

Board of Governors

The third meeting of the Board of Governors in 1951 was held in New York on July 19. Half-year reports were presented on the state of the Society's finances, on recent membership promotion activities, on publications and on the work of our engineering committees. Also, the Board approved the recommendations of the Nominating and the several award committees.

FINANCIAL The financial aspects of all Society operations over the first six months and the resulting cash position were reported upon by F. E. Cahill, Treasurer, who presented his own report, and, in the absence of R. B. Austrian, also presented the Financial Report.

With the exception of two membership activities, business operations for the first six months of 1951 were about even with the first half of the annual budget adopted in January and well ahead of last year. If the present trend continues, and presumably it will, this should be the best financial year in Society history. But the Board was in agreement that even though the monthly and quarterly operating statements show an attractive picture at the moment, the officers and Headquarters staff members responsible for budgets and financial plans should not relax their attention. They must not assume that "business as usual" represented by last year's or this year's financial reports is an automatic and perpetual condition. With the Society now 35 years old and in every respect healthy enough to continue for another long lap, it would be wise to base plans for the future on a period somewhat longer than just "next year."

A program of long range financing will be prepared for consideration by the Board at its October meeting. Along with the obvious provisions for sustained high level income over a period of several years, there should be plans for continued expansion of the work of engineering committees, the *Journal* and other services to the members and to the industries that employ them.

MEMBERSHIP Each year the Society gains new members but for some time the number of applicants accepted over a 12-month period has very nearly been offset by the number of current members who are delinquent in payment of

their dues. Although the net figure, that is, the total of all members in all grades, has always been higher at the end than at the beginning of each calendar year, the growth rate from year to year has been disappointing. To partly remedy the situation the Board six months ago authorized employment of a full time Membership Secretary. Mrs. Beatrice Conlon of the staff began work in that capacity in March and a report of her efforts over the 4-month period was presented. Guests who had attended the 69th Convention were sent membership invitations and out of 25 replies received by July first, 16 applications were approved. Letters addressed to those current members who had not sent in their dues for 1951 produced a 10% return, or about 40 reinstatements. Other specific efforts accounted for a reasonable share of the 334 new members who joined before July 1. The Board called for increased effort on the part of all members of the Membership and Subscription Committee and urged that the major share of this effort be directed toward the up and coming young engineers who could derive real benefit from the *Journal* and other Society activities. They would also doubtless continue as members for a long time to come, if the Society is actually serving its fundamental purpose.

PUBLICATIONS Editorial Vice Presidents C. R. Keith and J. G. Frayne, the Editor Vic Allen, and Arthur Downes, Chairman of the Board of Editors, have devoted a great deal of effort to tightening the editorial policy of the *Journal*. They aimed at reducing delays between presentation and publication of technical articles, raising the average levels of both editorial and technical quality of papers submitted for the *Journal* so there would be a wider selection of suitable material from which to assemble any given issue and to increase the amount of information published. In addition, they wanted more pages in the "back of the book," this section that reports on the Society and its internal workings.

In a written report submitted by John Frayne, who was not able to attend, ample evidence of progress was presented. The change to two column format authorized last October had been made on schedule, beginning with the issue for January. New

paper and ink were also adopted. These changes were intended to give more words per page, improve appearance and readability, and at the same time permit somewhat greater flexibility in make-up of the "back of the book" and in articles with numerous illustrations. Twenty-five per cent more material was contained in the first six issues for 1951 than appeared in the first six last year and 60 per cent more than in the same period in 1947.

By working closely with the Mack Printing Company and by applying added personal effort, Vic Allen was able to make the *Journal* a larger, more professional magazine. In recent months, however, the addition of such items as the High-Speed Photography Bibliography, the 5-Year Index, the new style volume title page and index that appeared in June plus a series of technical papers that required more detailed care to publish, required so much extra attention that publication dates began to lag. Extra manpower seemed to be the only solution, so on Dr. Frayne's recommendation the Board authorized Vic Allen to employ an Assistant Editor, increasing the editorial staff to three.

The Papers Committee, for which the Editorial Vice-President is responsible, has been working seriously on plans for the 70th Convention. Fred Albin, Vice-Chairman, and Ed Seeley, Chairman, have switched the program into high gear.

Development of a high quality public address and discussion recording system for use at conventions had been assigned to Dr. Frayne. He appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Harry Braun to work out the detailed design. The Committee's recommendations were approved, so that work can be started at once.

ENGINEERING Fred T. Bowditch, Engineering Vice-President, reviewed the system of Stenotype recording and transcription used in the preparation of minutes of many of the engineering committees' meetings held during the 69th Convention. He criticized the use of "outside" help on this job because the results did not justify the expense. For that reason future meetings of engineering committees that Hank Kogel, Staff Engineer, cannot attend will be reported by a recording secretary, whom the chairman will appoint on the spot.

One of the methods of measuring lens transmission that the Optics Committee had considered suitable for a proposed standard is the subject of a U. S. Patent assigned to the Radio Corporation of America. Mr. Bowditch reported that since the patent could have been a serious obstacle to general use of the method it was fortunate that the Radio Corporation of America had seen fit to offer a paid up license to anyone interested for the sum of \$10.00. Appreciation had been formally expressed in the *June Journal*.

Most important engineering item on the Agenda was concerned with the position which the Society would assume in connection with the forthcoming hearings on Theater Television of the Federal Communications Commission.

After duly considering the combined views of the Theater Television Committee and its Subcommittee on Distribution Facilities, under G. L. Beers and Pierre Mertz, Chairmen, the Board agreed that the Society should act on the recommendations and not make an appearance. Steps taken to notify FCC, industry trade groups that took part in this work and the press are reported upon elsewhere in this issue.

CONVENTIONS Although most members who help put on Society Conventions twice each year are concerned with only one at a time, Convention Vice-President Bill Kunzmann is always looking far into the future. Convention hotels are booking large conventions as far as two to three years ahead, so Bill has tied up these dates:

- 70th Convention, Hollywood Roosevelt, Hollywood, Calif., October 15-19, 1951
- 71st Convention, Hotel Drake, Chicago, Ill., April 21-25, 1952
- 72nd Convention, Hotel Statler, Washington, D.C., October 5-10, 1952
- 73rd Convention, Hotel Statler, Los Angeles, Calif., April 26-30, 1953
- 74th Convention, Hotel Statler, New York, October 4-9, 1953

The Board of Governors authorized these five reservations and learned that all Committees for the 70th Convention have been appointed and are now hard at work. Details are given elsewhere in this issue.