

R. C. A. Balks at Federal Request To Give Color TV Tubes to C. B. S.

The Radio Corporation of America formally declined yesterday the request of the Federal Communications Commission to turn over its tri-color television tubes and circuits to the Columbia Broadcasting System for experimental use, pending the completion of its own development work on the electronic color apparatus.

In a letter to the commission, dated Nov. 4 and made public here, Frank M. Folsom, R. C. A. president, said: "We were both shocked and surprised at your request. Already it is evident that your attempt to force an incompatible color television on the American public has backfired."

Mr. Folsom called attention to what he asserted was an "implied threat" by the F. C. C. "to revoke our experimental licenses unless you get from us what you 'requested.'"

The F. C. C. authorized the Columbia mechanical color scanning system for commercial operation beginning Nov. 20, and on Oct. 31 asked the R. C. A. to "cooperate"

with the C. B. S. "in the public interest" by turning over its tubes and experimental data to the Columbia engineers.

Asserting that while the public interest in television "is of first concern," Mr. Folsom added that what the commission asked for, in effect, is "that our stockholders bear the heavy cost of color television research and transfer the benefits to a private interest." This, he said, "cannot be regarded as in the public interest or in accordance with the well-established American principles of free competition and fair play."

"If this kind of thing goes in America," he declared, "the Phillies certainly missed a bet in the last World Series; they should have asked the Yanks for Joe DiMaggio."

Mr. Folsom continued:

"Nothing—not even our tri-color tube—can remedy the basic defect of the system you adopted; namely, its total inability to receive any

Continued on Page 32, Column 3

R.C.A. NOT TO GIVE COLOR TV TO C.B.S.

Continued From Page 1

picture whatsoever on the 9,000,000 sets outstanding in the hands of the public today.

"Your decision denied the public an opportunity to have the R. C. A. all-electronic compatible system of color broadcasting. With this system, existing sets would receive color transmission in black and white without any alteration whatever."

The R. C. A. president's reply to the F. C. C. pointed out that on July 31 and again on Oct. 4, "we offered to show you our improvements in the tri-color tubes. Now, after your decision has been made, you write us that you are 'pleased

to note the progress' we have made."

The commission's action in adopting standards for a system of color television that uses spinning disks instead of an all-electronic one, he added, "has disrupted and delayed our previously contemplated program for factory production and sales of color sets and tri-color tubes."

However, Mr. Folsom went on, in spite of the imposed handicaps "we are continuing that work" with the objective of developing for the public "the best tri-color tubes that can be made" and "are making steady and substantial progress in this direction."

"Until we have completed our research work, we will not be able to make models of our tri-color tubes available to others," he said.

On Nov. 14, a three-judge Federal Court in Chicago will hear the R. C. A.'s suit against the F. C. C. to set aside the Federal body's approval of the C. B. S. mechanical method of transmitting and receiving color.