

PREVIEW
SUNRISE SESSION
CTAC REPORT

CABLE TELEVISION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Two and a half years of work went into the CTAC Report. It has been completed and was delivered to the Federal Communications Commission during the month of March 1975. This NCTA Sunrise Session presents the CTAC definition of the purpose of Standards and discusses the results of some of the major areas of investigation - Cable Channel Planning, Cable Compatible Receiver specifications, Subjective Evaluation of Picture Quality and a new and simplified proposal for Performance Testing.

The Cable Television Technical Advisory Committee was an industry committee, authorized by the FCC Report and Order on Cable Television of Feb. 2, 1972. It was created for the purpose of pro-

viding a base of information relating to technical and economic factors of cable television system operation. These data are to serve as a guide for regulatory bodies in the preparation or revision of technical standards for cable television. It may also serve as an industry textbook for understanding, coordination and growth.

The group was organized in the summer of 1972. It was composed of volunteer members who responded to an FCC public invitation to participate in preparing this comprehensive report. A broad base of the communications industry responded. The members brought a variety of technical backgrounds including electronic manufacturing, cable operation, broadcast, program production, interconnection, communications consulting and engineering associated with citizen, state and local government bodies. A Steering Committee of 27 members guided nine working panels and one ad hoc group, making a total of approximately 170 representatives from all parts of the country.

The Committee believes that the preparation of this report was an unusual opportunity to present information in advance of regulation rather than complaints after the fact. It may be a major step forward in coordinating industry and regulatory thinking in the direction of practical system operation. It proposes a realistic growth pattern, attempts to avoid undue economic burden, and encourages innovative equipment development and user applications. Every NCTA member should plan to become acquainted with the Steering Committee Report in Volume I. Engineering personnel will want to study the complete working panel reports in Volume II of the CTAC Report to the Federal Communications Commission.