Gannett Co. announced Friday (Nov. 15) it has **sold three Evening News Association TV stations to Knight-Ridder Broadcasting Inc. for $160 million,** pending FCC approval of Gannett's purchase of ENA (BROADCASTING, Sept. 2). Stations sold are KTVY(TV) **Oklahoma City, WALA-TV Mobile, Ala., and KOLD-TV Tucson, Ariz.** Knight-Ridder Broadcasting is station group subsidiary of Knight-Ridder Newspapers Inc., publicly held Miami-based publisher headed by Alvah H. Chapman, chairman. Broadcast division is headed by Daniel E. Gold, president. Sale gives Knight-Ridder Broadcasting eight TV's. Last year, broadcast division had $66.9 million share of company's total $1.66 billion revenue. KTVY is NBC affiliate on channel 4 with 97.7 kw visual, 19.5 kw aural and antenna 1,540 feet above average terrain. WALA-TV is NBC affiliate on channel 10 with 316 kw visual, 47 kw aural and antenna 1,246 feet above average terrain. KOLD-TV is CBS affiliate on channel 13 with 107 kw visual, 15.6 kw aural and antenna 3,610 feet above average terrain.

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Pole attachment case is on its way to Supreme Court. That was clear last week after U.S. Court of Appeals for Eleventh Circuit refused to grant rehearing in case in which three-judge panel of that appeals court declared unconstitutional 1978 law authorizing FCC to regulate pole attachment fees (BROADCASTING, Nov. 4). Requests for rehearing had been filed by FCC, NCTA and two cable television companies. On Friday, FCC lawyers appeared confident commission would authorize them to move forward with Justice Department in appealing case to Supreme Court. And NCTA made clear its determination to carry on fight—leading it, if necessary—with statement asserting its intention "to pursue vigorously an appeal in the Supreme Court."

Syndicated numbers. *The most current Nielsen averages for syndicated programs containing barter advertising show that* The New Newlywed Game *(Bel-Air),* Small Wonder *(Metromedia Producers Corp.) and* G.I. Joe *(Tribune) are the leading game show, sit-com and cartoon show, respectively. (The Nielsen figures are based on data gathered from Oct. 7 through Nov. 3).*

The New Newlywed Game, cleared in 91% of the country, has an 8.7 seven-week average, based on its coverage-based ratings. Its average in NTI is 8.0. Catch Phrase *(Telepictures), cleared in 92% of the country, has a seven-week coverage-based average of 3.4, and 2.3 in NTI.* Break the Bank *(Blair), cleared in 61% of the country, has a seven-week coverage-based average of 2, and an NTI average of 1.2, and* Headline Chasers *(King World), cleared in 78% of the country, has a coverage-based average of 3.5 for five of the seven weeks for which data is available, and a 3 in eight weeks of NTI numbers.*

Among the season's new weekly first-run sit-coms, Small Wonder, *appearing in 73% of the country, has a 7.1 average in seven weeks of coverage-based ratings, and 5.1 in NTI ratings.* What's Happening Now *(Columbia Pictures Television/LBS), carried in 77% of country, is averaging a 6 in coverage-based ratings and a 4.6 in NTI numbers after five weeks, and* It's a Living *(LBS), carried in 84% of the country, is averaging a 5.1 in coverage-based ratings after six weeks, and a 4.3 in NTI numbers.*

In animation, G.I. Joe, *cleared in 88% of the country, has averaged 4.6 in six weeks of coverage-based ratings, and 4 in NTI ratings.* She-Ra, *Princess of Power (Group W), cleared in 77% of the country, has averaged a 4.3 in coverage-based ratings for its first six weeks, and* Thundercats *(Telepictures) has averaged a 4.2 in coverage-based ratings for its first eight weeks, and a 3.3 in NTI numbers. Data also shows that the one-hour* America *(Paramount), seen in 83% of the country six days a week, primarily as a news lead-in, has a seven-week average of 4.1 in coverage-based ratings, and a 3.4 in NTI numbers. The two-hour daily daytime block,* Inday *(LBS), has a four-week average of .9 in coverage-based ratings, and a .7 in three weeks of NTI data.*

Senate bill that would require broadcasters to provide candidate with free "equal time," if candidate is subject of negative commercial funded by political action committees, is slated for vote when Senate returns from Thanksgiving holiday, Dec. 2. Bill's author, Senator David Boren (D-Okla.), tried to bring measure to floor last week as rider to another bill, but was persuaded to attach it to another measure at later date. National Association of Broadcasters opposes measure and worked along with network lobbyist to press for postponement of any action. They will continue to push for its defeat. (Bill's chief purpose, however, is to limit contributions candidates may accept from PAC's, concept not likely to be endorsed by majority of Senate.) Measure, co-sponsored by Senate Communications Subcommittee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), would also require "disclaimer for PAC's that make...[an] advertisement, not authorized by a candidate in a federal election, to disclose that such advertisement is 'authorized and paid for by' the committee, and that 'its presentation is not subject to any campaign law contributions limits.' "

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Halfway through **November sweeps** (as of Wednesday, Nov. 13), **ABC is ahead in both Nielsen and Arbitron ratings.** In national ratings during Nielsen period (Oct. 31-Nov. 27), ABC has 17.9/27, NBC has 17.4/26 and CBS has 16.5/25. In national ratings during Arbitron period (Oct. 30-Nov. 26), ABC has 17.9/27, NBC has 17.3/26 and CBS has 16.3/25.

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Field of **component satellite delivery systems** has narrowed to one—**Scientific-Atlanta's B-MAC.** At Nov. 14 meeting of standards organization, Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), alternative component system developed by CBS was withdrawn from consideration, with CBS weight thrown instead behind B-MAC. Research will continue at CBS, however, on two-channel high-definition television transmission methods which spawned its version of MAC. ATSC has scheduled consideration of B-MAC as standard for component satellite delivery of enhanced television systems at meeting week of Jan. 20. Meanwhile, Direct Broadcast Satellite Association has nearly completed its own $250,000 review of transmission systems for DBS which involved several-month-long comparison of B-MAC with General Instrument's B-NTSC system. DBSA subcommittee will meet this week (Nov. 19-20) to consider selection of one system as DBS standard, with DBSA final recommendation to be forwarded to FCC in December.

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Agreement between National Cable Television Association and Motion Picture Association of America to replace existing formula for calculating cable operators' compulsory copyright royalties with flat per-subscriber fee appears to be **on track.** Presidents of MPAA and NCTA, Jack Valenti and Jim Mooney, respectively, have had at least one face-to-face meeting and have made slow but steady progress toward deal. One sticking point is reportedly Valenti's insistence on "reopener"—opportunity to renegotiate flat fee if cable industry's revenues grow more quickly than expected in years ahead. NCTA's board, meeting in Phoenix this week, will be briefed on status of talks.

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Senate last week passed budget reconciliation package that includes **cost-of-regulation fees for FCC licensees and applicants** (BROADCASTING, Sept. 30). Fee schedule is identical to schedule FCC forwarded to Congress last spring. House adopted similar measure last month, although Senate version includes provision that would reauthorize Corporation for Public Broadcasting for fiscal 1987 through 1990. CPB provision may be subject of debate during House-Senate conference on measure. Included in fee schedule are: $30 fee for renewals, $75 charge for applications to transfer FM and TV translators and low-power television stations, $500 charge for minor change applications for commercial radios and TV's, $2,250 for major changes and new commercial TV's and $2,000 for new AM's and $1,800 for new FM's.

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FCC Commissioner Dennis Patrick has released statement dissenting in part from order implementing **equal employment opportunity provisions of Cable Communications Policy Act** of 1984. Patrick said he disagreed with majority's decision to incorporate processing