

Government Ponders Converting All TV Channels Over To UHF

Washington—(AP)—The government is considering an eventual switch of all the nation's television broadcasting to new channels which most present sets are not equipped to receive.

The move, however, is only in the study stage and will be subject to long controversy and argument. Even if it were finally approved and ordered, the switch would require about 10 years to put into effect fully, most experts estimate.

The step under consideration would shift television broadcasting from very high frequency (VHF) channels to the ultra high (UHF) band. The Federal Communications Commission announced Tuesday that it is studying the matter.

12 VHF Channels
Most present TV sets receive only VHF channels—channels two through 13. Of the 37,000,000 sets estimated in the nation, only 7,000,000 are equipped to receive UHF telecasting only by installing an adapter. Such an installation costs from \$25 to \$75.

The FCC emphasized, however, that in any shift to UHF it would allow a transition period "sufficiently long to cover the useful life of VHF—only receivers in the hands of the public.

Future sets presumably would be built mainly for UHF use. The newest models still are aimed at the VHF market but are built so that conversion to UHF can be made in only about five minutes and at a nominal cost.

Reason for Study
The reason FCC is studying

the shift to UHF is that there are, at present, 70 UHF channels available for allotment for commercial TV stations compared to VHF's 12. Hence, it said, the shift would permit a greater number of stations for each reception area and establishment of stations in areas never before served by TV.

The FCC first began opening up UHF channels in 1952, but UHF stations established since then have had a rough go of it. The public had too few sets which could receive UHF, and VHF stations already were established in the field with superior programming and a prior claim on advertising dollars.

Contestants Win \$100 Weekly for 12th Year

Hollywood—(AP)—Steve and Dorothy Rowland increased their total prize money to \$63,600 Tuesday night by winning \$100 a week for a 12th year on Edgar Bergen's television quiz program, "Do You Trust Your Wife?"

Rowland, a Los Angeles insurance salesman and delicatessen store operator, trusted his wife to compete for the cash prize against Lawrence Whalstrom on the CBS television show. Mrs. Rowland named correctly seven of 10 wives of U.S. presidents while Whalstrom only could name two.

The Rowlands also won the opportunity to return next week to try for \$100 a week for a 13th year. The couple has been on the program for three months.

Snake River Development Plan Opposed in Pendleton Hearings

Pendleton—(AP)—Opponents to proposed private development of the Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley power sites on the Snake river called 20 witnesses to testify here yesterday as a Federal Power Commission hearing concluded a two-day session.

General thesis of the opposition was threefold: (1) that the proposed development would provide inadequate flood control, (2) charges of monopoly, and (3) the two proposed dams would not provide or allow full development of the river system.

Shift To Lewiston
The hearings will reconvene in Lewiston, Ida., tomorrow for another two days of taking technical testimony. A later hearing in Washington, D.C., will take technical testimony.

Lyle Wolff, attorney for the National Hells Canyon association, also introduced 24 letters of protest against the proposed development.

Harvey Libby, president of the Oregon Farmers Union, declared the proposed construction would "not be in the public interest." He compared the situation with that preceding the construction of Bonneville dam on the Columbia.

A favorite comparison offered by many of the opposition witnesses was between the proposed private two-dam development and the suggested federal Nez Perce dam. Nearly unanimously they agreed that the proposed Mountain Sheep and the Pleasant Valley projects would not measure up to the overall river development offered by the Nez Perce dam.

Monopoly Charged
The four-company combine that proposes to undertake the \$213 million project, was accused of proposing a monopoly.

"Our consumer owned electric systems would be as frail reeds, subject to every arbitrary whim of this tremendous five state super power corporation," Gus Norwood, executive secretary of the Northwest Public Power association, told the hearing.

He declared that only the federal government would be able to develop the Snake river for the benefit of all.

Arthur C. Higgs, assistant attorney general for Oregon, frequently rose to question witnesses, particularly in regard to the problem of fish passage over the high dams.

Largest in Northwest
A group of four private power companies, Pacific Power and Light, Washington Water Power, Montana Water Power and Portland General Electric, have combined together in requesting a license for construction of the two dams. It would be the largest hydroelectric project ever undertaken in the Northwest with private capital.

Allan A. Smith, attorney for the private power companies, said that he expected to call

UNAUTHORIZED FLIGHT
Wiesbaden, Germany—(AP)—A young airman was "neither insane nor intoxicated" when he flew a twin-engine transport into Rhineland skies for a one-hour solo joyride. Officials said Airman I-C Thomas S. Smith, of Sitka, Alaska, will face a court martial for his unauthorized C47 flight Tuesday.

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about 40 witnesses to offer testimony in support of construction

of the two dams, when the hearings reconvene in Lewiston,

Ida., tomorrow. Opponents indicated that they would send

about 20 witnesses to the stand in the Lewiston hearings.

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