In 1948 approximately 200,000 American homes had television sets; fifteen television stations were broadcasting regularly. By 1958 some 530 stations were broadcasting to receivers in 42 million homes. Today there are tens of thousands of broadcasters and approximately 110 million homes have television sets. More than 95 percent of American homes have TV sets today, approximately 14 million of which are color. In fact, there are more TV’s in U.S. homes than telephones, bathtubs or refrigerators. TV antennae bristle from the rooftops of millions of homes that don’t even have plumbing. An estimated quarter-billion television receivers are in use around the world.

Television is the software of the world. The videosphere is the noosphere—global organized intelligence—transformed into a perceivable state.

This impulsive, self-revealing, consciousness-expanding process is irreversible. Global information is the natural enemy of local government, for it reveals the true context in which that government acts. Television is directly responsible for the political turn that is increasing around the world. The political establishments sense this and are beginning to react. But it’s too late. Television makes it impossible for governments to maintain the illusion of secrecy and corruption which are essential for their existence. Television is one of the most revolutionary tools in the entire spectrum of technology.

Television, like the computer, is a sleeping giant. But those who are beginning to use it in revolutionary new ways are very much awake. The first generation of television has reached maturity having watched 15,000 hours of television while completing only 10,000 hours of formal education through high school. Yet television itself still has not left the beat of commerce. The Comsat/Intelsat series, the U.S. Defense Department's satellite, has been used in theater for seventeen years. Television has limited comics imitating theater for twenty years. But the new generation with its transnational interplay of video consciousness will not tolerate the minor satellite vehicles that television is apparently employing. We will liberate the media.

Chap, mass-produced, pre-programmed radar sets and house-to-house closed-circuit television broadcasting soon will be available.

Approximately 75 percent of all TV homes in America are now “all channel” that is, receiving UHF as well as VHF programming. It is estimated that 97 percent will be all channel by 1974. Meanwhile there are fewer than 200 communities of more than 2500 population that do not have CATV systems now operating or with applications under consideration.

The FCC recently granted permission for Microwave Communications, Inc. to compete with AT&T by offering CATV systems for rent at parts for a circuit of a part of a city. AT&T charges $3000 for a whole circuit 24 hours a day. The first lines were to be available between Chicago and St. Louis by July 1970.

A new way to transmit CATV systems without laying down miles of cable has been developed. These CATV systems with power requirements in the range of a flashlight battery... the system transmits up to 15 miles and is “virtually impervious” to atmospheric conditions.

... the New York County Lawyers Association is currently studying the question of whether the public of the state, a man’s right to compel TV stations to provide first amendment speech services is the center of CATV service it is the clearest reception.

... a two-way television system that can measure audience reactions instantly via cable and computer interface.

... a laser videophone is now in operation at the headquarters of Nippon Electric Company in Japan, between buildings 300 yards apart.

... Nippon Electric Company has used lasers to transmit black-and-white television over a distance of three miles.

... a laser-line telephone system that also carries black-and-white TV is now in operation in a high-rise office building in Mexico.

... television sets that translate foreign-language programs into the language of the receiver’s local area.

... a TV receiver only 5¼ inches thick with a 13-inch screen...

... a compact tubeless TV camera lens two cubic inch square (smaller than a man’s hand) that utilize solid-state light sensors instead of the conventional photo-sensitive screen.

... a high-resolution TV camera lens one pound and small enough to carry in a pocket...

... a half-dollar size TV screen...

... a two-dimensional laser color TV screen with a screen 10 x 6 feet, composed of thousands of glass bars only two millimetres thick...

... a 200-scene system with picture definition so sharp that it may be transferred to 35 mm film in later for common movie theater use.

... video Brail... TV camera scans an area and the picture code is transmitted to 400 pensioners who can read the message on a Blind person’s brain, where the picture is translated through that person's skin into plastic-tipped vibrations.

... most observers estimate that TV cameras small enough to fit in a human eye socket will be developed within the next 10 years.

... television sets that translate foreign-language programs into the language of the receiver’s local area.

... CATV systems now in operation in a high-rise office building in Mexico.

By 1972 more than 200,000 low cost videotape recorders will be in use in the United States, and the video cassette industry—comparable in size to the publishing industry—will use its impact on the country’s TV it will use in an effort to bring the Earth with audio-visual information. The videosphere will alter the minds of men and the architecture of our dwellings. “There’s a whole new story to be told,” says video artist Scott Bartlett, “thanks to the new techniques. We must find out what we have to say because of...”

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