

Quincy, WESX(AM) Salem, and WHYN-AM-FM Springfield, all Massachusetts. NAACP said stations had "no more than token employments of blacks and other minorities during the license term."

C-COR Electronics announced last Friday development of 1 ghz amplifier, day after Time Warner announced it would need such equipment (but had signed no manufacturers) to expand Queens, N.Y., cable system from 75 to 150 channels (see story, page 21). Richard Perry, C-COR chairman and president, said company had not talked with Time Warner about its need for amplifier prior to its announcement, but has now scheduled meeting for this week. Perry said C-COR has applied for patent on amplifier.

Comcast moves to new temporary quarters today (March 11) at 1234 Market St. in Philadelphia 19107, two weeks after fire gutted building that housed company's headquarters. Phone number remains same: 215-665-1700.

NBC affiliate **KOB-TV Albuquerque has reached agreement to air all station newscasts outside market on independent KZLV-TV Las Cruces**. KOB-TV produces 12 hours of news programming a week, including New Mexico's only hour-long weekday morning local news broadcast.

KQLZ(FM), "Pirate Radio" in Los Angeles, is moving closer toward full AOR sound this week after **hiring Carey Curelop**, former program director at KLOS(FM) there, to replace Scott Shannon, programmer who left station last month (BROADCASTING, Feb 18). Westwood One Stations Group Executive VP Bob Moore said Curelop would be foundation of new team for "the new Pirate Radio," and Curelop said his role at KQLZ is to "redefine the AOR format for the 1990's." Curelop has also been PD at WYNF(FM) Tampa and WABX(FM) Detroit.

NAB announced that Ray Dolby, founder and chairman, Dolby Laboratories Inc., and inventor of well-known audio noise reduction system, **will give keynote address at annual engineering luncheon**, April 16, during its upcoming convention in Las Vegas. Keiji Shima, chairman, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), is also scheduled to speak at luncheon. Shima will be in Las Vegas for NHK's Open House, demonstration of company's most advanced consumer electronics developments, to be held at NAB's HDTV World Conference & Exhibition, at Las Vegas Hilton, concurrent with NAB convention.

VIACOM PLANS FURTHER DEBT RESTRUCTURING

Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone said last week the company has some "fairly definite" plans to reduce the company's interest costs, perhaps within the next couple of months. The disclosure was made at a press conference at which Redstone and chief executive officer Frank Biondi also gave a bullish report on the company's cable operations (see page 51). Combined with continued operating income growth, particularly in cable system and basic programming operations, the reduced interest costs should help the company move toward positive net earnings for the first time since Redstone's 1987 acquisition.

Of particular concern are two issues of debt securities that will total close to \$800 million by June, at which time roughly half of the debt starts requiring cash interest payments. By "calling" or by repurchasing in the open market the two issues, which yield 14.75% and 15.5%, Viacom might be able to save roughly \$25 million in annual interest costs. Chief financial officer George Smith said the company would also consider "calling" roughly \$190 million in other securities, depending how their interest rates are "reset" this June—they currently pay interest at 11.5%.

Redstone told BROADCASTING that paying down the debt with cheaper bank and other debt was the most likely possibility. As for issuing new stock or equity-related securities, the Viacom chairman said: "It doesn't necessarily appeal to me" in part because Viacom's stock price, though recently risen, is still underpriced. Biondi said the company has been approached by outsiders to buy part or all of certain Viacom operations: "That would be a preferred way (of raising money)...but values have fallen and are not going to come back in the next 60 days."

Edward Horowitz, senior VP, Viacom International Inc., New York, **has been selected as chairman of new video compression subcommittee within Cable Television Laboratories Inc.'s technical advisory committee**. First order of business for subcommittee will be to send inquiry to about 35 companies active in digital compression research and to establish technical guidelines for transmission of compressed signals on cable systems.

Justice Department last Friday sued Cox Enterprises Inc. for failing to seek federal approval before buying 2.25 million shares of Knight-Ridder Inc. stock between January and November 1986 for \$101 million. Cox attorney was quoted by AP as saying company believed it was "acquiring the stock solely for investment and therefore did not have to file."

Among those **testifying at Senate Communications Subcommittee hearing this Thursday on cable reregulation bill**: NCTA President James Mooney; Ted Turner; Jim Kennedy, Cox Enterprises; NAB President Eddie Fritts; INTV President Jim Hedlund; D.J. Everett, Community Broadcasters Association; Bob Schmidt, Wireless Cable Association; Chuck Hewitt, Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association; Newark, N.J., Mayor Sharpe James, and David Adkinson, mayor of Owensboro, Ky.

CBS will debut *The Antagonists* and returns

Northern Exposure to prime time. **Antagonists**, drama starring David Andrews, debuts in special movie preview on Tuesday, March 26, at 9:30-11 p.m. before moving to its regular slot on Thursday at 9-10 on March 28. **Northern Exposure**, which had successful summer run, returns on April 8 on Monday at 10-11. Also, **The Flash**, currently on Thursday, 8:30-9:30, moves to Saturday at 8 on April 6.

Last Friday (March 8) **NPR executive committee approved 8% increase in member dues for FY 1992**. Vote followed public comment period that heard six regional groups representing 257 stations warn that proposed 10% increase, combined with recession and widespread decreases in state funding, could force many stations to drop core NPR news or other services and, said one, force 20-30 stations to go dark in single year. Full board will exercise final vote on budget (including dues figure) at end of annual Public Radio Conference, May 15-19.

Shares of largest video rental company, Blockbuster Video, were down 7% on heavy volume last Friday, following Time Warner announcement that new technology would enable it to use coax-fiber optic combination to offer 40 channels of PPV programming on Queens, N.Y. cable system, possibly affecting video rental business (see page 21).