

# Broadcasting & Cable July 11 1994



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## **A Chicago citizens group is seeking an FCC ruling barring home shopping on public TV stations.**

Upset by noncommercial WTTW Chicago's 45-hour home shopping trial last fall, the Coalition for Democracy in Public Television last week asked the FCC to sanction WTTW and generally declare home shopping a violation of public stations' noncommercial mandate. "This is simply not a noncommercial service," says Andy Schwartzman, the Media Access Project attorney representing the coalition. The group will file its petition today or tomorrow, he says. In addition to fining WTTW, the coalition says, the FCC should consider the "violation" when the station's license comes up for renewal.

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### **BRIEFLY NOTED**

#### **Complaint hits WTTW home shopping test**

The Coalition for Democracy in Public Television filed a complaint to the Federal Communications Commission against WTTW-TV, a public TV station in Chicago, for broadcasting a home-shopping trial last year in conjunction with four Chicago nonprofit organizations. The complaint contends that home shopping on public TV is commercial matter in violation of FCC rules. A WTTW spokeswoman says the trial was a fund-raiser that violated no rules. "This is not QVC," she said. "We were not selling furniture."