

## Editorial Preview

Our series on Decision Support Systems (DSS) continues in this issue. The series editor, Ralph Sprague, has invited an article by George Huber of the University of Wisconsin. The article focuses on "organizational" aspects of DSS. It is the outgrowth of work done in preparation for a meeting a year ago at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) at Schloss Luxembourg, Austria. The United States was represented at the meeting by key persons in the DSS movement (Dickson, Hackathorn, Huber, Keen, McLean, Sprague, and Wagner). Most of the participants came from Eastern and Western Europe. Much of our thought in this area is reflected by articles in the *MIS Quarterly* DSS series which has had heavy participation by the U.S. representatives at the IIASA meeting.

The first article in the Application Section involves a report on the results of part of a study sponsored by the Financial Executives Institute concerning controls associated with computer systems. The article by Professors Merten and Severance of the University of Michigan points out the very high level of concern present in senior executives relative to the risk of exposure associated with computer based systems.

The fact is inescapable that a major problem facing modern organizations is the rising cost of computer software. An associated problem is that an increasing portion of software cost is to maintain existing systems. The second article in the Application Section by Jack Ewers and Iris Vessey relates software development productivity aids to these problems.

The Theory and Research Section features an article by Professor Michael Ginzberg of New York University concerning the MIS implementation process. Persons interested in this article may also wish to consult another implementation article by Professor Ginzberg in the April issue of *Management Science*.

The remainder of this issue is devoted to a listing of MIS related doctoral dissertations published between 1973 and 1980. This list will be annually updated by its authors. The publication of this list was supported by the editors of the *MIS Quarterly* and the secretary of SMIS at their meeting held in association with the First International Conference on Information Systems last December because of the bibliography's facilitation of MIS research.

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**SENIOR EDITOR**