

## One Conference a Year

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A resolution providing for one major SMPTE Conference a year rather than two was passed at the meeting of the Board of Governors held 19 July 1974:

*Resolved that beginning in 1975 the Society hold one major Conference per year in the fall, the 1975 Conference to be held in Los Angeles and the 1976 Conference to be held in New York.*

Concomitant with this change there will be a change in the editorial policy of the *Journal* decided upon because of various considerations, chief among them being the strong possibility — or rather, the near certainty — of a serious lack of publishable manuscripts brought about by holding one Conference rather than two Conferences a year. Papers presented at the major Conferences are, by far, the largest source of supply for the *Journal* — with one Conference the problem of procurement becomes acute. A second consideration is that of increasing the readership of the *Journal*; to that end it was recommended that more paraprofessional and managerial papers (non-engineering, "how to" papers, and the like) should be published rather than that the *Journal's* papers should remain purely scientific and technical. The broadening of the basis for editorial consideration of papers for the *Journal* is expected to partly fill the gap caused by the new one-conference policy as well as to increase *Journal* readership.

To implement the new editorial approach, the Board approved the establishment of a permanent committee consisting of the Editorial Vice-President and a number of editorial advisors. Each Affairs Vice-President will nominate an Editorial Advisor in his area and present this name to the Editorial Vice-President for his approval and appointment. The responsibili-

ties of the Editorial Advisors are to appoint Topic Chairmen for their designated areas to obtain manuscripts for Conferences, the *Journal* and other Society publications and to assist the Editorial Vice-President in carrying out his duties. The committee further recommended that the Publications Advisory, the International Papers, Tutorial Papers, and Historical and Museum Committees may be dissolved as soon as the Editorial Advisory Committee begins functioning satisfactorily.

### Conference Committee

In addition to changes directly affecting the *Journal*, there will be more emphasis on special subject conferences (such as the Winter TV Conference). There will also be an increase in Conference fees (registration and exhibitor).

A resolution was passed providing for the establishment of a senior level standing committee for the Planning and approval of all conferences:

*Resolved that the Standing Committee for the Approval and Planning of Conferences as proposed in the report of the Conference Committee be approved and that the Standing Committee be authorized to approve the holding of all conferences other than national conferences.*

The Committee consists of the Executive Vice-President as Chairman, the Conference Vice-President, the Engineering Vice-President, the Editorial Vice-President, the Financial Vice-President or, in his absence, the Treasurer and, ex officio, the Executive Director. The committee has the responsibility of recommending to the Board of Governors (if required) the approval or disapproval of any conference activity by the Society.

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## The SMPTE Progress Report Committee

In 1922 the SMPTE Progress Report covered two pages (*Transactions No. 15*, pp. 133-134). It reported such items as a theater organ (costing \$150,000), a talking apparatus called the Fototone and photographs transmitted by radio (in a report from C. Francis Jenkins). By 1974 the Progress Report covered 88 pages (including 233 references) with reports from the European Broadcasting Union and 20 countries in addition to reports on five main subject areas within the United States.

A review of the last five years shows that in 1970 the Progress Report covered 47 pages; in 1971, 62 pages; in 1972, 56 pages; in 1973, 64 pages; and in 1974, 88 pages.

Although the Progress Report Committee grew considerably in size over the years (from four members, including the Chairman, in 1928 to 49 members in 1974) the only noteworthy change in format occurred in 1970 when the Society's five Affairs Vice-Presidents were assigned the responsibility of coordinating and screening the reports in their respective areas submitted by members of the Progress Report Committee.

The industry-wide, world-wide Progress Report is, in every sense, a cooperative effort of many people from many countries. Although each committee member is responsible for gathering information and each Affairs Vice-President is responsible for coordinating the material, the sheer impossibility of contacting every firm and every individual who has contributed to the overall progress of the motion-picture and television industries makes it of the utmost importance that Society members, particularly Sustaining Members, send information about their own activities to the appropriate Progress Report

Committee member or to SMPTE headquarters.

One thing that is sometimes difficult for even committee members to understand is that to get the report in the *May Journal* it should be at SMPTE headquarters in January. The Progress Report Committee Chairman, the five Affairs Vice-Presidents and the members of the Progress Report Committee all have weighty responsibilities, but in the last analysis the prompt arrival at headquarters and the comprehensiveness of the Report depend on each individual who wants the achievements of himself, his firm or his country to be known through the pages of the *Journal*.

### Progress Report Committee Chairmen

The Progress Report Committee Chairmen serve for a two-year term. The Chairman for the 1973-74 term was Kenneth M. Mason. The present Chairman (for the 1974-75 term) is William D. Hedden. Under Mr. Mason's chairmanship the Progress Report took on an increased international awareness with members (and, in some instances non-members who later became members) in foreign countries responding to invitations to apprise the Society and all readers of the *Journal* of the activities in their countries in the motion-picture and television industries.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Hedden and with the help of Progress Report Committee members, SMPTE Sustaining Members, and others, a world-wide comprehensive report covering activities in 1974 is expected for the *May 1975 Journal*.