

# COURT HEARS PLEA TO BAR C.B.S. COLOR

## R.C.A. Urges Judges to Enjoin First Broadcast Monday by Video System

### DAMAGE TO PUBLIC SEEN

## Plaintiff Wants Time to Develop Method for Use Without Converter or Adapter

CHICAGO, Nov. 14 (UP)—The Radio Corporation of America today asked a Federal court to stop the Columbia Broadcasting System from producing the nation's first network color-television program next Monday.

R. C. A. made its plea at the opening of a showdown court battle before a three-man tribunal which may well decide what kind of color TV Americans will see for years to come. The hearing will continue tomorrow.

The court heard arguments today only from R. C. A. and other interested parties backing up R. C. A.'s claim that the American public will suffer if the Columbia color system, already approved by the Federal Communications Commission, receives final approval. Tomorrow Columbia and the F. C. C. will give their arguments.

### R. C. A. Wants Stay

R. C. A. wants the Communications Commission to withhold approval of any color system until it has a chance to develop a system that would send color telecasts that could be received as black-and-white on present sets without converters.

John T. Cahill, representing R. C. A., attacked the "non-compatibility" of the Columbia color system. He said this meant that color broadcasts made by the C. B. S. system could not be picked up on present sets either as black-and-white or in color without adapters and converters.

Mr. Cahill said an adapter for black-and-white reception would cost \$50 plus \$15 for installation, and a converter for color reception would cost \$100 plus \$15 for installation. He said the over-all cost of \$180 on that basis on some 9,000,000 TV sets currently owned would cost the public at least \$1,500,000,000.

He said R. C. A. sales have dropped 50 to 75 per cent since the commission approved the Columbia color system and the Emerson Radio Corporation testified that its order backlog has dropped 50 per cent.

The court was told that the Sightmaster Radio Corporation has been forced out of business because of the dispute and that Radio Craftsmen has suffered heavy losses.

Alfred Kamin, counsel for the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, A. F. L., called Columbia color a "Rube Goldbergian" device that would cause "irreparable" damage to wage-earners in the industry.

### Senator Is Accused

An attorney for the Pilot Radio Corporation, Brooklyn, said that Pilot had received a "threatening" telegram from Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Democrat of Colorado, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, because of the dispute. He said Pilot asked Johnson why he stepped outside of his legislative role and "cajoled, prodded and even demanded that the F. C. C. approve a color system."

Pilot said Senator Johnson answered in a telegram that "in due course it is likely that those believed to be the conspirators will be called before a committee and given an opportunity to prove the other allegations contained in your telegram."

As a possible indication of how the suit may be decided, one of the judges, Chief Justice J. Earl Major of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, asked if any "harm" would be done by postponing the Nov. 20 effective date.

Max Goldman, F. C. C. attorney, said it would "vitally injure the public interest" but did not elaborate.