

# SMPTE President Maurice French Visits New Zealand

SMPTE President Maurice French, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., completed a trip down under to Sound & Vision '90, in Sydney, Australia, with a visit to New Zealand, where he met with SMPTE members and potential members.

His first stop was Wellington, New Zealand, where he toured Film Facilities Ltd., a local video film and photographic facility. "Film Facilities' Wellington offices are situated in a large studio development called The Production Village," French said. "A feature at this site is a camera maintenance department with a state-of-the-art lens calibration facility."

During French's visit, Graeme Cowley, managing director of Film Facilities Ltd., arranged a roundtable luncheon at which French provided an overview of television and motion-picture activities worldwide and described the role of the Society in standards, education, dissemination of technical information, and section activities. He also outlined the benefits of membership and the advantages of a local section for the discussion and exchange of information and the presentation of informative technical papers.

Discussions were also devoted to high-definition television standards and the role of film as an originating medium. "It was a great luncheon with a lively discussion, and there was the realization that the Society could play a much more active role in New Zealand," Cowley said. "Maurice was a good catalyst for technical discussion and he provided ideas toward the coordination of our industry. All who were present thought it was very important to extend the role of the SMPTE here, and we will actively promote this idea."

French noted that although the country's membership is small, with the involvement of more television-oriented people, the formation of a New Zealand Section could be a reality in a year or two. "The luncheon conversations were so stimulating and the interest was so great, we began at 12:30 p.m. and we did not conclude until 4:30 p.m.," French said.

French then journeyed to Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand, where he met with Gary Campbell,



Gary Campbell and SMPTE President Maurice French during the reception at Film Facilities Ltd. in Auckland.



Maurice French sharing a light moment with Tony Carma and Neville Lane during the Auckland reception.

sales and marketing manager of Film Facilities Ltd.'s Auckland division. Campbell arranged for French to receive an extensive tour of the Television New Zealand Centre (TNZC), one of the most modern television broadcasting facilities in the world. Neville Lane, controller of engineering, conducted an interesting tour that provided French with an outline of the capabilities of TNZC's operation.

During the visit, Darryl Dorrington, assistant administrator, explained that the new building and facilities are only a part of the conceptual pie. "Based upon future demands, plans include locating larger studios and other facilities on less-expensive real estate, outside of the city's core," he said.

Later, an evening reception was held at Film Facilities Ltd. in Auck-

land, and French greeted SMPTE members and nonmembers. He once again discussed the benefits of SMPTE membership and provided an outline of the Society's current activities and its heightened international profile, noting the anticipated formation of a Soviet Union Section and the success of Sound & Vision '90, organized by the Australian Section.

"The reception provided an excellent opportunity to meet and exchange ideas," French said. "In fact, there was strong enthusiasm from some equipment manufacturers to make the role of the SMPTE in New Zealand more prominent and perhaps eventually structure an equipment exhibit around it. Based on the positive feedback I received during my visit, I know that New Zealand has the potential and the will to form its own SMPTE Section."