beyond, said CNN Newsbeam Director Charles Hoff. Contract contains options on more GStar II transponders and options to move newsgathering system to GStar IV, scheduled to launch next February and designed to fly through year 2000.

In move intended to improve customer service and provide opportunity for pay per view, **Tele-Communications Inc. has purchased 250,000 addressable on-premise modules from Jerrold Division** of General Instrument. Deal, which was announced last week, is, according to nation's largest cable

## Fall premiere

*The Hollywood Radio and Television Society kicked off this TV season's luncheon circuit last Tuesday with Kim LeMasters, president, CBS Entertainment (l); Brandon Tartikoff, president, NBC Entertainment (c), and Bob Iger, president, ABC Entertainment, as guest speakers.*

*The lunch drew a crowd of about 1,100 people at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, with the three network entertainment presidents discussing numerous topics, including the new season and the producer-network relationship.*

*On the recently announced plan by ABC to have its in-house production division, ABC Circle Films, produce television series for sale to all of the networks, Iger said that in order for the department to become a viable production arm, "we have to have the ability to sell to more than one programmer. We're in a no-lose situation," he said, when asked how he would feel if ABC sold a show to another network and it became a hit. "If Brandon [Tartikoff] picks up a program from us and it fails, we win, and if he picks up a program that succeeds, we win. I'm confident that the development people on our staff will make the right decision in terms of the product that's brought before us," he said.*

*When asked if CBS would be getting into the in-house production business, LeMasters said: "In a sense we already are, with the contribution that our news division has been able to make." However, he said, the entertainment division would look at any and all suppliers "who can come in and repair those time periods that we're not doing as well in as we wish we were."*

*Tartikoff named a positive and a negative change he has seen, when asked what significant changes had taken place in the television industry during the 10 years he has held the top spot at NBC Entertainment. On the down side, he said, 10 years*

*ago the business was driven more by ideas than by deals and commitments. "The enormous payments, overheads and kinds of commitments you have to make to get certain kinds of writer-producers working for you are such that you start with the deal and work backwards to the idea. Before, it seemed that it was*



*the ideas that [came first], and then you tried to get those writer-producers to implement them."*

*On the positive side, Tartikoff said a change he has seen at all three networks is a greater degree of patience with shows. "All three networks seem to be willing to hang with programs for a longer period of time, to nurture them to find a viewership."*

*Bill Haber, HRTS president, also announced that former president Ronald Reagan, Dear Abby, and Oliver North would be among the featured guests at upcoming lunches this season.*