



A Message From the Past-President

UPON THE COMPLETION OF my two-year term as President of the SMPTE, I am left with many deep feelings but the deepest and most rewarding of all is the feeling that I was fortunate to hold this position during a period of great achievement in our Society. I take little or no credit for this achievement and can lay claim only to having been a member of an extremely large team that has worked together and will continue to work together to bring about an accelerating list of accomplishments throughout the years to come. The completion of my two-year term as President concludes eleven consecutive years during which I have been an officer of the Society, which, with my next two years as Past-President, will result in my having been an officer for thirteen years. I have not searched the records but I am inclined to believe that there have been very few members of the Society throughout its 50-year history that have had the rare privilege of serving for so long.

I have been active in many societies but in none other have I seen the high degree of cooperation and teamwork among so many people and groups as that which prevails in the SMPTE. The dedication demonstrated by our officers and members of the Board, the section and student chapter officers and Board members, the local and national committees, backed up to the hilt by an exceedingly strong and capable Headquarters office staff would be hard to find in any other organization. Supporting all these active groups is our membership, now approaching 7000 strong, that provides a continuing flood of new talent to take up the task from their predecessors.

It was a special privilege for me to have been President on the completion of the first half-century in our Society's history, and to know that the Society is at its zenith in strength through the dedication of many people over the past fifty years. Of even greater satisfaction is the knowledge that the Society is in a position to achieve much greater heights during the remainder of its first century. Throughout the Society's history new and strong hands have always been available and will continue to be available to attain even greater goals.

In my recitation of some of the most noteworthy events during my two-year term, I shall avoid using the term "accomplishments" because it might imply that they were brought about by those in charge during this two-year term. This, of course, is not the case but was the result of many people working together for many years. In this recitation I shall also refrain from giving credit to any individual by name since, to do so, would be un-

fair to the many others who have shared the responsibility. I shall list below a number of events in which the Society showed progress during my term of office as President. No attempt is made to list them in order of importance. In fact, some of them were listed in my January 1966 report in the *Journal*.

- (1) The first courses at the college level in the United States leading to Bachelor of Science and advanced degrees in photographic science and technology were established at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York during 1965. The Society was active in promoting such courses and it is hoped that others will be established in other institutions of advanced learning.
- (2) The Society established scholarships for study for the above degrees. So far the scholarships have been awarded for study only at the Rochester Institute of Technology, but other scholarships will be established when other institutions have similar advanced courses in the sciences we embrace.
- (3) Coincidental with the color "explosion" which occurred when the television industry moved headlong into color, our engineering committees established temporary standards for color films for television broadcast purposes. At the same time, these committees designed color test films which are now being distributed to industry to demonstrate and implement these standards.
- (4) Midway in my term five new vice presidencies were established in order to promote activity in the five major interest areas of our Society, namely, motion pictures, television, high-speed and instrumentation, photographic science, and education. In this short time, this major enlargement of the organization of the SMPTE has proven its worth, and each of these officers has inaugurated programs to advance the work in their respective areas.
- (5) The public image of the SMPTE has shown considerable enhancement, to the extent that references to the work of the Society have been seen more frequently than ever, not only in the trade but in the general press. Most of these references have not resulted from publicity generated by the Society, but as a result of the accomplishments by it.
- (6) Several innovations were put into effect during these past two years, including the preprinting

of papers presented at our technical conferences so that they may be acquired during the conference by those desiring them. Another innovation was the holding of interim meetings of the Board of Governors in Kansas City, Missouri, and Chicago, Illinois, with the first meeting in 1967 scheduled for Detroit, Michigan. In the past, interim meetings were held in New York City where Headquarters is located.

- (7) There has been a marked improvement in getting the *Journal* published and distributed on schedule.
- (8) Although membership growth is not great, it has advanced steadily from approximately 6300 at the beginning of 1965 to an expected 6800 by the end of 1966, or a rate of about 4% per year.
- (9) All four technical conferences held during this two-year period were record-breakers, thanks to the dedicated effort of many local committee members and supported by officers and Headquarters staff. Although all four were tremendous, the 100th, held in Los Angeles last fall, was made quite special in order to commemorate this "century" in conferences and the conclusion of our first half-century. In addition to focusing on history and on the future, special honor was paid to many pioneers. It, indeed, was a stellar event and perhaps the greatest ever put on by the Society.
- (10) In 1965 and 1966 we inaugurated the procedure of presenting Society Awards during the Monday Luncheon at the fall Conference. This procedure was used at the 98th Conference in the fall of 1965 in Montreal, and at the 100th Conference this past fall in Los Angeles. This replaced the past procedure of presenting the awards at a special evening session during the week. The new procedure has proven to be a tremendous success in that it lends the dignity to the awards and to the recipients that both deserve.
- (11) The Society demonstrated its international character when it presented its David Sarnoff Gold Medal Award to Dr. Edward F. de Haan of The Netherlands. Its international stature was demonstrated also by sending a much larger than normal delegation to the International Standards Organ-

ization meeting held in Italy in 1965, as well as by sending its second delegation to Russia to study motion picture activities there.

- (12) This recitation would not be complete without making some mention of the culmination of negotiations toward merger with the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers. After almost six years of negotiation between the two societies as directed by their respective governing bodies, the special committees set up for the purpose presented proposals for achieving the merger. The Boards of the two societies both agreed to put the decision to their voting memberships as required by their by-laws and by the laws applying to such actions under the statutes of the District of Columbia, in which both societies are incorporated. The voting memberships of both societies gave their decision by voting against merger under the terms presented to them. In doing so, the membership showed that it truly takes an interest in the activities of the Society and that it was not convinced of the wisdom of merger at the present time under the terms proposed.

Although the merger proposals were not adopted, the vote by the membership served a very useful purpose in that it brought an end to the many years of time-consuming effort, and also resulted in building up a storehouse of information which may be useful at some time in the future. Furthermore, closer cooperation between the two societies has resulted. This result has been noteworthy especially among local sections. In addition, joint cooperation on the national level is not only continuing but is being enhanced. All in all, I have no hesitation in saying that the merger negotiations served a most useful purpose although they did not bring about a combining of the two societies under one banner.

Although my two years as President have been arduous ones, they have been extremely heartwarming and satisfying years for me. I shall never be able to properly show my gratitude to all the membership or to the many people who worked closely with me to bring a glorious conclusion to a half-century of dedication to the many publics we serve.

Sincerely,

