

Closed Circuit®

Candidates galore. Lines began forming at once for sudden vacancy at FCC created by resignation of H. Rex Lee (see page 20). Most had been candidates for Nicholas Johnson slot, for which nominee James H. Quello is now awaiting Senate confirmation hearing to begin Jan. 23. There's suggestion that President may name Mr. Quello and second Democrat to recess appointments once Congress adjourns — expected any day now. This would give each nominee leg up on eventual confirmation.

Morning line, not necessarily in order of likely finalists: Dr. Glen O. Robinson, law professor, University of Minnesota, with indicated support of both FCC Chairman Dean Burch and Office of Telecommunications Policy Director Clay T. Whitehead, who sponsored him in Quello competition; Luther Holcomb, vice chairman of U. S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (with strong Texas support); Harvey Jacobs, New Mexico State University; Barry Zorthian, Time Inc.; Robert J. Rawson, retired deputy chief of FCC Broadcast Bureau, now in private practice; Dr. Lee A. Dreyfus, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; Wallace Johnson, chief, FCC Broadcast Bureau; A. Prose Walker, chief, FCC's amateur and citizen's division and formerly engineering director, National Association of Broadcasters.

Chairman to president? Though he has said he would stay at FCC until other vacancies are filled, Chairman Dean Burch has reportedly had new overtures to become president of Teleprompter, which reportedly made pass at him some time ago (*Broadcasting*, Oct. 15).

Knowledge bank. National Association of Broadcasters has all but settled on Hill & Knowlton as public relations agency for campaign against pay cable siphoning. One factor in H&K's favor was said to be its long experience on other side of pay television issues for long-time client, Zenith Radio Corp., which for years energetically promoted broadcast subscription system. Zenith's ardor for pay has cooled. Agency also has experience in cable, having represented Teleprompter until last week.

Night and day. FCC commissioners will face some tough choices this week when they take up proposals to let some 100 daytime radio stations begin operating on clear channels one hour earlier as soon as year-round daylight saving time goes into effect. Staff will present commission with number of options, each indicating effect of permitting stations to operate with power ranging from 1w to licensed power. Engineers say reducing power much below licensed power would sharply restrict station's service area; yet full-power operation would wipe out skywave service—that is, long-distance night-time service—of dominant 1A and 1B stations, and probably much of their groundwave service, as well. There is no prospect for relief for some 200 daytimers on Canadian clears unless agreement can be negotiated with that country. Commission officials say negotiation will be tried, but they are not hopeful of success.

Emergency action to take care of needs of daytimers on U.S. clears is only one of two measures commission is ex-

pected to consider this week. Other is rulemaking that would affect not only daytimers but full-time stations using different power day and night.

Veep's man. J. W. (Bill) Roberts, chief of McGraw-Hill stations' Washington news bureau until it was closed (*Broadcasting*, Nov. 12), has become assistant press secretary to Vice President Gerald R. Ford. One-time president of Radio Television News Directors Association, Mr. Roberts had been under consideration for legislative liaison assignment at National Association of Broadcasters but chose Ford job instead. His chief is Paul Miltich, Mr. Ford's press secretary since 1966.

X% news, Y% local . . . Establishment of standards by which to judge "substantial service" in television broadcasting may be ready for FCC action before end of January. Comments in that inquiry aren't due until this week, but FCC staff thinks it can wrap up its work fast. If timetable is met, commission may face issue with only five members on board. Under proposal, licensees that met official standards would get preference against rival applicants for their facilities.

A little less steam. Reports from around country suggest that local TV sales, in recent years consistent ground-gainers, have been slowing down. Two explanations: There may have been advertising cutbacks by supermarkets and other food stores during food shortages and price-control pinch few months ago; that 21.7% gain in local sales in 1972 is hard act to follow in any case.

Slowdown doesn't mean local sales are below those of year ago; they're not up as much as expected. Some observers think gain may be under 10%. Last time that happened was in recessive 1970; even then local advanced 7.7% and provided cushion that kept total TV sales ahead of previous year. No need for that cushion this year, however. It's certain that network and spot will be at new highs.

Job security. Strike is said to be brewing among technicians at Mutual Broadcasting System, Washington. Involved is Local 1200, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which says management is encroaching on its jurisdiction over equipment. One big sticking point is operation by Mutual correspondents of cassette recorders for actualities. And management is reportedly offering announcers pay increases to man their own control boards.

IBEW's contract expired Nov. 1; union is working under extension that can be canceled on 10-days notice. Other union at Mutual, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, is also negotiating new contract. Last one ran out Nov. 15.

Womanpower. American Women in Radio and Television is setting out to compile list of women who are now in responsible positions in broadcasting and thus qualified to move up to bigger jobs. Linda Durbin, general manager of KGOU(FM) Norman, Okla., will be in charge of compilation when she takes over chairmanship of AWRT's Affirmative Action Committee next month. List, first of its kind, will be used by AWRT in its campaign to get bigger role for women in broadcast management.