

Notes for talk to R.I.C. Midlands

13th June 1967

1. Overall idea of situation - overall biggest load we have ever done.

Start of a development for 20 years - what we do now will vitally affect broadcasting.

2. Objectives - why are we doing it? We aim to produce the best colour television in the world - we aim to make it an immediate success both from our own point of view and for the sake of the Industry which is making an enormous investment in colour - cannot afford long introduction of colour as in United States but need immediate success and need £5 licences.

3. Coverage - colour will be shown on BBC-2 network giving coverage to 69% of the population by end of year - rapidly expanding - at the time of colour launching on 1st July transmitters will be Crystal Palace (plus four relays), Sutton Coldfield (plus two relays), Rowridge, Winter Hill, Emley Moor and Belmont (6), building up to Pontop Pike, Black Hill, Divis, Durriss, Tacolneston, Wenvoe, Dover and Llanddona (8) (total 14) before regular services starts 2nd December. Build up expertise during this period (2-3 hours per day) - much more than anybody else has done.

4. What we have already done - Colour last 20 years

(a) carried out vast amount of basic work on colour origination, training and appraisal of studio equipment, cameras, VTRs, picture monitors etc. - we have already ordered equipment to the value of well over £3M Over next few years the rate of expenditure will double;

4. Timetable

- (b) made our line communication system capable of taking colour;
- (c) built the transmitter network - set up the machinery for expanding this network;
- (d) planned eventual changeover from b/w to colour complete - essential we keep up productivity - all planning based on this.

In all this keep balance of expansion - studios, lines ~~transm~~ transmitters.

5. What we have still to do - develop techniques and methods - decide on equipment - present camera design surely not definitive, ~~impr~~ improvements required, appraisals 3-/4-tube cameras not only basically but best ways of using them - in all this colour quality must be supreme factor - compatability - we must originate operational practices and design concepts - get colour as well understood as b/w - introduction of new devices - establish methods of lining up cameras, monitors, test equipment.

New type of equipment - line and field-store converter - transcoding.

6. Staff Training - most important - courses at Wood Norton - courses at Lime Grove - practice in studios.

7. Aim to build up expertise - at present time we know a lot about colour from 20 years' experimental work - we know a lot ~~x~~ from many years' experimental transmissions. But still a lot to learn and cannot be learnt until we have the equipment and the facilities in service use - colour practice will evolve as in b/w.

But while colour television is still television and basically is dealt with in the same way as black-and-white, it will ~~tk~~ take some time before we have all built up the same familiarity with the problem to enable the work to be done with the same sureness as in b/w.

8. Learn from American experience

9. Duplication problem - co-operation with ITA and Post Office - why must we get off 405 lines? What will we gain? Introduction of colour to BBC-1 enormous increase in programme of work, equipment to be ordered, etc. - duplication probably late '69 and rapid expansion afterthat - in equality with BBC-2 in '71/'72 - after that objective to ~~reach~~ reach equality with VHF BBC-1 - perhaps sometime between 1975 and 1980 - value of UHF reception - finally re-engineering.