

## Sandstrom joins vigilantes in rescue of Dillon

When some Madison Avenue bushwhacker gunned down *Gunsmoke* from the CBS-TV fall lineup, Jayhawkers bristled at the thought of Kansas's historic Dodge City, series locale, fading from the nation's TV screens.

The cries of protest were raised in countless outpourings from the state's broadcast stations, newspapers and magazines. But some, such as Thad Sandstrom, vice president and general manager of WIBW-AM-FM-TV Topeka, went further. One result was a formal resolution from the Kansas House of Representatives urging CBS-TV to reconsider its decision. Copies of the resolution were dispatched to both the network and *Gunsmoke* star James Arness via the ZIP-code version of the pony express.

It worked; CBS-TV noting this

and reactions in other areas to the cancellation, changed its mind and rescheduled the current Saturday night series into a Monday evening slot next fall.

The happy Kansas house, mindful of its proper up-bringing, immediately put through another resolution. It commended CBS Inc. President Frank Stanton for the newer decision and also tendered a vote of thanks to Mr. Sandstrom, whose station is a CBS-TV affiliate, for his part in winning the reprieve.

And, if one of these days, Dr. Stanton moseys down Dodge City's Old Front Street in company with Matt Dillon, Doc and Festus, it may be because the resolution also asked Mr. Sandstrom to invite the CBS Inc. president and the entire cast of *Gunsmoke* to come set a spell with the Kansas legislature and in Dodge City.