

Future Developments. Techniques Forecast by Hughes AC Economist

An "electronic democracy" with network systems enabling American citizens to vote directly upon bills before the Congress could be one result of the new technology of the 1960s, a Hughes Aircraft Company economist suggested this week.

But Americans, in their easy chairs, would have to devote several hours a week to true self-government in the town hall tradition by hearing legislative bills read on the floor of Congress, listening to the debates and even taking part in the discussions, all by means of two-way TV, Stahl W. Edmonds, Hughes manager of market analysis, said.

ELECTRONIC BALLOT
Then they could actually cast their ballots through a home voting transmitter tied into a central broadcast, control and data processing center, he told a meeting of the California Loan and Finance Association at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

He said the predicted boom of the "soaring sixties" will depend largely upon consumer acceptance of new electronic technology. This, he said, will not deliver its economic impact in the development of martini-coolers or other gadgets, but in systems adapted, for example, from

giant missiles, and which would apply to entire areas of day-to-day living.

Edmonds said the "electronic referendum" was one of the more fanciful possibilities of the new decade's technology. In the same category he also visualized:

1. An "electronic chef" which, with the help of a computer's memory for recipes, could duplicate the most succulent dishes of Antoine's or Maxime's.

2. An automatic budgeteer that would enable a housewife to pay all bills through her bank by inserting a punch card into a scanning machine attached to her telephone line; it would even flash a red light when she is spending more than her budget can stand.

He listed several Hughes achievements as examples of the new technology which already are realities: The Mobot remote control machine to perform tasks in areas or under conditions too dangerous for man; a numerical machine tool control that performs complex machining operations automatically; and Cideosonics, an audio-visual instruction system that shows people how to assemble complex equipment and increases man's ability to learn lan-

guages, mathematics and other sciences.

MARTINI-COOLER
While some consumers may expect the new technology to produce items like a handy martini-cooler, he said, many industry scientists are working in the broad field of cryogenics (the science of producing extremely cold temperatures) to make radar detect missiles at greater distances than ever before.

"Technology is not basically going to bring a lot of incidentals into the consumer's home," he said. "When the new technology comes into the home, it is not going to bring the martini-cooler but some adaptation of the whole roaring missile system itself."

Edmonds listed four major forces that "will determine the extent of the economic boom of the 1960s": (1) the population expansion; (2) international competition; (3) the rapid technological advances of the U.S.; and (4) the rate of customer acceptance

of technical change.
"The deciding factor in the competition, in my judgment, will be the ability to capture the imagination of men, not by growth rates but by the vision of a brave new world," he said.

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County Approves Lease for Torrance Area Park

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced this week that the Board of Supervisors has approved a lease under which the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power will make two acres of vacant land adjacent to Southwest Sportsman's park available to the county to use in the overall improvement and development of the regional park, which is located at Century Blvd. and Western Ave.

The lease is to run for a three year period and can be renewed on a year to year basis, at a nominal yearly rental.

Facing on Century Blvd., the two acre parcel extends west from the transmitting tower to the Presbyterian church parking lot.

Supervisor Hahn pointed out that the lease arrangement will benefit both the Department of Water and Power and the County. While the property is vacant and used, it has posed a problem of maintenance and upkeep for the Department which will be solved as the County will improve and maintain the property, thus eliminating a potential eyesore and making the land available for use and enjoyment of the public.

With this land now available, plans can go ahead full speed for the improvement of the westerly section of Sportsman's park including construction of a pitch and putt golf course and other facilities, he said.

Located in the geographical center of Supervisor Hahn's district, Sportsman's park serves the people of a large area including South Los Angeles, Inglewood, Lennox, Hawthorne, Gardena,

Torrance, Lawndale, Moneta Gardens, Howard Townsite and the South Bay area.

Torrance Man Becomes Union Prexy Emeritus

John B. Feltes, 1820 Arlington Ave., Torrance, this week was congratulated by leading state and national government officials on becoming perhaps the youngest president emeritus of a labor union. He is 37.

Feltes last week named president emeritus of Torrance Local 218 of the AFL-CIO International Brotherhood of Operative Potters. He is employed by American Standard.

Feltes last week completed his fifth consecutive term as president of the local. Prior to that he served two terms as recording secretary and four terms on the board of trustees.

When he declined to run for a sixth time as president, the local unanimously named him its first president emeritus, a title which is permanent. He will continue to serve the local in an advisory capacity.

"I suspect he will be one of the youngest presidents emeritus in our history," wired Gov. Edmund G. Brown in a congratulatory message. Other telegrams were sent to Feltes by Clayton A. Dills, 67th District Assemblyman; Stuart Symington, senator from Feltes' home state of Missouri; Paul H. Douglas, senator from Illinois; and E. L. Fheatly, international president of the Potters union.

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