

Message from the SMPTE President

Dear SMPTE Member,

The year 1986 has been a memorable one. It is the anniversary of many historical events. It marks the 50th anniversary of the first television service by the BBC in England, the 50th anniversary of the first television coverage of the Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany, and the 30th anniversary of the first videotape recorder, introduced in 1956. Yes, 1986 was a truly significant year.

We have just concluded the most successful SMPTE Conference in our 70-year history. Our attendance was 16,812, up 512 from our 1985 Conference. Our technical program included 114 papers, presented by speakers from 9 different countries. There were 270 companies exhibiting, with 804 booths occupying 230,000 ft² of space.

This past year was memorable for many other accomplishments. The Society achieved standardization of the Type D-1 videotape format for digital television tape recording. This standard was developed in cooperation with the EBU and the CCIR in April of this year.

Another engineering accomplishment was the development of a component analog standard using time-separation techniques, with a half-line for the luminance signal and the other half divided equally for *B-Y* and *R-Y*. Also coming to fruition in the past twelve months was the application of time code for use in motion-picture production at 24, 25, and 30 frames/sec. In addition, monitor phosphor chromaticity values were defined.

Several other engineering committee projects are in various stages of progress. The SMPTE is currently studying videodisc systems, and much progress has been achieved in the overall effort to standardize the colorimetry of the television chain. An outstanding effort now nearing completion by our Subcommittee on Digital Control of Television Equipment will make full computer control of the TV studio a reality; indeed, the subcommittee's aim to standardize control messages for VTR, production and routing



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switchers, audio recorders, telecine, automation systems, and editing systems would make it possible for a plant to be equipped with pieces of hardware that all talk directly to each other.

A special Presidential Advisory Council was formed to explore new methods for expediting our standards-setting procedures. This Council, in essence a technical brain trust, is made up of high-level engineering executives from major manufacturing and broadcasting companies. These industry experts share in the SMPTE commitment to attain more timely domestic and international standards in the light of such rapidly changing technology.

Other SMPTE conferences were also very successful. The 20th Annual Television Conference, which was held February 7-8, in Chicago, offered the industry the first definitive description of the Type D-1 digital television tape recording format.

The May conference of the Society's Montreal/Quebec, Ottawa, Rochester, and Toronto Sections drew 265 persons to a series of technical sessions on electronic imagery. Outside the continent, the SMPTE Australian Section enjoyed its Second International Conference, which Executive Vice-President Carlos Kennedy attended. He came back with glowing reports, including the comment, "What an honor it was to have Robert Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia, address attendees at that conference!"

This past year, our membership has also increased substantially. At the time of this writing, the number of members had reached the 9000 plateau. The Society had not experienced such a sharp rise in membership since 1978-79.

In March, we relocated our administrative headquarters, moving it from Scarsdale, N.Y., to a more spacious facility in nearby White Plains, N.Y. This was a big accomplishment for us, for the Society had carried on a search for an appropriate building for a number of years. From this new 15,000-ft² building, the SMPTE will be able to provide more efficient services to its members, as well as to the industry at large. The knowledgeable and experienced Si Becker has joined SMPTE Headquarters as Manager of Engineering, succeeding Alex Alden.

This report is an attempt to streamline a list of SMPTE accomplishments, all made possible by the team effort of your Board of Governors and Society Staff. I have indeed been fortunate these past two years to have officers and board members who were both creative and supportive in our efforts to move the SMPTE forward.

The Society has continued its efforts to be international, and I had the pleasure of representing the SMPTE at Photokina in Cologne, Germany, UNIATEC in Budapest, Hungary, and IBC in Brighton, England.

I have taken a small look backward as we prepare ourselves for the future, and we must continue to do so in this rapidly changing technological revolution in the motion-picture and television industries.

M. Carlos Kennedy, Ampex Corp. will be our new President, taking office January 1, 1987. I assure everyone you will be in good hands under his leadership.

It has been a privilege and an honor for me to be the 34th SMPTE President. My appreciation goes to the membership, officers, governors, directors, and staff of the Society for making the past two years the most memorable ones of my life.

Harold J. Eady