

R. C. A. COLOR TUBE IS ASKED FOR C. B. S.

Communications Body Wants It Turned Over for Tests With Approved Method

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (AP)—The Federal Communications Commission today asked the Radio Corporation of America to turn over its tricolor television tube to the Columbia Broadcasting System for experiments with the approved C. B. S. color plan.

The commission last month selected Columbia color for exclusive licensing and at the same time ruled out rival color methods developed by R. C. A. and Color Television, Inc., of San Francisco.

R. C. A., whose color system includes the single full-color tube developed in its laboratories, has since brought suit in Chicago to upset selection of the Columbia method. The court action is largely based on the fact that Columbia color, using broadcasting standards unlike those of current television operations, cannot be picked up on present receiving sets without additional equipment.

The C. B. S. color method now includes a mechanical rotating color wheel.

However, the Federal Communications Commission noted today that experts had testified the wheel could be discarded in favor of a single direct view tricolor tube when such a tube was "successfully developed."

The commission said in a letter to R. C. A. that it recalled R. C. A. had said last July that it hoped to have a sufficient number of tubes by the fall months to make them available to the industry for "study and development work."

The commission said it wanted

to have the tube tested in the C. B. S. color system and asserted:

"The commission feels it is appropriate to request when arrangements can be concluded between you and C. B. S. whereby the above tests may be conducted.

"It would be helpful if the C.B.S. engineers could be given the necessary technical information and operating instructions and could have the opportunity to view the tubes selected by you in operation in the R. C. A. system.

"The commission believes your cooperation in this matter will be in the public interest."

R. C. A. Says It Will Reply

The Radio Corporation of America said in New York last night that it had not yet received the request from the commissioner, and that it would reply to the letter following its receipt.

The Columbia Broadcasting Sys-

tem said that it had asked R. C. A. in letters on Sept. 8 and 28 to make available the latter's tricolor television tube for experiments in the Columbia color system. In the first exchange of letters, C. B. S. said, R. C. A. indicated it would supply the tube when it was successfully developed. Columbia said R. C. A. had not answered its last request on Sept. 28.