

TV projectors, color cameras and associated gear, usually located in a Sheraton hotel. For broadcast specials, extra local loops might have to be added in certain cases to feed the TV station.

For a 21-city live network in full color for one hour, including all equipment and personnel plus production assistance for a day, GE will charge business customers \$35,000. A broadcast packager needing only the network for an hour and no production help or hotel equipment will probably pay about \$28,000, it was indicated.

The facility already has been booked for multi-city political rallies and charity events in addition to usual business purposes, GE indicated. The GE network is headed by Christopher Carver of Syracuse, N.Y.

SDX supports more open Congress

Sigma Delta Chi, Chicago, the national journalistic society, last week issued a call for the elimination of secrecy in Congress.

Frank Angelo, managing editor, *Detroit Free Press*, and SDX president, said the society supports a bipartisan effort which is to begin July 13 when the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (H.R. 17654) is to come up for debate on the floor of the House. It is described as the first such measure in 24 years to emerge from committee.

"The amendments to be proposed represent a hard-headed, realistic approach aimed simply at opening up to greater public view the conduct of the public's business in Congress," Mr. Angelo said. A similar measure has been waiting floor action in the Senate for more than a year.

Mr. Angelo cited a Democratic study group report on the issue. The report noted: "Secrecy pervades the legislative process in the House," and also observed that opportunities for manipulation arise when the news media must rely on leaks to get their information. Present provisions allowing restricted broadcast coverage of hearings would be retained, he added.

Cott, Wolff to offer Hill program at cost

A weekly, half-hour radio program, *Ask Congress!*, has been developed by Ted Cott Productions, New York, in association with Rep. Lester Wolff (D-N.Y.), and will be taped in the House of Representatives recording studio.

Four congressmen will appear on each program, answering questions sent in by the public and selected by a rotating group of broadcast newsmen and newspapermen who cover the house.

Mr. Cott said the program will be offered to a station in each community on an actual cost basis, with the starting air date either late this summer or early fall. Ted Cott productions is at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York.

Chicago firm purchases Crosby syndication arm

Cox Broadcasting Corp. last week sold off the Chicago-based television syndication division of its wholly owned Bing Crosby Productions, Hollywood.

The division, which has specialized in promotional game shows, was sold to Telecom Productions, Chicago, newly formed by Howard Christensen, who has been executive vice president of the syndication division of the Crosby subsidiary. No financial details were revealed.

The division distributes and owns the rights to *Win With the Stars*, *Let's Go to the Races*, *It's Racing Time*, *Championship Bowling*, *Cisco Kid* and a sports package. It also has distributed the Paul Harvey television show, *The Kup Show* on television and the Richard Evans radio show.

Most of the properties owned by the division were acquired with Walt Schwimmer Productions, Chicago, purchased by Cox in December 1966 for

\$2.75 million plus a personal fee arrangement with Mr. Schwimmer (BROADCASTING, Dec. 19, 1966). The Schwimmer operations were later merged into the Bing Crosby subsidiary.

A Cox spokesman emphasized last week that the Bing Crosby production subsidiary, which produces *Hogan's Heroes* among other properties, would remain in the company.

New Opry home

With the help of a mule and a plow, ground has been broken for WSM Inc.'s Opryland USA, a \$25-million entertainment-recreation complex centered around Nashville's *Grand Ole Opry*. The *Opry* began in 1925 when WSM-AM Nashville went on the air. Both were founded by National Life and Accident Insurance Co. On hand for the June 30 ceremonies were officials of WSM Inc. and NL&A, state and city officials, and stars of the *Opry*. Projected opening date is spring 1972.

Goodbye Chet

NBC News commentator Chet Huntley appears in his final documentary before leaving the company on Aug. 1 when he conducts interviews for *Migrant—An NBC White Paper*, which will be telecast on NBC-TV on July 16 (7:30-8:30 p.m.).

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