

TV CANDIDS

by Terrence O'Flaherty

Anyone who watched the telecasts of the FCC hearings, on net programming will readily see why television is the most rapidly declining art form in the country today. The testimony by CBS and NBC network executives was a garland of excuses and double-talk that demonstrated neither imagination nor respect for the medium that feeds them.

I can honestly say the most personally disappointing performances I have witnessed in over a decade of covering television were the witness-stand testimonies of president Frank Stanton of CBS and James Aubrey, also of CBS, as well as NBC's Board Chairman Robert Sarnoff and his vice president-in-charge of programming, Mort Werner.

As those in control of the most exciting and influential informational device in history, they were a sad, dispirited lot and I was ashamed of them.

As you heard their statements, you kept remembering FCC Chairman Newton Minow's words: "In a free society there is no more precious gift than to have the eyes and ears of the Nation five or six hours of the day. It is a staggering responsibility for the networks..."

Stanton said it is not the responsibility of a network to cram culture onto television screens until the public shows an interest in such a type of program.

"We all seem impelled to lead others to the heights we ourselves have attained — or think we have attained — through some sort of coercion or cultural speed-up," said Stanton who went on to say: "It is helpful to remember that less than 32 per cent of the American people between the ages of 18 and 64 have more than a high school education, and that 32 per cent have had no more than eight years of schooling altogether."

"... The more sophisticated who are restless with the type of entertainment that appeals to others may need a rededication of faith in that hopeful experiment that is our democracy."

At one point Aubrey declared that the violence, sadism, and killing had no effect on the actions of children — "except the deviate children, of course."

At this point cagey Commissioner John Cross said: "I seem to remember a time when the youngsters of this country were influenced enough by television to purchase five million coonskin caps." Aubrey disregarded the parry.

It's a miracle to me that the commissioners didn't pin the network boys to the mat more often. Some of their statements cried for rebuttal. Either they were being polite or else they don't watch much television personally.

ABC president Ollie Treyz was called up before a subcommittee on juvenile delinquency to explain why he had approved the episode on his net's "Bus Stop" which showed teen-age idol Fabian as a brutal, unrepentant, homicidal psychopath — after three sponsors and 25 ABC station affiliates dropped it. Treyz answered:

"I did not want to do any blue-pencilling that would discourage creative talent."

The Communications Act of 1934 gave the FCC a mandate to see that radio (later TV) stations operated "in the public interest and necessity," but denied it the right to censor. If they don't measure up, the FCC can deny a license renewal. But the FCC has no control over the networks which provide the stations with a major part of their programming.

The current two-year investigation is to determine how much control the FCC should have over the nets. Broadcasters fear government censorship and are terrified of Pay TV. Minow says he wants no censorship. But he does want responsibility. I hope he gets it.

Opportunity for residents of the South Bay area to establish successful careers in the administration of California's employment security program through qualifying for state civil service jobs in the Department of Employment was announced by Murray Love, manager of the Department's Torrance office.

An examination for the position of Employment Security Trainee will be conducted by the State Personnel Board at convenient locations throughout California on March 24. Applications for the examination and full particulars about necessary qualifications and the nature of work done by Employment Security Trainees may be obtained from the local office of the Department of Employment at 1220 Engracia Ave.

ability Insurance Officer with a beginning salary of \$458 and a top salary of \$530 a month.

"Persons who qualify by examination and enter the Department's employ as a trainee will have the opportunity through subsequent examinations to go as far as their abilities will take them. The Department of Employment is known widely for its policy of promoting qualified employees to top jobs. The regular channel for promotion extends through five levels in addition to the journeyman class," Manager Love said.

TRAINEE POSITIONS exist, or will exist from time to time, in virtually all parts of California. At present, the Department of Employment is particularly short of trainees in its offices in Los Angeles, El Monte, Pasadena, Monrovia, Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Indio, Van Nuys, Bakersfield and Fresno.

An Employment Security Trainee participates in a variety of employment security program operations, including job placement interviewing, determining the eligibility of claimants to receive unemployment insurance and disability testing and counseling.

Candidates may qualify to take the examination on the basis of education or experience.

GRADUATION from college within the last five years or current status as a college senior meets requirements. (This time limit is extended for a period equivalent to that spent in military service during the last 10 years.)

Persons without college training may take the examination if they have two years of full-time paid experience within the last five years performing duties of a technical or management nature in activities specified in the examination announcement, and education equivalent to completion of the twelfth grade.

Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the required education on a year-for-year basis.

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Women Enter Art Exhibition

New entries from Torrance have been received at the All California Art Exhibition to be held in connection with the 47th Annual National Orange Show in San Bernardino March 15-25.

Mrs. Nettie Sandman of

1535 1/2 W. 228th St., will submit an oil painting, "My Dream Vision," and Marjorie McNeely Stuart of 22701 Cypress St. will have an oil, "Artichokes," in competition.

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