

SARNOFF AND COY CLASH ON COLOR TV

F.C.C. Chief Charges Firm Lies —R.C.A. Head Insists Agency Ignored Improvements

By JACK GOULD

The controversy over color television reached a new high in acrimony last night as Wayne Coy, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of the Radio Corporation of America, issued sharp statements.

The statements came only twenty-four hours after R.C.A. had demonstrated its improved color system in Washington.

In Washington, Mr. Coy assailed the corporation for what he said were its efforts to try to convince the public that the commission had ignored the R. C. A. improvements before its recent decision in favor of the Columbia Broadcasting System's color method.

"I make this statement because this lie about the commission refusing to look at improvements in the R. C. A. system is about to become big enough to be believed," he said.

Change of Mind Charged

General Sarnoff, who returned to New York last night, asserted that his concern had sent a letter to the commission last July inviting its members to witness the new improvements in his company's method.

"No reply to our letter was ever received," he said.

Mr. Coy charged that the Radio Corporation of America had had a change of mind regarding the color decision just before its final adoption.

He cited a letter, dated Aug. 2, 1950, in which General Sarnoff had

said that his company opposed any delay in the establishment of commercial standards for color television. There was no request for a reopening of the record on the case, which had been closed in May, the chairman added.

On Sept. 1 the commission announced tentative approval of the C. B. S. color system in preference to the R. C. A. method, according to Mr. Coy. On Sept 28 the Radio Corporation of America asked that the decision be delayed to permit demonstration of its improved system on Dec 5.

Mr. Coy charged that the last R. C. A. petition was "a belated effort on their part to salvage a situation in which they had lost their case before the commission."

Out of Context, Sarnoff Says

In rebuttal, General Sarnoff said that in conjunction with a progress report on R. C. A.'s improved color system, filed with the commission in July, he had invited the commissioners to inspect his company's latest refinements and had offered to make whatever arrangements might be necessary. It was this

invitation, he alleged, that the commission did not acknowledge.

"I think this suffices to show that the commission was requested in advance of its first report of Sept. 1 to view the progress which had been made by R.C.A.," he remarked.

General Sarnoff also accused Mr. Coy of taking his letter of Aug. 2 out of context of the situation that prevailed at that time. He said that its purpose was to refute statements in trade papers that he and other manufacturers favored a delay on color television.

At the time, General Sarnoff said, he was clearly on record opposing any adoption of Columbia method standards and favoring standards, such as would apply to the R. C. A. method, that did not require the use of adapters to insure continued service for present black-and-white receivers.

In his statement, Mr. Coy also attacked The Washington Daily News because of an editorial that criticized the commission in connection with the Radio Corporation of America's color demonstration on Tuesday.