

# R. C. A. Color TV Hailed in Test; 'Astounds' Head of House Group

By JACK GOULD

Much the best color television yet seen, enjoying good stability and definition and projecting hues restful to the eyes, was demonstrated yesterday by the Radio Corporation of America. The color program was broadcast over Channel 4 and owners of present TV sets could see the show in the usual black and white.

During the color presentation, especially in a dance number, some of the soft pastel shadings were breath-taking in their loveliness. For the first time in several years of assorted color TV tests the screen seemed free of an artificial and unreal quality. The same program also was shown simultaneously in black and white. By comparison the images appeared drab and visually almost meaningless.

The R. C. A. showing of color was seen in Princeton, N. J., by members of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Com-

merce, who came up from Washington for the test and will spend today in New York witnessing other developments in tinted video.

The committee is investigating the status of color TV with a view to learning whether there has been any unwarranted delay in its introduction to the public.

Representative Charles A. Wolverton, Republican of New Jersey, chairman of the committee, declared after the demonstration that he was "astounded" by the quality of the color.

"It's amazing," he said. "Color television has reached the stage of perfection where the public should have its benefits. It would seem justified to put it into production."

Mr. Wolverton said that the committee might make some sort of recommendation to the Federal Communications Commission with

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a view to hastening the advent of color TV.

David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of R. C. A., said his company was "ready to proceed with color TV as soon as the F. C. C. approves the standards."

Mr. Sarnoff said that R. C. A. would cooperate with the National Television System Committee, an all-industry group, in conducting field tests of color TV for three or four months. At the end of that period, he indicated, he hoped all manufacturers, including R. C. A., would ask commission approval of technical standards. If other manufacturers sought further delay, he hinted, R. C. A. on its own initiative might ask for such approval.

At Princeton, three color sets were used in the demonstration of the R. C. A.-N. T. S. C. system, which is called compatible because color programs can be broadcast without jeopardizing the usefulness of present black-and-white receivers. New receivers would be needed, however, to see the programs in color.

The two larger sets, giving pictures of a size equivalent to those provided by sixteen-inch tubes, afforded color of a quality roughly comparable to that shown by

R. C. A. over a year ago. The images had a suggestion of an overcast fuzziness and the red tones were a trifle erratic.

But a smaller set, with a color tube of about fourteen-inch size, gave an image of astonishingly life-like quality that seemed of a standard conducive to public acceptance of color TV.

The colors had gradation and depth and, above all, stayed in place to give the over-all image both remarkable clarity and naturalness. The flesh tones were not too sharp or harsh. On the smaller demonstration set the color TV actually was more relaxing and at the same time more exciting to watch than the black and white.

The House committee will view the color system of the Columbia Broadcasting System, the only system now holding the approval of the F. C. C. However, C. B. S. has indicated it would not now try to introduce its system because of its incompatibility with existing black and white video. When C. B. S. transmits color an existing set must be equipped with an adapter to see black and white and a converter to see color.

Also scheduled to be viewed by the committee is the color television tube developed by Prof. Ernest O. Lawrence and Dr. Luis W. Alvarez, both of the University of California. The tube is being produced by the Chromatic Television Laboratories, subsidiary of Paramount Pictures.