

SMPTE Lectures

Arthur E. Fury, Director of Engineering, Lux-Brill Productions, Inc., who is Chairman of the East Coast Subcommittee for Audio-Video Recording, has announced that a series of lectures on video-tape recording will be offered in the Fall.

The lectures are being designed to serve the industry's nontechnical and semitechnical personnel, including managers, directors, producers, operators and maintenance personnel, who would like to have a good knowledge of the possibilities and limitations of the medium. During the series, video tape will be defined and a video-tape system will be analyzed.

The Audio-Video Recording Subcommittee was established last Spring to

determine the extent of interest in educational work in the video-tape recording field on the East Coast. Prior to the decision to conduct a lecture series, the subcommittee engaged in discussions with labor and management for their opinion of the need for such a series. A poll of users and manufacturers also indicated a high degree of interest in video-recording education.

Ampex Corporation, Radio Corporation of America and Tektronics have all offered to assist the series by supplying educational materials and the information gathered by their field engineers, who are concerned directly with the user's problems.

The proposed series of lectures on video recording follows an important series on magnetic recording, produced last Fall by the East Coast Subcommittee for the

Education of Sound Technicians, under the direction of Edgar Schuller, now Education Committee Vice-Chairman.

The lectures on magnetic recording were held at Reeves Sound Studios, Metropolitan Sound Service and RCA Film Recording Studios. The success of this series has been attributed, in part, to the high-quality recording and playback equipment, the space and other facilities and the personnel, so generously made available to the Society by these companies.

To facilitate learning, training aids of various types were used in the illustration of the lectures. Each student was also given reference materials, including graphs, formulas and definitions to be used concurrently with each lecture.

Participating in the 8-week series were the following prominent men in the field: John G. Frayne, Chief Engineer, Datalab, Division of Consolidated Electrodynamics Corp.; Leroy W. Ferber, Senior Engineer, Astro-Electronics Division, Radio Corp. of America; W. Earl Stewart, Chief Engineer, The Standard Register Co.; C. J. LeBel, Vice-President, Audio Devices; Frank Comerci, formerly of the Navy Materials Laboratory, now associated with Audio Devices; Walter Erikson, Consultant; Warren R. Isom, Engineering Manager, Development Engineering Section of DEP, Radio Corp. of America; and Edward Schmidt, Vice-President, Reeves Soundcraft Corp.

Among the topics treated in this series were standards and measurement of magnetization; ferromagnetism; the recording process; the reproducing process; distortion in magnetic recording; tape and film transport mechanisms; and new developments in magnetic recording.

According to Mr. Schmidt, there have been tremendous changes in the recording media and also in recording equipment during the last three years. As a result of such changes, most of the equipment shown in the lecture on New Developments was so new that it was unfamiliar to the subscribers to the course.

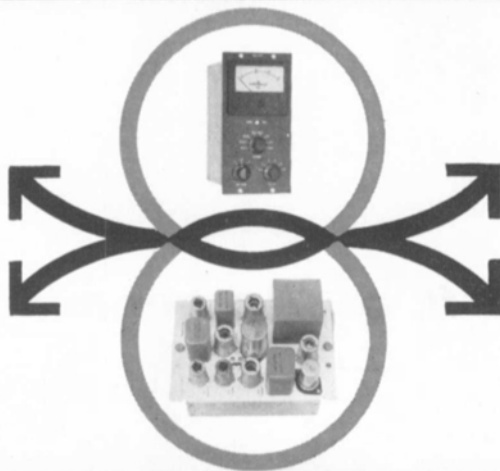
Mr. Isom brought out that although the motion-picture industry's experience was used in early designs, other industries have done a vast amount of work in developing diverse kinds of mechanisms, which according to his slides, bear little resemblance to the devices for sound recording. He emphasized great stresses exerted on tape in various data storage mechanisms and reported that tape manufacturers have met the challenge of providing increasingly improved materials.

Mr. Erikson's discussion of Distortion in Magnetic Recording contained a wealth of material on this specialized subject. In this field, there has been relatively little research. Mr. Erikson is one of the few men in this country who has done extensive research in this subject. Most of the data that he used in his talk was based on his own research or on research directed by him. Many of his graphs are unpublished except in the form of the Education Subcommittee's lecture notes. As far as the Subcommittee knows this is the first time that a lecture of this type has been presented in this country.

With the record of the success of the magnetic recording lecture series behind it, the Education Committee on the East

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Coast looks forward to an exceptionally high quality series on video-tape recording, according to Vice-Chairman Schuller. Further details on the series will appear in the *Journal* and by special notification of the East Coast members of the Society.—B.S.

Nomenclature

Terms Used in Production of 16mm Non-theatrical Motion Pictures, a glossary compiled by members of the Nomenclature Committee of the University Film Producers Association, is published in the Association's *Journal* (Winter 1960, Vol.

12, No. 2). The glossary has been revised and brought up to date from previous issues and new terms have been added. Sources consulted by the UFPA Nomenclature Committee include *American Standard Nomenclature for Motion Picture Film Used in Studios and Processing Laboratories* (sponsored by the SMPTE); *A Selected Glossary for Motion Picture Technicians*, Reprint No. 23, published by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; and the *Glossary* published by the Theater Arts Department of the University of California, Los Angeles. The UFPA glossary is available from The University Film Producers Association, c/o Motion Picture Division, 1885 Neil Ave., Columbus 10, Ohio. It is priced at \$1.00.

Education, Industry News

A proposal for a satellite communications system that may be ready for trial commercial use by 1965 and for development into extensive national and international systems by 1970 has been submitted to the Federal Communications Commission by Radio Corp. of America in connection with the FCC study of frequency allocations for space communications. The possibility of world-wide television by means of satellite communication is an intriguing field of scientific investigation. Services listed in the RCA statement include: intercontinental television and television service to remote areas; wide-band intercontinental communications systems; economical international and intracontinental very-high-capacity routes between major centers of population; lunar and interplanetary communications.

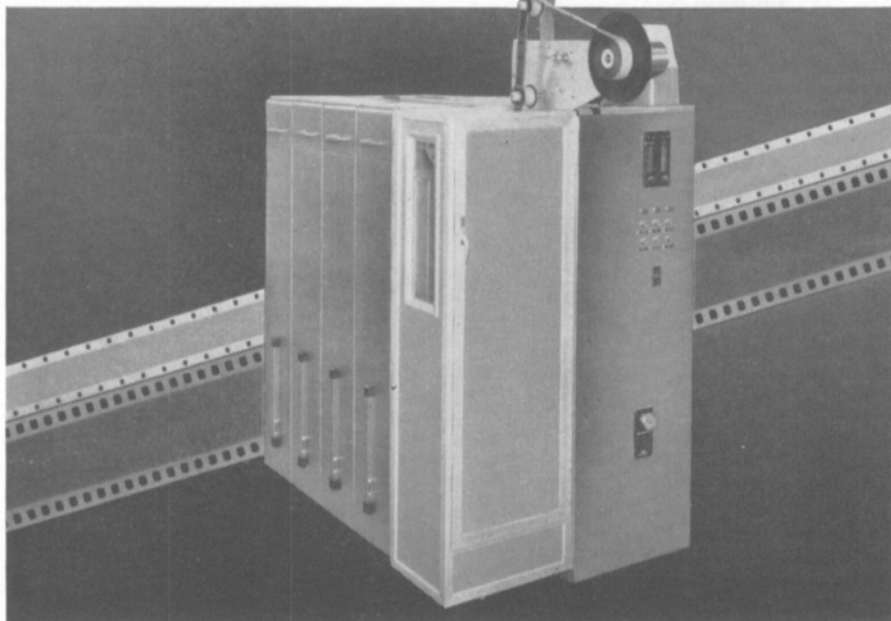
Advantages of international satellite relay would include: freedom from the frequent disturbances in ionospheric propagation; greater communications capacity and probably greater reliability for such classes of services as telegraph message traffic, telex services, point-to-point transmission and normal-speed radiophoto and line-facsimile messages; new long-distance record communications services such as medium and high-speed, high-definition facsimile; monaural and stereophonic program exchanges; reduced-speed television programs; and high-speed data transmission.

Both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions have been thoroughly covered in terms of political and social significance, but one or two items of a nonpolitical nature may be noted here. The General Electric Company's electronic rear-projection system, leased by TelePrompter for use at the Democratic Convention is described in the July *Journal* (p. 514). Closed-circuit facilities for the Republican National Convention were provided by Theatre Network Television, Inc. (TNT). Four Eidophor projectors were used to project pictures of the speakers on 24 by 32-ft screens from a distance of about 220 ft. Cameras for the closed-circuit were built into the rostrum. The cameramen were hidden from the audience.

A new device used at both Conventions (first tested at the Democratic Convention) is the Vega Telemike, a wireless microphone developed by Vega Electronics Corp., 10781 N. Highway 9, Cupertino, Calif. The microphone, which is 6 in. long and weighs 8 oz, was used by American Broadcasting Co. in its coverage of both Conventions. It has its own transmitter and antenna which broadcast the signal to a pickup unit at the ABC master control.

A new company called Mitchell-Vinten, Inc., with offices in Glendale, Calif., and New York, is jointly owned by Mitchell Camera Corp. of California and the British firm, W. Vinten Ltd. The new company was formed to promote sales of Vinten products in the United States.

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