

"We made 25,000 disappear. It would not be hard to make one more disappear." It has been two and a half years since Mr. Khalra was kidnapped. When will your police take responsibility?

Kikkar Singh, who is a witness in the Khalra case, was falsely implicated in two cases and remains in jail. Kirpal Singh Randhawa, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Human Rights Organization, is a witness in the Khalra case. He wrote to the Chief Minister and the President of the World Sikh Council exposing a police conspiracy to eliminate him. These illegal actions show the lengths that the police will go to in the effort to cover up their own responsibility for the reign of terror that has engulfed Punjab.

Just in the last year, over 90 atrocities by police have been documented in Punjab. Last month, a 17-year-old Sikh girl named Hardip Kaur was waiting for a bus to take her to her family's village. She was offered a ride by two police officers, and this innocent young girl accepted. She was taken to a house where these officers and two other police officers gang-raped her all night. In February, Malkiat Singh of the village of Bisgawa died from torture inflicted by the Inspector and Sub-Inspector of the Ahmedgarh police station. In February, two Sikh youths who were riding their bicycles in front of a Gurdwara were picked up by your police and stuffed into a police jeep. They are accused of being militants, but the residents of their village say that these charges are unfounded. These are just some of the most recent incidents. How can a country that operates this way call itself a "democracy?"

It is a well-known fact, reported by the U.S. State Department, that police officers have received cash bounties for killing innocent Sikhs. It was in pursuit of one of these bounties that the police murdered a three-year-old child and claimed that he was a "terrorist." Do you consider that acceptable police practice?

Your police even continue to occupy the Golden Temple, the holiest of Sikh shrines. It has been fourteen years since the desecration and massacre known as Operation Bluestar. There is no better illustration of the fact that there is no place for Sikhs in India's "secular democracy."

During a recent visit to Punjab and Chandigarh, Canadian Revenue Minister Herb Dhaliwal said that only when the problem of harassment of people and insecurity of property is solved will outsiders be encouraged to invest in Punjab. He called for democratic change. It is you and your police force that can end the harassment and abuse of human rights. Only then will the door be open for real democracy to function in Punjab.

Recently, Justice J.S. Sekhon, a member of the government-appointed Punjab Human Rights Commission, said that he is worried about the inhuman behavior of the police. He noted that the police have been torturing people in the police stations and that the law does not allow this. Even though militancy has yielded to peace in Punjab, he said, his commission has received 90 complaints against the police. Justice Sekhon said that the commission is taking a serious view of these complaints, especially those that resulted in death in police custody. He added that the police must be more cooperative and humane towards people. What further proof is needed? Punjab is a police state.

As Justice Sekhon said, your police force has a long way to go before it begins to resemble the law-enforcement arm of a free state. As the Director General, you bear ultimate responsibility for these crimes. Even your own allies are exposing the reign of terror that you police have imposed on the hardworking people of Punjab.

Only when the fundamental rights of all people are observed can any country call itself democratic and free. We Sikhs are moving towards true democracy and freedom in our homeland, you can either help in that process or hinder that process. So far you have done the latter, I hope for the sake of your own conscience, you begin to do the former.

It is your responsibility to end the police tyranny in Punjab, otherwise, history and the Sikhs will never forgive you.

PANTH DA SEWADAR,
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
*President, Council of
Khalistan.*

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DIGITAL ERA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit an article to the RECORD entitled "Digital Watch; The Big Picture" by Jerry Meyer, the Chief Executive and President of Tektronix, a global high-technology company based in Wilsonville, Oregon. This article describes the challenges and implications of the transition to the digital transmission of television, telecommunications and information technology signals.

Directed by Congress in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Federal Communications Commission mandated a ten-year period for the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

This industry imperative to disseminate the new technology has not necessarily created an instant demand for digital products, but it has driven the development of remarkable new interactive technologies.

Mr. Meyer, whose firm is a global distributor of high technology components, including testing and interactive video equipment, is in an ideal position to observe trends in the digital industries.

While emphasizing the unpredictability of these new markets, his article offered me a clear perspective on the possibilities that digital broadcasting creates and the scramble now taking place to capitalize on those opportunities. Thus, I am inserting this article into the RECORD and commend it to all of my colleagues for its reasoned approach to the new digital era.

DIGITAL WATCH: THE BIG PICTURE

(By Jerome Meyer)

Even if you've heard the hype and seen the product demos—amazing color and clarity, images so real they look almost 3D—chances are you haven't given much thought to their consequences. Most people never worry about how a broadcast signal reaches their television set or computer terminal, and most don't have to in order to lead profitable, happy lives. Yet the move from a world of analog signals to a digital version, raises a host of questions. Just how much will consumers shell out for enhanced quality? Who will deliver it to them? With telephone companies, Internet service providers, and media powerhouses all scrambling for a ride on the wave, what will the much-heralded "digital world" of the future really look like?

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

A virtual hurricane, the digital revolution is sweeping the worlds of telecommuni-

cations, broadcasting, and multimedia, carrying consumers from the analog world of The Ed Sullivan Show to the digitally supercharged computer games of Sega Saturn. Like all transitions, this event isn't monolithic, and it isn't pre-programmed. As the laboratory tools of digital conversion and compression become available at a price that makes them salable, programmers, movie studios, producers, and advertisers are applying their creative genius to the new delivery system.

A simple comparative glance at a digital television picture and an analog picture will give you a hint of how drastic the improvement really is. The superfine visual and audio quality is brought to you thanks to a technology chain that links satellite makers, cable operators, content providers, and electronic manufacturers.

Even telephone companies like GTE (which recently bid to buy Internet service provider BBN Corp. for \$616 million) and US West are fast expanding beyond their traditional delivery mediums. Digital technology will make packaging offerings of wireless services such as paging and data transfer more widely available.

In a sense, the perceived needs of the consumer are driving this revolution into a digital state of high quality and dependability. It is no longer enough to deliver the consumer to another technology barrier. Motorola's global scale Iridium project is just one attempt to deliver digital technology into a world marketplace.

Are consumers responding?

Without a doubt. Although just 150 commercial satellites spin overhead today, you can expect to find the sky cluttered with almost 2,000 of them in just seven years. When you consider that that could provide a market of more than 1 billion people, it's no wonder media moguls like Rupert Murdoch are running hard to put in place the content and capability to service those markets.

There are an estimated 50 million people surfing the Internet. Last year, computer sales outpaced those of televisions. At the same time, it is clear that the consumer is not wedded to a particular delivery system and will shop for price and quality.

The mad scramble for digital conversion has created dynamic responses, but it has also caused some confusion. From my vantage point at Tektronix, I am able to measure the needs of the people who are using digital technology everyday. As demand grows for better ways to test and measure the digital stream of information—whether into a TV or onto a computer screen—I see some patterns and possible pitfalls.

The debate over whether consumers will use their televisions or their computers for digital images ends up being about ease of use. Whether my "network appliance" is made by Sony or Philips or comes mail order from Dell or Compaq doesn't really matter. What matters to the consumer is: Is it better than what I already have? Does it cost more or less? What programming or content will it give me access to?

Some pundits and news media would have us believe that 90 million television owners are going to drive down to the store Monday morning and buy brand new digital televisions. Current prices for the screens make that unlikely, but just as with the VCR, when consumers finally get a glimpse of something that is demonstrably better—and digital is—computer makers and consumer electronic makers will have a great opportunity. Most large-scale manufacturers are already making plans for the 10-year analog to digital changeover mandate by the FCC.

Already, computer makers and their chip allies, like Intel, see an advantage to being on the consumer's desktop. And, of course,

our Pacific Northwest neighbor, Microsoft, has taken advantage of the way your appliance works in order to serve up information, news, and data. Microsoft recently demonstrated its desire to be part of the "screen experience" by paying \$425 million for WebTV and \$1 billion for a stake in cable operator Comcast.

Your future Internet experience—whether at home or at your place of business—will not be rooted in the appliance, but in the value it adds to your work or social life. Business-to-business on-line commerce is already beginning, and structures are now being built to handle grocery shopping, educational material, and banking for consumers. The growth in e-mail tells me that people want to communicate with each other, but it also offers a way to transform learning and education.

Applications will continue to drive the digital marketplace, with technical solutions always playing catch-up to the needs and desires of the consumer. Continuing price pressure and the persistent need to lower costs—whether through falling chip prices or sinking telephone charges—will also spur the digital conversion.

But this urge to go digital isn't without its pitfalls. Efforts and great spending by some of the best and brightest companies has yet to secure a business model where the consumer will pay enough money to make sophisticated, costly technology a worthwhile business investment. Interactive television trials are now showing the promise they once had, though other kinds of digital interactive technology is securing a market. Digital editing and digital transmission of images and sound are no longer revolutionary.

The fact that it is my own inclination to actually go to the movies with my wife, rather than rent a video as our children do, underscores the point that all consumers—and all businesses—don't embrace change at the same speed. The "rush" to replace the analog technology of vacuum tubes with the high-speed elegance of chips and computers has taken time, and that will continue.

My perspective is perhaps a little different than most, because I've been able to see how technology has become more and more a consumer product. Turning out oscilloscopes for the U.S. Navy—our old business—isn't exactly the kind of thing that gets you headlines, unless there is a war on. But the initial concept of testing and measuring the quality and consistency of technology is at the root of this digital revolution—and that just happens to be our business.

THE DIGITAL WATCH

When you see a digital television picture you'll know it. The clarity and quality is downright amazing, and some digital broadcasting currently being received by digital set-top boxes looks almost 3D. Even with current standard televisions, signals transmitted digitally via a satellite make Thursday night's Seinfeld episode shine even brighter.

The big question has never been, "Gee, is this neat stuff?" The real question that keeps companies like Intel, Sony, and TimeWarner up at night is: "How much will consumers pay for this technology?"

Several events have coincided to make this a particularly exciting shift for the industry. Not only are huge sums of money being spent on a variety of new delivery systems, but government deregulation also throws these new technologies into the push-and-pull of the marketplace.

When telephone deregulation started back in the mid-1980s, the personal computer was outside the reach—and want—of most people. Technology issues revolved around speed,

size, and standards. By embracing open standards of technology—a concept similar to that of everyone agreeing on grades of gasoline—the PC business boomed; even the Goliath IBM learned a lesson trying to hang onto standards, while companies like Dell Computer, Compaq, and Microsoft gave new meaning to the mixing of technology and growth.

In terms of going digital, Murdoch's Fox television network is the most aggressive entertainment company. They are using the digital shift to bring costs down as well as to build a satellite distribution network that stretches around the globe. I get a first-hand look at what these companies want to do because they've got to know what the technology can do before they deploy it. Whether transmitting stock prices or television programs, you have to use technology to deliver it to the customer.

Right now, other broadcasters (CBS, NBC, and ABC) are steering a conservative course. There's some good reason for this. They have all been through the cable wars and were told that their traditional dominance would be washed away like Gilligan and his friends. With a massive capital spending campaign to finance this government-mandated switch-over from analog to digital transmission, no one wants a false start.

The market players know that digital will be the de facto standard in the next century. Digital technology will allow companies to provide more information to consumers as well as create challenges relating to costs and development. The digital world will blur the lines between data and video on a computer screen and the entertainment and news we have grown accustomed to on our television sets.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

One clear benefit of the digital world will be greater choice. Individuals will be able to personalize the kinds of information they receive as well as the medium they want to use. Hand-held digital telephones with news, messages, Internet connections, as well as the more mundane tasks of scheduling, telephoning, and electronic files will be packed into small cost-effective devices.

Companies such as Motorola, Ericson, and Sony will lead the consumer charge in this area, but an entire behind-the-scenes technology deployment will have taken place—unseen by the average customer. Digital standards provide the framework for all the information traveling the airwaves. As broadcasting, production, and distribution players battle for consumers, they will all be using digital tools for combat. Traditional broadcasting will be using two-way technology to connect with viewers; production companies will have new video and audio capabilities to engage the audience; and distribution will follow the customer from room to room and from city to city.

Imagine video technology at a reasonable price, bundled, as part of a wider array of technology information choices. One channel might be news; another might be a conversation with co-workers or family members. Digital technology literally unleashes whole new combinations of images and sounds that can go anywhere and be transported for a fraction of their traditional cost. While the corporate landscape will be dominated by some of the same players competing today, it is fair to say that everyone is watchful of new entries. As digital technology becomes more and more pervasive, it also will present new opportunities for startup and new ventures.

Whether it is video browsers that let computer users watch full motion, digital video with sound, digital signals sent via satellites, or new digital transmission towers,

the consumer will be clamoring for the best technology at the best price. The challenge for the consumer electronics industry is to deliver it.

LETTER CARRIERS AGAIN SPONSOR FOOD DRIVE FOR NATION'S NEEDY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, again this year, as they have for countless years in the past, letter carriers from around the country will collect nonperishable food items placed near their customer's mail boxes on Saturday, May 9. The food will then be given to local food pantries for distribution to those in need. Letter carriers in my hometown, Milwaukee, collected the largest amount of food nationwide in their efforts of May, 1997.

The National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United States Postal Service and the United Way, will kick off this year's food drive in Milwaukee with a press conference on Thursday, May 7th, to raise community awareness of this very worthwhile project.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support the letter carriers' food drives in their hometowns and districts, and to remind my fellow residents of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties to consider buying a few extra canned goods and nonperishables while doing the weekly grocery shopping the week before the 7th. Together, we can ensure that this year's food drive is as successful as those which came before.

With a little help from all of us, our local food pantries will be stocked full and maybe even over-flowing, for this summer, a time when pantries are often put to the test.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL HONOREES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I congratulate Janet Haynes, Gail Thompson and the Matsushita Electric Corporation of America for their selection as honorees at this year's Women of Distinction Luncheon, sponsored by the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties. This year's luncheon will take place on April 23 at the Holiday Inn/North in Newark, NJ.

Janet Haynes, who will receive the Girl Scout World of People award, is a native of Jersey City. She serves as country clerk for the County of Hudson. Through her election to this post, she became the highest ranking African-American official in the history of Hudson County and the only African-American to serve as county clerk in the state of New Jersey.

A former girl scout, Haynes is actively involved in volunteer work. She has served as the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the board of directors of the Hudson County