

EDITOR'S REPORT

THE AUDIO FAIR

While the AES Convention is held at the same time as the Audio Fair, it is the Fair which attracts the greatest attention and attendance. For the benefit of those who are not professionally engaged in the Audio profession, the convention papers which are of greatest interest to this group—the hobbyists—are scheduled for the session on Saturday morning, November 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Friday morning's session will be devoted to industrial aspects of audio, and the afternoon session on the second day will cover recording. The opening day's sessions will be devoted to components, instrumentation, and related subjects.

Two floors of Hotel New Yorker—the fifth and sixth—will be filled with exhibitors with all types of devices of interest to anyone whose vocation or avocation involves audio. Several new speakers are due to be unveiled—both woofers and tweeters; new amplifiers will make their debut; magnetic recorders, both professional and non-professional will be watched with interest. Above all, the Audio Fair will permit these developments to be *heard*, as well as seen. It is this one feature which has made the Fair of nation-wide interest in so short a time. Audio as a separate industry and a separate profession has certainly become recognized.

This year, for the first time, wives of audio people are being recognized. Announcements of the convention, being sent to members list a number of activities available for those wives who may wish to accompany their husbands to New York for the gala affair. This addition will probably bring out some who would not otherwise come—and *vice versa*.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

The Sixth Plenary Assembly of the International Radio Consultative Committee (C.C.I.R.) met in Geneva, Switzerland during the month of June and made considerable progress toward standardizing recording characteristics for radio programs destined for international exchange. Departing from the AES recommendation that no disc recording characteristic be standardized—only that for a standard playback system—the committee presented for further study a number of existing recording characteristics with the recommendation that such compromises be made by the various countries represented as would permit complete agreement upon one standard curve.

The proposed compromise characteristic provides for a 450-microsecond curve below 1000 cps and a 50-microsecond curve above 1000 cps. This corresponds to a low-frequency turnover of approximately 360 cps and a high-frequency turnover of approximately 2800 cps, as compared to the AES Playback Characteristic of 400 and 2500 cps respectively. While our preference still remains for the AES curve—both as to frequency of turnover and as to its specification as a *playback* characteristic instead of a recording standard—it appears that the proposed curve would fall within the tolerance allowed by the AES curve and would thus provide satisfactory reproduction when played on equipment engineered to AES standards. The Society's recommendations have already been forwarded to Neal McNaughten, the member of the Preparatory Group from the U. S., and it is to be hoped that his influence may help to swing the other members more closely to our already-adopted standard.

The C.C.I.R. standardization is not intended to apply to any recording intended purely for use in the individual countries, but only to those programs which are intended for international distribution or exchange. However, it is felt that if the equipment is made to satisfy the standards for programs in the exchange category, it is probable that it would be used without change for the locally consumed recordings, with consequent benefit to all who use them for any purpose whatsoever.