

From Get-Together Luncheon Speech by Jack Woolley

"I am particularly honored to address representatives of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. Your Society was born at a time when the motion-picture industry had just begun. It is significant that in its 41 years of existence it has undergone expansion, advancement and revisions in order to meet its obligation to the industry it represents. During this same period of time your membership has produced the engineering and technical know-how and skill in order to keep its standards commensurate with the latest technical advances. As a representative of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, it is, I believe, significant that your

organization and mine have much in common. The United States Navy has now been in business 182 years. It started with wooden ships and sails and in the same way that your organization has furthered its technical and productive skills to provide the best possible products so has the United States Navy and Marines undergone transition from sail to the use of coal, from coal to the use of oil and now today the tremendous transition from oil to that of nuclear power. . . .

"It is interesting too that the United States Navy and Marine Corps is one of your industries' biggest and best customers. Would it surprise you if I told you that

every night across the world the Navy operates some 1,500 theaters? 1200 of these are ships which have movie projectors aboard while about 300 are actually theaters on our shore bases and stations. Moreover at any one time the Navy has in its possession some 16,000 motion picture prints in its possession. As a taxpayer, you will be interested in learning that 80% of the leasing costs of these films on the shore-based facilities are entirely covered by the regular admission fees. The result is that the American taxpayer pays practically nothing for the motion-picture entertainment of our boys in uniform. . . .

"There is a new trend in the Navy and Marine Corps involving training films. The foremost trend is toward more difficult technical subjects with improved skills demanded to visualize them. The scientific nature of the subject matter of most of our films requires very high production standards. Greater skills are needed on the part of writers, artists and cameramen than ever before. The Navy is also utilizing closed-circuit television in this important area of training.

"The second trend is toward different kinds of training films. That is, those which differ from the conventional training film, film strip or photographic report, such as kinescopes. Only a few films have been originally produced in the Navy employing the kinescope technique. However, some fine kinescopes are being distributed to Navy audiences such as CBS's "Revolution in the Navy," produced by Edward R. Murrow.

"The third noticeable trend is toward decentralizing of film-making. This means an expansion of film-making among many field activities and a recognition of the growth and importance of the small and even the individual film makers.

"This all ties in with the new Navy with its attending research and development, new kinds of films to document and teach new developments, and films made more quickly and by more people than in the past.

"Fortunately we have kept pace with new requirements by means of such industry developments as magnetic recording, single system sound cameras, higher speed film in black-and-white, and the new negative-positive color film with associated processing equipment. . . .

"The point that I wish to establish is the contribution of your industry toward the fighting forces of the United States Navy. Your work is with a media of communication which affects public opinion. The unlimited influence of the Motion Picture Industry, whether it be in a theater, a study group or on television, upon the man in the street represents that characteristic unique in the free world, that of a well-informed man. For it is through being well informed and cognizant of the strifes and perils of the communist world that the American taxpayers are willing to maintain military units in the far corners of this globe to protect our homeland. We know that it is good business to do so. We know that without a well-informed public the armed forces of this nation might be reduced to the danger point which has, in the past, led, in some instances, to open conflict."

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