

RADIO AND TV FACE GRAND JURY TEST

**Investigation Planned Here
to Learn if Manufacturers
Act in Restraint of Trade**

COLOR VIDEO IS INCLUDED

**But Broadcast and Amusement
Phases of Industry Are
Excluded From Inquiry**

A Federal grand jury soon will be impaneled in the city to conduct an industry-wide investigation of the radio and television manufacturing field.

Persistent trade reports that the inquiry was forthcoming were confirmed yesterday by Melville C. Williams, head of the New York office of the Justice Department's antitrust division.

The investigation will seek to determine if manufacturers of radio and television receiving and transmitting equipment engage in practices constituting restraint of trade.

Color television receivers and transmitters will come under the scope of the inquiry, it is understood.

Entertainment Field Excluded

Broadcast and entertainment phases of the radio and television industry are not involved, it was said.

There have been rumors for several weeks that the Justice De-

whether there had been concerted action or agreement by manufacturers to refrain from making sets to receive Columbia Broadcasting System color broadcasts.

The color broadcasts were suspended by Columbia Oct. 19 at the request of Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson.

Other aspects to be covered in the inquiry include the entire situation as regards radio and television patents and licenses.

Several major manufacturers of sets and transmitters reported during the day that they have been served with subpoenas returnable to the Federal grand jury on May 12. The producers added "everybody in the industry get one (a subpoena)."

Columbia Color System

The Columbia color system received Federal Communication Commission approval on Oct. 11, 1950, but broadcasts were delayed until after a Supreme Court test that ended with a favorable decision on May 28 of last year. Columbia began broadcasts June 25.

From that date until suspension of color broadcasting at Mr. Wilson's request only one producer turned out color receivers. This was CBS-Columbia, Inc., a Columbia Broadcasting System manufacturing subsidiary. Several other companies, mostly small concerns, announced plans to produce color receivers but did not market them.

Manufacturers, who held off making color receivers, contended at the time that there was no public demand for them. Each producer insisted that his failure to turn out color receivers for Columbia broadcasts was an individual decision.

Wayne Coy, who resigned recently as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, asserted at one time that major manufacturers were "dragging their feet" in the manufacture of color sets.