

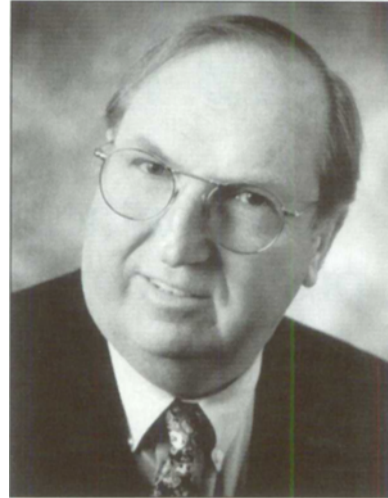
A few issues ago, I commented on the important and timely work being done by the SMPTE/EBU Joint Task Force on Harmonized Standards for the Exchange of Program Material as Bit Streams. The name reflects the wide composition of the group, its many talented participants, and its ultimate purpose. The Task Force gave its initial report at NAB97 and published it in the *Journal* in June of that year. While it was hoped that the final report could be presented at NAB98, it required the completion of a enormous amount of work and the expending of a great deal of additional effort in a rather short time frame and the target release was delayed to coincide with IBC. The remaining work has now been done and this issue of the *Journal* contains the Final Report.

While Engineering Vice-President Bill Miller has provided an introduction to the Report itself, it must be recognized that, like many SMPTE undertakings, this is the result of a significant amount of important work undertaken by a large number of gifted and talented volunteers in many parts of the world. As impressive as this is by itself, it's only one example of the wide range of meaningful work routinely being accomplished by your Society and its many engineering committees. This generally happens quietly, and in the background. And, while this Report will get more immediate attention, the engineering group deserves commendation not only for it, but also for the full gamut of their silent endeavors.

More visible is the Conference activity of your Society. You will recall that last year, following the dissolution of our joint exhibit activity with the NAB, RTNDA, and SBE, we concentrated on SMPTE issues and held a very significant SMPTE conference and associated exhibition in New York. This year, following on the heels of that success, we are in the final stages of mounting an even larger SMPTE event, this time on the West Coast in Pasadena, Calif. As you know, we are in the process of rebuilding a Society franchise in targeted fall technical conferences and exhibits focused on developments in the motion imaging industry and supported by leading industry service and hardware suppliers.

This is all part of a revitalized, reformed, and refocused SMPTE. We have been concentrating our efforts and resources on improving our service to the practitioners and participants in the motion imaging industry. Engineering and standardization activities of the Society have been both expanded and streamlined. Information and education activities have been focused, administration has been rationalized, and the growing number of both individual and sustaining members have been provided with access to a wider range of improved services and support.

The bottom line is that SMPTE works—and it works for you.



David L. George

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. George', written in a cursive style.

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