

# SPEED ON COLOR TV PLEDGED BY F. C. C.

## But House Unit Is Told It Will Not Rush Radio Industry Into Developing New System

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WASHINGTON, March 31—The Federal Communications Commission will speedily approve the first satisfactory color television system brought to its attention but it will not rush the radio industry into developing such a system, Paul A. Walker, commission chairman, told a House of Representatives committee today.

Mr. Walker, testifying before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, agreed with a previous witness, Dr. W. R. G. Baker, who said that field tests, requiring four to six months, should be completed before the commission was petitioned to hold hearings on the only system being proposed for commission consideration.

Dr. Baker, chairman of the National Television System Committee, told the House committee last week that field tests, through which he hoped to prove the desirability of the color system sponsored by his group, were imminent. The system is "compatible" and is sponsored by the Radio Corporation of America and other electronics organizations.

### Chairman Raises Questions

Representative Charles A. Wolverton, Republican of New Jersey, and chairman of the House committee, raised the questions whether the F. C. C. could influence the National Television System Committee, a research group representing a number of the largest radio and television manufacturers, to expedite its tests and whether the commission could grant early approval if the system were found satisfactory.

The witness replied he felt it was not advisable to hold a hearing at this time. He said "I think Dr. Baker is correct in his feeling that the development of the N. T. S. C. system has not been far enough advanced to bring it formally to our attention. It would be futile to hold a hearing now on what the N. T. S. C. is trying to do."

Mr. Walker said that the commission had no evidence that the N. T. S. C. was delaying its field tests unnecessarily.

Commissioner Walker declined to estimate the time required to hold hearings and then hand down a commission decision after the field tests. The hearing need not "be dragged out for eight months, or even for two or three months," he said.

The previous hearing on color television began in September, 1949, and ended in May, 1950. As a result, an "incompatible" color television system sponsored by the Columbia Broadcasting System was approved on Oct. 10, 1950, by the commission.

### How Systems Differ

Under the incompatible system, color receivers would not reproduce black-and-white television without alteration and a converter would be required to receive color on a black-and-white set. Under the compatible system being developed by the N. T. S. C., present receivers could get color broadcasts in black and white without alteration to the receivers and color receivers could get black-and-white broadcasts.

Mr. Walker told the committee that the radio industry as a whole declined to adopt the incompatible C. B. S. system, that set manufacturers declined to build receivers for the system and that as long as the industry held to that decision there was little or no hope for the success of the system.

Reference was made to the testimony last week of Frank Stanton, president of C. B. S., who said that the system sponsored by his company was "not dead but just sleeping."

Mr. Walker in a formal statement said that under present circumstances "it would not be in the public interest for the commission to take any action at this time either to scrap or push" the C. B. S. system "until we have had an opportunity to evaluate the new proposal if it is presented in the fairly near future."

The appearance of Mr. Walker brought to a close the present series of hearings by the House committee in studying the status of color television and the means of speeding up its advent to the public.