



Network takes plunge into thorny desegregation area

By Rick Du Brow
UPI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — To network television executives, however, is a place where there are loads of big news stories, none of them controversial, and all of them enabling video to show off its technical facility. In this paradise, stories like space journeys and coronations are "in" — and matters like the desegregation conflict "out."

It is a pastoral heaven — no sponsors heading for the hills, no angry partisans hollering bloody murder from all directions; nothing, in short, that touches the viewer where it really counts, in the inner recesses of his heart and home. Unfortunately, the desegregation story won't go away; and the networks, apparently having recognized this slight fact, Sunday night finally began what appears to be a head-long plunge into the areas of evaluation and summation rather than just spot coverage.

ABC-TV led the way, using its old Howard K. Smith time slot to kick off a five-part weekly series on the racial crisis, with reporter Ron Cochran as the anchorman and host, properly serious throughout without being unduly grave. For the most part, the half-hour program summarized sketchily — though with numerous facts and clips — some of the historic American issues that tended to add fuel to the current furor. And though such contemporary figures as Gov. Orville Faubus of Arkansas and the Rev. Martin Luther King were interviewed, ABC-TV might just as well get ready to hear some hollering because of the sensitivity of the entire matter.

Others who appeared included Autherine Lucy, who entered the University of Alabama for three days in 1956 and is now a housewife; former Mayor William Hartsfield of Atlanta; Rosa Parks, who began the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott by refusing to give her seat to a white person; and G. Stanley Frazier, a white minister on the committee that negotiated with Dr. King in Montgomery. And it may be more than a little significant that the program was not sponsored.

But, as indicated above, it was just the start of the networks' plunge. On Aug. 21, for instance, CBS-TV will present a one-hour examination of coverage of the desegregation problem by the various news media. There have been some charges that network news reporting has been slanted to the Negro cause. Here are other upcoming special programs:

On Sept. 2, NBC-TV is planning an unprecedented three-hour night-time show examining many aspects of the Negro issue throughout American history, up to and including now. The entire prime-time lineup on NBC that night — "Monday Night at the Movies," "Art Linkletter's show" and "David Brinkley's Journal" — will be pre-empted. By coincidence, this is also the same night that both NBC-TV and CBS-TV expand their evening news reports from 15 to 30 minutes daily; and there are some nasty folk who suspect NBC has scheduled its big special to draw attention away from CBS.

Anyway, on Sept. 26, NBC-TV also will present an hour special on race relations in Washington, D.C., a predominantly Negro city. And on Oct. 28, ABC-TV will air what is billed as an actual on-the-scene "inside story" of the June integration crisis at the University of Alabama, an hour-long show involving President Kennedy, Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy and Gov. George Wallace — and, according to ABC, filmed with the permission of all concerned at moments of decision.

The Channel Swim: American journalism is the subject all this week of CBS-TV's daily morning program, "Calendar." H. V. Kaltenborn, veteran radio news commentator who once was a household name, is interviewed on same network's "Portrait" show Friday; he is now 85.

W. Averell Harriman, who negotiated the partial nuclear test-ban treaty in Moscow, discusses it Sunday on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers." Leonard Bernstein's "Young People's Concerts" was renewed for four more outings on CBS-TV this coming season, starting Nov. 29.

At the same time, the PHS said that another radioactive substance sampled in milk, iodine 131, was at a record low. A spokesman said this was because iodine-131 has a much shorter life than strontium-90 following a nuclear explosion.

The PHS blamed the unusually high strontium-90 on atmospheric tests conducted last year by the United States and the Soviet Union.

The United States resumed testing after the Soviet Union ended the nuclear test moratorium in September, 1961. Officials estimated that more radioactive material was released at that time than in all the nuclear explosions before the 1958 moratorium.

The council has estimated that a human being can absorb 73,000 picocuries of radioactive strontium-90 in a year before protective action must be considered. A picocurie is one million-millionth of the amount of radiation given off by one gram of radium.

In a statement the radiation council said:

"Health risks from present fallout levels due to testing through 1963 are too small to require measures to limit intake by modification of diet or alternating the normal distribution of use of foods."

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"Now, mind what I said, Junior! Don't go around stepping in potato salad in your new play shoes!"

STEVE CANYON



DICK TRACY



L'L ABNER



REX MORGAN, M.D.



CAPTAIN EASY



MARY WORTH



ALLEY OOP



Strontium-90 at record level, increase seen

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Public Health Service (PHS) expects radioactive strontium-90 in milk, already at a record amount to increase in the next several months.

During the 12 month period ending in May, the count was the highest in the history of nuclear testing and was nearly twice that recorded in May, 1962 the PHS said Saturday. The Federal Radiation Council said the count still was far below the amount which, if consumed annually, would injure man.

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5 drug manufacturers charged with conspiring to fix prices

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Five leading U.S. drug manufacturers have been charged by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) with conspiring to fix prices of a widely-used miracle drug.

The commission Saturday ordered the companies to tear up all price lists for tetracycline, a drug used to cure a great variety of bacterial infections, and publish new prices independently.

A basic ingredient of the drug is Aureomycin, the FTC said.

The five-man commission also claimed, in an unprecedented move, the authority to take action to limit or completely halt enforcement of drug patent rights held by two of the firms, Chas. Pfizer and Co., Inc. and American Cyanamid Co.

The FTC charged they had obtained the patents unfairly by withholding important information from the U.S. Patent Office.

The other three firms charged were Bristol-Myers Co. and Bristol Laboratories, Inc.; Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp. (Squibb), and the Upjohn Co.

The FTC said it considered Bristol Laboratories a subsidiary of the Bristol-Myers Co.

Deny Charges
Pfizer and Bristol-Myers

Charge Conspiracy

The commission charged the firms conspired by having frequent contacts, including exchange of up-to-date price lists, issued uniform price lists, identical bids to purchasers and identical dosage forms.

Pfizer, in a statement, said "We have not fixed prices. We obtained our tetracycline patent in good faith and without any impropriety."

Dr. Philip I. Bowman, president of Bristol Laboratories, said his firm would appeal "with confidence that our position will be ultimately vindicated."

W. G. Malcolm, chairman and chief executive officer of American Cyanamid Co., said his firm's lawyers "assure us that the examiner's initial decision exonerating Cyanamid and the other defendants was well founded."

World Scout jamboree ends

MARATHON, Greece (UPI) — Crown Prince Constantine, Greece's chief Boy Scout, presided at ceremonies in this historic city Sunday winding up a world jamboree attended by an estimated 14,000 scouts.

Education Minister Christoforos Stratos and the chiefs of the Greek armed forces shared the platform with Constantine at the closing ceremony.

The jamboree split up into national groups, most of them expected to visit other regions of Greece before returning home.

The World Scout Congress, with Roy Nicolls of Australia presiding, will be opened formally by Constantine Tuesday. About 270 delegates from 64 nations are expected to attend.

Britton faces contempt count

KLAMATH FALLS (UPI) — Klamath County Sheriff Murray Britton will have to answer contempt of court charges.

Circuit Judge Don H. Sanders ruled Friday against a defense motion challenging the charge.

The charge is in connection with the April trial of Bobby Huitt of Klamath Falls on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Britton is accused of speaking to a juror about the case, which then was declared a mistrial. Huitt was tried again last week and found innocent.

Tests on eagle show traces of pesticide

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Traces of pesticides have been found in research tests on the bald eagle, America's vanishing national symbol, the Interior Department reported today.

But the department drew no conclusions about whether the pesticide — DDT — is actually harmful to the bird, which numbered only 3,807 in a January, 1962, survey.

Specimens of 25 out of 26 bald eagles tested by the Fish and Wildlife Service contained DDT, frequently used to kill mosquitoes, the report said.

It said that "A marked lack of breeding success in coastal areas ... has led some people to suspect that these areas, which are frequently treated for mosquito control, are producing contaminated fish that make up a part of the eagles' diet."

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