Biographical Note

Waldemar J. Poch (r) with Andrew Holmes-Siedle, recipients of the Industrial Research Award for 1971.

Waldemar J. Poch has long been importantly active in the Society and especially on the Board of Editors. His career before retiring some time ago is briefly sketched below. He is shown above with Andrew Holmes-Siedle when they received the Industrial Research Award for The Mosimeter Radiation Dose Measuring Device, a simplified radiation detector which in part resulted from his research work.

Mr. Poch joined RCA Corp. in 1930 when his principal activity was the development of measuring apparatus for testing receiver components. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1928 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. In 1934 (while he was with RCA Corp.'s Research Group on Television Receivers and Studio Equipment) he received the degree of Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. While he was with the Research Group, one of his assignments included a 10-month tour of duty in the USSR during the latter part of 1937 and early 1938. At that time he supervised the installation of televison studio and transmitting equipment. In 1959 he returned to Moscow for participation in the American Exhibition. In 1972 he returned to the USSR as a delegate to the Popov Society Congress from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He describes his impressions of the progress that has been made in television and related fields in the USSR since his first visits in "Notes From a Visit to the USSR in 1972" in this issue of the *Journal*.

His impressions of his second visit to Russia are described in "Moscow Impressions" in the May 1960 issue of the *Journal*. In 1959 his visit to the Moscow Television Center was of special interest because of the "memories of the difficulties and successes involved in the first installation." He observed "with mixed feelings" that only traces of the equipment installed in 1937 were in service in 1959. He described the interval between his first and second visits as representing "a major advance all along the economic and scientific front."

Following his first tour in the USSR he returned to the United States in 1938 where he was made responsible for the development and design of various types of TV pickup equipment, particularly lightweight camera and transmitting equipment for military applications. Beginning in 1950 he served as Engineering Section Manager in charge of the development and design of broadcast television studio equipment. In 1955 he became a member of the corporate staff responsible for the development of new products. In 1960 he transferred to the Astro-Electronics Div. of RCA Corp. in the Space Observations Systems activity where he had supervisory responsibilities in the development of experimental camera equipment.

During his years with RCA Corp. he was granted more than 30 U.S. Patents. He is the author of a number of technical papers, among them, "The Development of a Feasibility Model of an Electron Beam Recorder" in the September 1964 issue of the *Journal* and "An Experimental Photo-Tape Frame-Camera System" in the January 1965 issue of the *Journal*.

Mr. Poch has been a member of the Society since 1951. His services to the Society include membership on the Board of Editors for many years. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He resides at 19 Cranbury Neck Rd., Cranbury, NJ 08512.

Metric America Bill Sent to Congress

A Reprint

PROPOSED legislation to help the United States switch over to use of the metric system of measurement from the common inch-quart-pound system within the next 10 years was sent to Congress on February 29 by Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson. The legislation was introduced on March 6 by Congressman George P. Miller and 24 cosponsors as House Joint Resolution 1092, and on March 28 by Senator Norris Cotton as Senate Joint Resolution 219.

The legislation would create a National Metric Conversion Board to plan and coordinate a *voluntary* conversion process in which metric units like the metre, litre, and kilogram would become the most common units of measure in America as they are or soon will be in all other industrialized nations of the world. The Board, to be made up of 25 representatives of industry, trade associations, citizens group, and government appointed by the President and the Congress, would assist industry and the public in adjusting to the use of metric measurement units.

The legislation is an outgrowth of recommendations by former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, based on a 3-year study by NBS. The Report of the Metric Study, "A Metric America: A Decision Whose Time Has Come," was sent to Congress in July 1971.*

Secretary Peterson, in transmitting the proposed legislation to the Congress, underscored the need to act now:

"The time has come for a national decision to prepare to join the rest of the industrial world in adopting metric language

Reprinted from *National Bureau of Standards Technical News Bulletin*, May 1972. See also "A Metric America," *NBS Tech. Bull.*, Sept. 1971.

* Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, as NBS Spec. Pub. 345, 192 pp., $2.25. Use S.D. catalog No. C13.10:345.

and practices. America's position in the world market in coming decades could be impaired by adherence to our customary units of measurement. Further postponement of the program of coordinated metric conversion will only result in greater barriers to our international trade.

"Unless the United States makes the commitment to 'go metric' over this decade, international standards will not adequately reflect the needs and products of U.S. industry," Secretary Peterson added. "If American technology is to compete in the world market, standards used in the development of new U.S. products and technologies must be written into these international standards. This would ensure that other nations bear their fair share in the process of harmonizing world trade.

"I am recommending that the metric conversion program be extended over a decade and have the advantage of well-considered plans to ensure a minimum of difficulty and confusion. The job of planning this voluntary conversion would be placed in the hands of those most affected through representation on the National Metric Conversion Board.

"Although some sectors will find it advantageous to convert more quickly, others more slowly, a decade following agreement on the national voluntary plan should see the country through the awkward period of dual usage," Secretary Peterson said.

The United States is the last industrially developed nation which has not established a national policy committing itself and facilitating conversion to the metric system, although Congress in 1866 passed a law making it legal to use the metric system in commerce and trade. The 3-year study by the Bureau in cooperation with some 55 Government agencies, industry, and almost every sector of society, was completed in response to an Act of Congress. The report's recommendations were:

- That the United States change to the International Metric System deliberately and carefully;
- That this be done through a coordinated national program;
- That the Congress assign the responsibility for guiding the change, and anticipating the kinds of special problems described in the Report, to a central coordinating body responsive to all sectors of our society;
- That within this guiding framework, detailed plans and timetables be worked out by these sectors themselves;
- That early priority be given to educating every American schoolchild and the public at large to think in metric terms;
- That immediate steps be taken by the Congress to foster U.S. participation in international standards activities;
- That in order to encourage efficiency and minimize the overall costs to society, the general rule should be that any changeover costs shall "lie where they fall";
- That the Congress, after deciding on a plan for the Nation, establish a target date 10 years ahead, by which time the U.S. will have become predominantly, though not exclusively, metric; and
- That there be firm Government commitment to this goal.

standards and recommended practices

SMPTE Recommended Practices Approved

On July 13, 1972, the Society's Board of Governors approved three SMPTE Recommended Practices. SMPTE Recommended Practice RP 46-1972, Density of Color Films and Slides for Television, was developed jointly by the Color and Television Committees in an effort to specify density parameters which conform to international agreements through the CCIR. SMPTE Recommended Practices RP 27.6-1972, Specifications for Gray-Scale Operational Alignment Test Pattern for Studio and Field Television Cameras and RP 27.7-1972, Specifications for Gray-Scale Operational Alignment Test Pattern for Telecine Cameras, have been designed to facilitate the operational alignment of television systems on the live stage and telecine components. A subcommittee report describing this work was published in the December 1967 *Journal*. Copies of these and other SMPTE Recommended Practices may be obtained from Society Headquarters upon request.

American National Standard Reaffirmed

On July 11, 1972, the American National Standards Institute, taking the recommendation of the SMPTE Engineering Committees and American National Standards Committee PH22, reaffirmed without change American National Standard Dimensions for 35 mm Motion-Picture Film, Perforated 32 mm, 2R-2994, PH22.73-1966. The standard was published in the March 1966 *Journal*.

American National Standard Withdrawn

On July 11, 1972, the American National Standards Institute approved the withdrawal of American National Standard Specifications of 8 mm Magnetic Sound Reproducing Characteristic, PH22.134-1963. Withdrawal action was initiated because (a) the test film specified in Section 2 has never been available and (b) there is doubt as to the legitimacy of standardizing the electrical output of the sound reproducing system rather than the acoustical output. The standard was published in the July 1963 *Journal*.

International Standard Approved

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), whose activities in the field of cinematography were described in the November 1967 *Journal* (pp. 1113–1115), approved on April 15, 1972 International Standard ISO 1700-1972, Cutting and Perforating Dimensions of 8 mm Type S Motion-Picture Raw Stock Film. The document is in complete accord with American National Standard Dimensions for 8 mm Motion-Picture Film, Perforated Super 8, 1R-1667, PH22.149-1967. Attention is directed to the fact that only the technical content is published here. Copies of the complete recommendation are available from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. — Alex E. Alden, Staff Engineer.