

between a signal distribution point and a tape room. We have a lesser number of paths that run 300, some that run 500, and we're all familiar with what happens when we try to predistort the video signal to make up for the cable loss. It is a rather poor compromise, especially at the longer lengths.

I think the millenium will be reached when somebody, as a fallout of the communications industry, comes up with a box somewhere in the \$5000 to \$10,000 range that will allow us to transport signals by fiber optics at those medium distances, the 200 to 500-ft lengths, and recover a signal without the necessity of

predistorting it. Have you done any research in that area? Most of us have used single-channel fiber-optic systems, but have you considered multi-channel fiber optics for routers?

Reynolds: No, we haven't. We haven't really done much research in the fiber-optics area. Some of the things we have looked at are the problems of the connection and getting from a fiber-optics connector onto a circuit board and back off again so that you can unplug the circuit board and replace it with a spare if it fails. There are a number of problems in the area of interfacing fiber optics to distribution equipment and signal-processing

equipment. We don't have any answers for that yet.

Unidentified questioner: Do you see it in the cards for an optical switch?

Reynolds: We've been doing rabbit tricks with mirrors for a long time, but we have not done any specific research on an optical switch. The problem there would be the ability to have many destinations connected to the same source. This is the same distribution problem as with a baseband signal, that some sort of an amplifier, such as a light distribution amplifier (which doesn't exist yet, without converting it to baseband and back again), would be required for something like that. 🌐

Second International Conference of the SMPTE Australian Section, June 24-27, 1986, Sydney

The Second International Conference of the SMPTE Australian Section was held June 24-27, 1986, in Sydney, Australia. Organized by the Australian Section, with the assistance of World Trade Promotions Pty. Ltd., this conference has fast become a major industry event. Its theme, "Sound & Vision '86," was international in scope; thus delegates and lecturers from many parts of the world attended.

The conference also had local appeal, however, as it featured several papers which dealt specifically with Australian engineering developments. In fact, there was such a large representation of regional engineers that both the Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) and the Federation of Australian Commercial Telecasters (FACTS) scheduled their own meetings around the conference.

Opening Session

With conference attendees assembled in the Royal Hall of Industries, Program Chairman Jeffrey Deal, Kodak Australia Pty. Ltd., introduced the first speaker, Robert Hawke, prime minister of Australia. Hawke, who admits to a special interest in the motion-picture and television industries, shared his viewpoints on the future of the two media in his country. He pointed out that Australian program productions and feature films

are beginning to develop foreign markets. He also shed light on the deregulation of the Australian television industry and what it will mean to viewers and broadcasters.

Deal then introduced SMPTE Executive Vice-President M. Carlos Kennedy, Ampex Corp. Kennedy outlined the SMPTE's history and growth and discussed the range of services to its membership and to the industry. He also showed slides of the Society's new headquarters in White Plains, N.Y.

Technical Program

More than 50 informative papers covering all facets of film, video, and satellite technology comprised the four-day technical program. There were ten sessions. Australian papers dealt with local developments such as Aussat, the country's satellite service. Other papers from the Australian authors described how clever applications of new technology have helped to improve local television services.

Invited papers from abroad covered



M. Carlos Kennedy presents an overview of the Society's history and future goals.

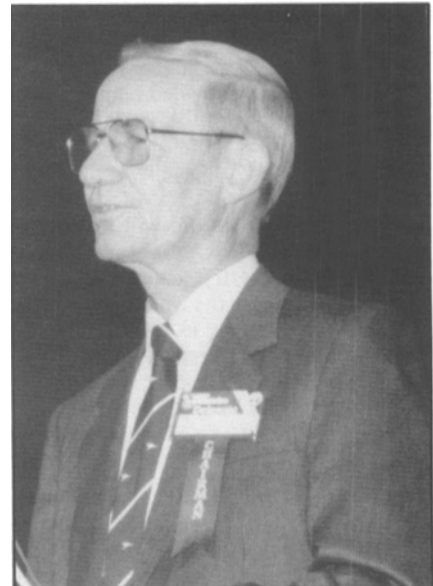
This article was drawn from a report written by Joseph Roizen, Telegen. Photos by Donna Foster-Roizen.

a wide range of topics including digital VTRs, cart machines, high-definition television, enhanced television, improved NTSC, and stereo audio (MTS) on TV. Most of the lectures were well illustrated. The technical program concluded on the afternoon of June 27 with a panel discussion on satellite television.

Equipment Exhibit

A comprehensive exhibit of equipment and services coincided with the

technical sessions. Companies with wholly owned facilities in Australia, such as Ampex Corp., Sony Corp., and Robert Bosch Corp., displayed their equipment. Other well-known companies and several smaller local firms were represented. The exhibit provided local conference participants the opportunity to closely examine some recently introduced signal generators, graphic animation systems, monitors, editing systems, audio recorders, and other devices



Jeffrey Deal introduces Robert Hawke.



Prime Minister Robert Hawke opens "Sound & Vision '86" with a review of his country's growing role in motion pictures and television.

that can be utilized to upgrade a studio facility.

Other Conference Activities

A dinner was held on June 27 at the Sebel Town House in Sydney, with entertainment provided afterwards. The conference organizing committee also arranged a most enjoyable and informative itinerary for the spouses. The spouses program included tours of the Sydney Opera House; Manly, an old seaside resort; Harbour Bridge; and the magnificent Blue Mountains. Participants had the opportunity to see koala bears, kangaroos, beaches, and the many other attractions for which Australia is famous.



Conference attendees touring the exhibit.