

FOREWORD

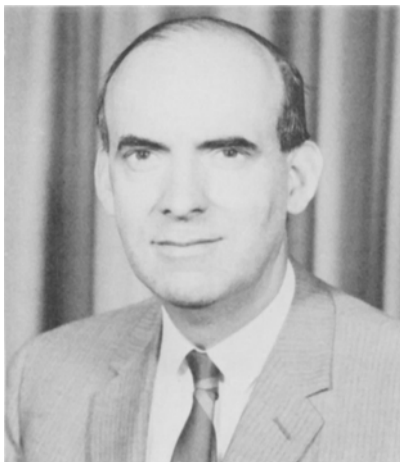
Television engineers face a period of great change. Decisions are required in the next year or two to establish new standards and a new generation of equipment for program making, distribution, and reception/display. For example, new digital video tape recorders of impeccable performance are needed for program making; new signal standards are required for direct-to-home broadcast satellite services with improved picture quality; new "smart" receivers are expected in the home. Further in the future is the likelihood of standards for a new high definition television service. Driving these changes, of course, are the ongoing developments in solid-state technology.

The benefits from these changes are that television audiences will be able to get much better picture quality, including larger and wider screens, and more choice of programs. Of course, television audiences have already become accustomed to a remarkable progress in picture quality and program choice since the NTSC standards were first adopted. Today's home TV receivers are a far cry from the early ones. There is considerable choice of programs since cable TV and home video cassette recorders became popular in recent years. So far as picture quality is concerned, what we have seen has been equipment design and performance catching-up with the capabilities of the NTSC system. In the future we can expect a break-away from the NTSC system, and its limitations, to television systems of superior performance. Such superior systems are expected to live alongside the older NTSC system, each satisfying particular markets. For example, there is a need to provide a superior delivery system for wide-screen movies in the home.

The 18th Annual Television Conference has been dedicated to exploring the new technologies with particular emphasis on the decisions now facing television engineers. This has been done by dividing the conference into four sessions; the first is concerned with basic concepts and perspectives of image quality, the second with new video recording technologies, the third with new distribution technologies, and the fourth with new reception/display technologies.

It is hoped that the Conference will contribute, on the one hand, to educating the international family of television engineers in the new technologies and the nature of the decisions to be made, and, on the other hand, to making the decisions needed.

Stanley F. Quinn
Papers Program Chairman



Stanley F. Quinn, Director of Engineering for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, joined the SMPTE in 1962 and was made a Fellow in 1970. He joined EMI in 1951, where he designed switches for the BBC, and in 1957 he went to CBC as a specialist in broadcast engineering. He has published a number of technical papers, several of which appeared in the SMPTE Journal. He has served on a number of SMPTE committees including the New Technology Committee and the Public Relations Advisory Committee. Mr. Quinn is a member of the SMPTE Board of Editors and a former SMPTE governor of the Canadian Region.