Finalization of Digital Video Interface Standards

The SMPTE Working Group on Digital Video Standards, at its New York meeting held on March 2, 1983, has completed a Recommended Practice for Bit-Parallel Format Interface for Component Digital Video Signals. This Recommendation concerning 525-line systems, based on CCIR Recommendation 601, is fully compatible with a similar one for 625-line systems that is in the final preparation stage in the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). The document will be reviewed by the SMPTE and published, for comment, in the *SMPTE Journal* before final adoption later this year.

This Recommendation is an essential element of the future "All-Digital" television studio and other digital facilities and adds the necessary detail to CCIR Recommendation 601 for the practical implementation of digital component video transmission between processing and storage units.

For more information please contact Mr. Barry C. Detwiler at SMPTE Headquarters, (914) 472-6606 X 471.

spare. A third spacecraft will be available on the ground as an additional safeguard. Launch will be by the European Araine rocket or by the American Space Shuttle, the final choice to be made nearer the time. The satellites will be in geostationary orbit 36,000 km above the equator and will provide signals of sufficient power for reception by individual households, which have suitable receivers and small dish antennas less than one m in diameter, within the United Kingdom and parts of Western Europe. The agreement covers a period of operation of the satellite service for at least seven years. The satellite will carry transponders for two BBC DBS services.

Ethan R. Bush has been appointed Vice-Chairman and Chief Operating Officer for RTI Systems, Inc., 1100 W. Chestnut St., Burbank, CA 91506. In his new post he will assist RTS President Douglas Leighton. Bush was formerly General Manager of Sound Services for Compact Video. Earlier he had been with American Broadcasting Co. in Hollywood as a sound technician.

A new approach to the design of videocassette recorders allowing the VCR to function as either a table model or lightweight portable recorder has been announced by RCA. A docking mechanism eliminates the need for cables to connect the portable unit to the companion TV tuner/timer base unit. The addition of an optional rechargeable battery and color video camera transforms the portable check into an indoor or outdoor taping system. The portable deck weighs only 7.9 lb with the battery and measures $10\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{5}{16}$ in. The announcement stated also that an RCA forecast indicates that industry sales of consumer VCR products would reach $2.5 billion in 1983.

SMPTE Area Code: 914

Please note:

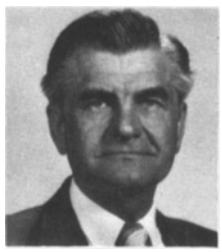
SMPTE Headquarters are located in Scarsdale, N.Y., outside the New York City telephone area code (212). When calling Headquarters, please use the area code **914.** The correct telephone number is:

(914) 472-6606

Plans for launching a 40-W, K-band communications satellite in 1985 have been announced by Eugene F. Murphy, President of RCA Communications, Inc. The new satellite is expected to make possible the distribution of TV programming through one small rooftop antenna to points within a building or building complex. Small antennas, made possible by the higher power and frequency of the K-band transmission, could be located on rooftops or adjacent to buildings. Terrestrial radio signals such as microwaves offer only minimal interference to K-band satellite transmissions, so antennas could be located within major metropolitan areas.

Clyde W. Smith has been named President of Fibervision, a newly formed division of Math Associates, Inc., 2200 Shames Dr., Westbury, NY 11590. The firm manufacturers video cameras and monitors designed to use fiber optics. The new division will develop video color cameras and monitors, black-and-white cameras and monitors, video fiber transmitter and receiver systems, and other products related to video fiber optics. Smith was formerly Vice-President, Research and Development, Hitachi Denshi America.

S. Martin Shelton, Head, Film and TV Projects Branch, Naval Weapons Center, was elected an Associate Fellow of the Society for Technical Communication in recognition of the distinction he has earned in the field of technical communications. Shelton lectures frequently at various universities throughout the nation and contributes a bi-monthly column entitled "What's Happening in Government" that appears in *The Communicator*, the journal of the Information Film Producers of America.



Plastic Reel Corp. of America, 475 Boulevard, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407, has opened a new divisional office on the West Coast. The 30,000 ft² divisional headquarters will house expanded sales and marketing, administrative, accounting, hot-stamping, and warehousing departments. The building is located at 8140 Webb Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91605.

OBITUARIES

Victor A. Babits

Victor A. Babits, a Life Member of the SMPTE, died September 18, 1982, at the age of 82. A native of Budapest, Hungary, and a citizen of the U.S. since 1948, Dr. Babits had a long and distinguished career, beginning in Budapest, where he was a Professor at the University of Technical Sciences from 1924 until 1947. In 1935, he was awarded the Signum Laudis by the Regent of Hungary for the invention of the Hungarian Range-Finding Radar.

In 1947, Dr. Babits and his wife, Mary, came to the U.S., where he was appointed Professor of Electrical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. He remained there until 1960, when he joined General Dynamics/Astronautics, where he was Head of Research until his retirement in 1965. After his retirement he continued with the firm as a consultant.

He was a pioneer in the development of television. One of his early inventions was a television receiver which used a rotating-mirror drum scanner and a Kerr cell rotating-drum receiver. Dr. Babits described the invention in a paper entitled "A New Television Receiver," published in the October, 1933, issue of the *Wireless Engineer*. He noted in the article that this invention had been granted a patent by the Royal Hungarian Patent Office in April, 1926. In the August, 1937, issue of *Tele-*

Victor A. Babits

vision and Short-Wave World, Dr. Babit described an original color television system which he had invented.

Between 1927 and 1933, Dr. Babits was the owner of a Budapest firm manufacturing radio receivers, sound equipment, and power amplifiers. Later he served as consultant to various American and European firms on the subjects of electronics photoconductivity and patent litigations, among others. He was a Patent Judge in the Royal Hungarian Patent Court (1938–1947), and an Hungarian Supreme Court Justice in 1947.

He authored four books on television and more than 60 papers on such subjects as electronics, television, optics, infrared, and laser systems.

Dr. Babits was a member of a number of learned societies and was a Fellow of the IEEE, the Royal Television Society, the IEE, the Optical Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the British Interplanetary Society. He joined the SMPTE in 1953.

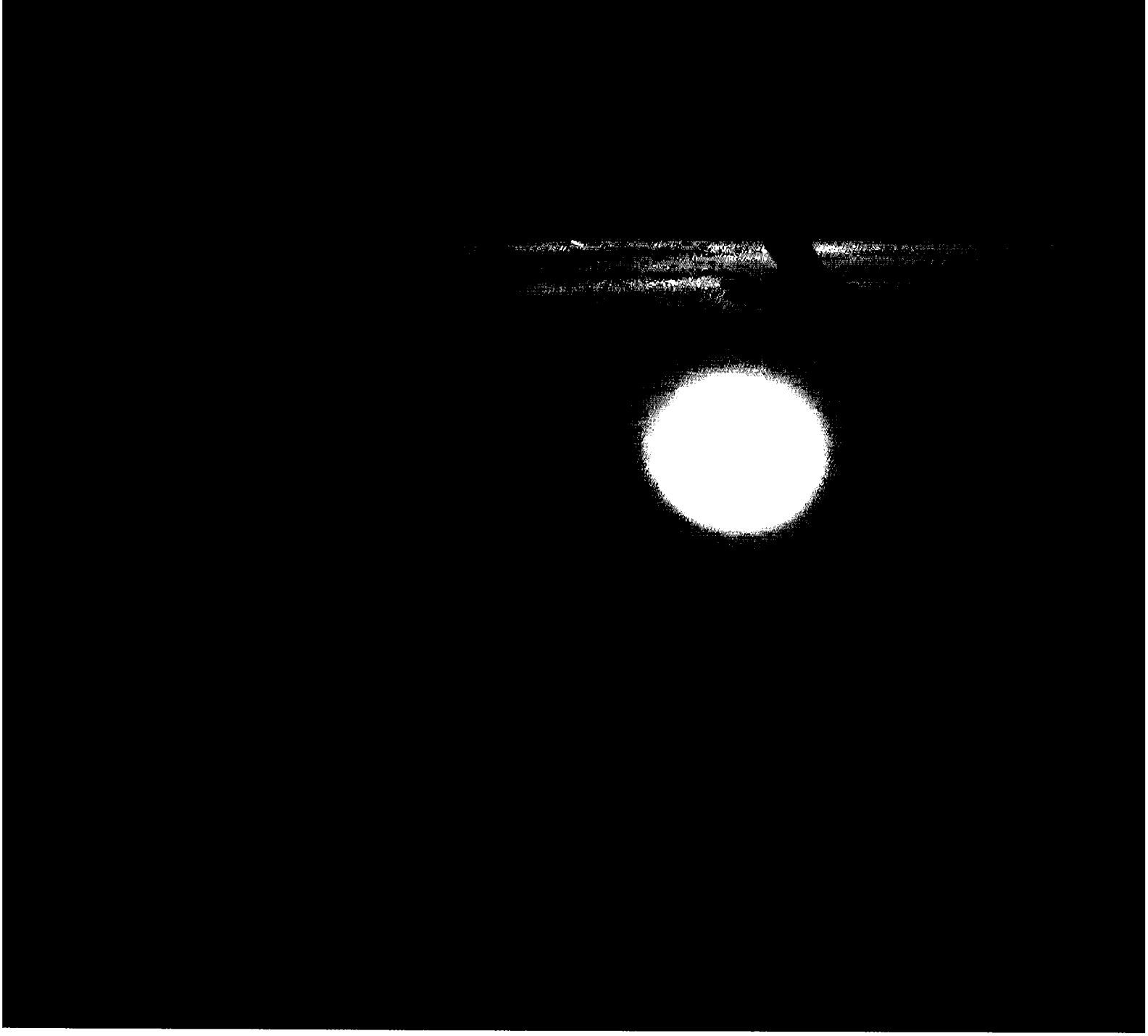
He is survived by his wife, Mary, who worked closely with him throughout his entire career.

Herbert Fix

Herbert Fix, Director of the Institut für Rundfunktechnik (IRT), Munich, died December 19, 1982, a few days before his 64th birthday. He joined the SMPTE in 1975 and was made a Fellow in 1979. A native of Germany, he attended the Technical University at Darmstadt, where he received the degree of Diplom-Ingenieur. Upon graduation from the Technical University, he joined the Rundfunk-Technisches Institut in Nürnberg, where he worked first in radio and, beginning in 1953, in television research and development. In 1957, he joined the IRT as head of the Video Department and later became Director.

Herbert Fix

Herbert Fix had been a member of EBU for many years and had also been a member of the Executive Board of Fernseh-und Kino-Technische Gesellschaft (FKTG). He was also a Fellow of the Royal Television Society.



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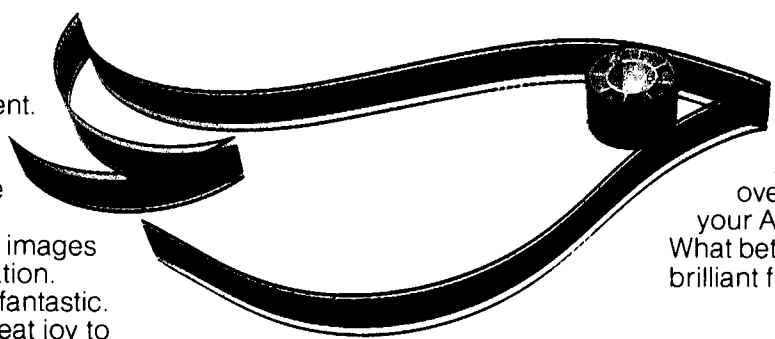

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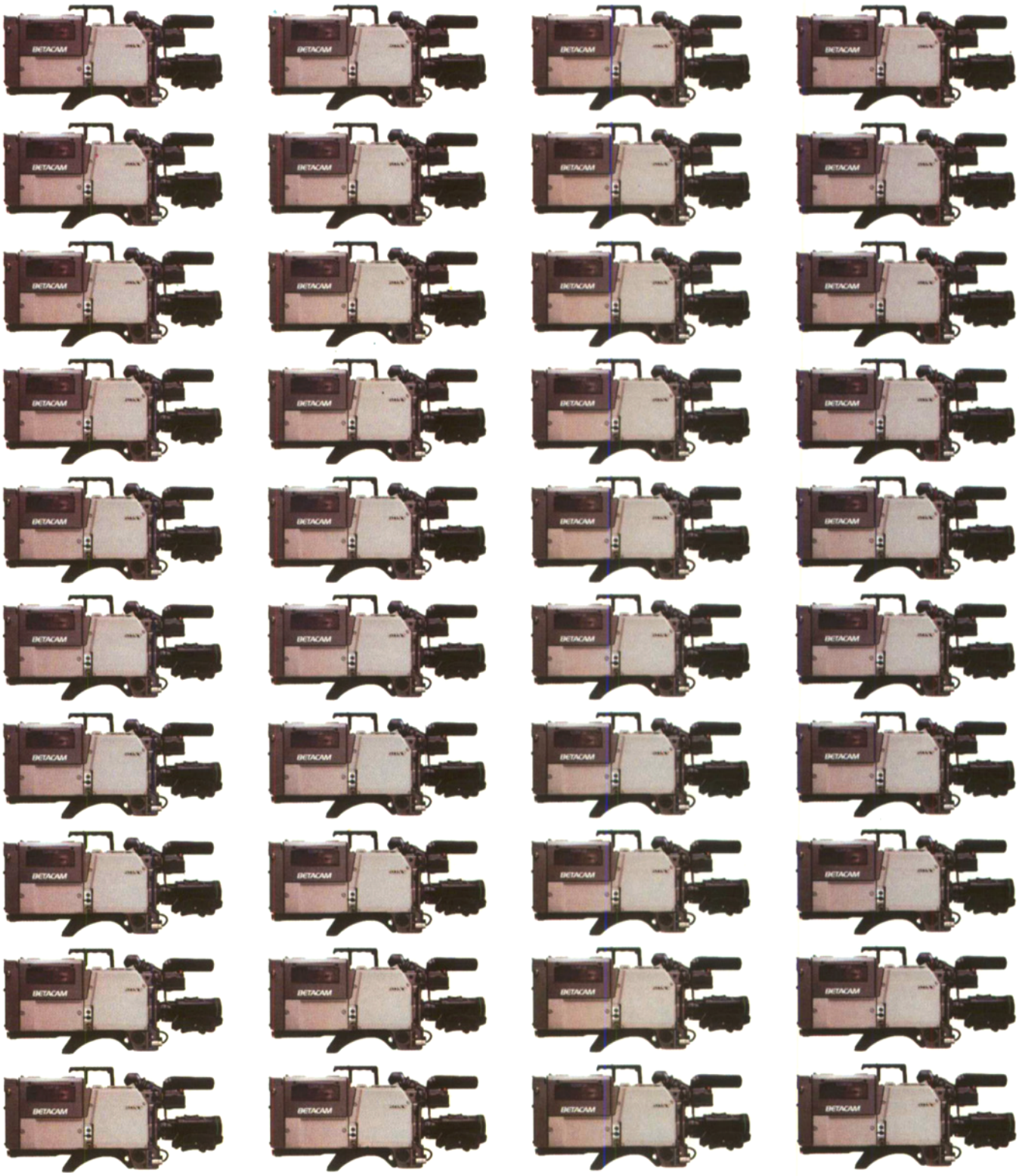
"TO RELIEVE MY CAMERAMEN'S BACKACHES AND MY



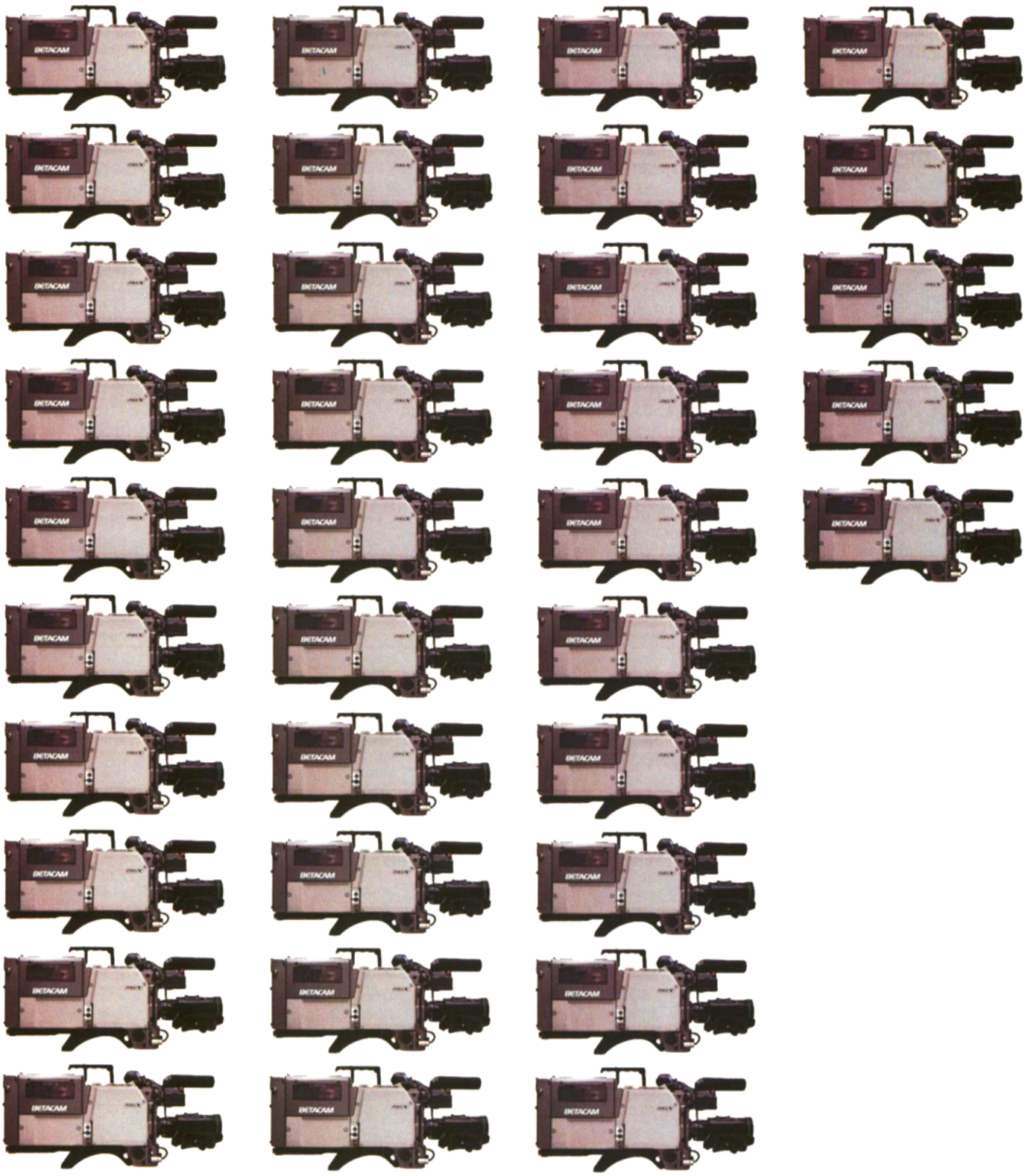
Art Biggs coordinates major engineering purchases for the six Corinthian stations. After careful evaluation of all the ½-inch camera/recorders on the market, he made a multi-million-dollar purchase of the Sony Betacam™ system.

"Betacam has several pluses. The most obvious of them are size and weight. We have one-man camera crews at all our stations. The camera/recorder that they take into the field is right at 54½ pounds. Betacam will reduce this load by more than half—a significant reduction.

"As for quality of playback, you can see the difference with the naked eye. Its superiority is most apparent in scenes of fully saturated colors, particularly reds. It's cleaner. It doesn't have quite as much of the heavy, stringy-type noise we've grown to tolerate over the years.

CONTROLLERS' HEADACHES, I TOOK ALL OF THESE."

—Art Biggs, Vice President, Engineering, Corinthian Broadcasting Corporation



"Another Betacam plus is that it's not a patchwork approach. It's a total Sony system developed from the camera to the recorder to the player.

"Then there's the bottom line. Betacam is at a very attractive price. It would have cost me hundreds of thousands of dollars more to get the same amount of camera/recorders that even approach this kind of quality from someone else.

"I'll definitely be back for more."

For more information on the Sony Betacam system, and there's a lot more to know, contact Sony Broadcast in New York/New Jersey at (201) 368-5085; in Chicago at (312) 860-7800; in Los Angeles at (213) 841-8711; in Atlanta at (404) 451-7671; or in Dallas at (214) 659-3600.

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