

**Lots of talk.** Tane Productions is offering free 30-minute radio talk programs to stations in U.S. and Canada. Shows include politically oriented *Relevance*, with Rolfe Auerbach as host; *Radio Factory Outlet*, with Bob O'Brien on current entertainment scene, and other series dealing with occult, sports, science and rock music. *Ian Carlin, syndication director, Tane Productions, 15 East 40th Street, New York 10016; (212) 689-1555.*

**Good for business.** World Entertainment Network, Detroit, offers *Enterprise '75*, new half-hour, five-days-per-week radio program beginning June 1. Program is aimed at black small-businessman and includes one-hour weekend wrap-up.

**Dateline: nostalgia.** Hollywood Newsreel Syndicate Inc., Hollywood, is offering five-minute TV featurette, *Nostalgia*, for use as part of regular newscast by station or as filler. Producer-narrator is Ted Hilgenstuhler, Los Angeles newsmen-documentary producer, who already has finished programs on Marilyn Monroe and Jayne Mansfield. *1622 North Gower Street, Hollywood 90028.*

**But not the Palace.** Metromedia Television, Los Angeles, has signed four more stations for MM's *Vaudeville* syndicated series of 13 one-hour variety specials. This brings total markets to 53. New stations are KYW-TV Philadelphia, KULR-TV Billings, Mont.; KGUN-TV Tucson, Ariz., and WSLV-TV Roanoke, Va. MM also announces that it has signed non-exclusive contract with Mort Green, producer-writer of *Vaudeville*. Arrangement provides MM with first rights on program ideas created by Mr. Green and his Kaymore Productions.

**To the showers.** S-P Productions, Los Angeles, is syndicating *The Steam Room*, five-days-per-week sports show before live audience moderated by Los Angeles TV and radio personality Bud Furillo (KABC-AM-TV), with Mazda Motors of America as national sponsor and with time left open for local sale. Program began last week on KHJ-TV Los Angeles. Producers-distributors are Robert Seizer and John Paley, former network executives.

**Star trek.** 641 Productions Inc., New York, is soliciting radio stations for new series of taped interviews conducted by Rex Reed, movie columnist for Chicago Tribune Syndicate. Mr. Reed has already recorded talks with George C. Scott, Elizabeth Taylor and Ellen Burstyn. Company said it would announce station lineup later this month.

**Four tragedies revisited.** CBS News will develop two-hour special, to air in November, on revival of questions concerning four assassinations or attempts, from death of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 to shooting of Governor George C. Wallace in 1972. *CBS Reports: The Assassinations* will be reported and narrated by Dan Rather with production supervised by Leslie Midgley, and will also examine 1968 shooting deaths of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

## Rodino urges go-slow approach to live coverage of Congress

**At state-association presidents' meeting, House Judiciary chairman who came to prominence in televised Nixon impeachment hearings says cameras may cause drastic changes and caution is needed; FCC's Wiley finds an appreciative audience**

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) said last week there are dangers in permitting unfettered broadcast coverage of floor proceedings in the House and Senate.

Addressing a National Association of Broadcasters-sponsored meeting of state broadcast association presidents and executive directors in Washington last Tuesday, Representative Rodino said "permission to televise proceedings, while part and parcel of the vital modern trend toward open government, ought not to be unlimited or to destroy the ability of those in government to deliberate and argue in private when the occasion demands."

As presiding officer over hearings last July that ultimately led to a Judiciary Committee vote to recommend impeachment of former President Richard Nixon, Mr. Rodino owes his celebrity in large measure to the television cameras which for six days projected his image live into the homes of millions of Americans.

Last Tuesday he had nothing but praise for the manner in which the networks and his colleagues conducted themselves during those live telecasts. "I think it is impossible to overemphasize the importance of television coverage to the impeachment proceedings," he said.

He said TV provided the only means of involving the people in the judgmental process of the hearings. Because the debates were carried live and in full, he

said, the people were able to observe all the nuances of the events as they happened. Not just the President, but the committee members as well were on trial before the people, Mr. Rodino said, and rightly so. In the end the nation's faith in the constitutional process was renewed, he said.

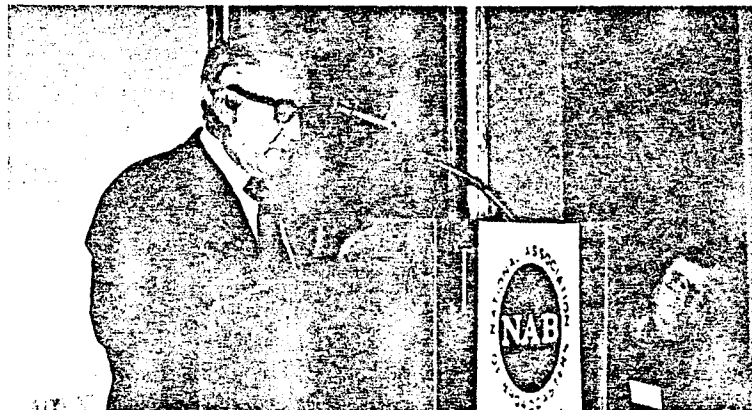
In the case of the impeachment hearings, "it would have been grossly unfair to the American people to keep their eyes and ears out of the chamber of judgment," he concluded, but he indicated he does not think that necessarily holds true for all future chamber proceedings.

Representative Rodino said live coverage of House and Senate proceedings (there are measures to implement such a program currently pending in both houses) would serve a "vital" purpose in promoting public understanding of major issues "in a way never possible in any previous democracy." But he also said he knows from experience that much "robust, uninhibited questioning, argument and debate" are necessary before members are ready to take public stands. "and that such discussion is often necessarily private." He added, that "among other things, the protection of the rights of innocent parties commands privacy for many sessions."

He also said many of the formats of broadcast journalism, such as presidential press conferences and coverage of congressional committees, "have proved to be extremely vulnerable to personal manipulation by politicians of both parties." "Serious thought," he said, should be given to preventing this type of abuse.

Mr. Rodino said television has changed every institution it has touched, often creating events where none would have existed had cameras not been present. "Before we accept unqualifiedly the expanded presence of television in the Congress, we in Congress and you in the industry should make some realistic judgments about the kinds of institutional change it is likely to bring about," he said. "And we should strive to formulate guidelines which will limit it to the coverage, not the creation of congressional events."

Another participant in the program



Rodino