

## Editorial Preview

The issue of what constitutes an "Application" article is one with which I am frequently confronted by readers and potential authors. My best answer at this time is that an "Application" article is *not* one involving "Theory and/or Research." Note that our section heading is "Application," not "Applications." In other words, we try to put purely conceptual material or reports of studies involving data analysis into the *Theory and Research* section. Those articles appearing in the *Application Section* present material or concepts that may be of some use or worth consideration by practitioners.

The articles in this issue by Biggs and King illustrate this point. Although written by people from universities these articles provide material or ideas that *may* be useful to systems builders/users. The article by Ginzberg, on the other hand, reports data based research which would only be of limited interest to our practitioner readers.

I do not intend to suggest that we do not wish to print articles dealing with actual applications — we do indeed! However, as I've said in previous issues, we cannot print that which we do not have.

While on this subject, I would like to call the attention of potential authors to Gene Woolsey's comments in, "An Opinionated Essay on the Meaning of Implementation of OR/MS in the Public Sector," appearing in **TIMS Interfaces**, November 1977, Volume 8, Number 1, Part 1, pp. 110-114. We, also, are not very interested in "proposed systems for . . ." types of articles. This is true whether the proposal concerns an information system or whether the proposal is for an untested technique/method for systems building. I will comment on this subject in more detail in the next issue when an article will appear which will demonstrate how an author can present an application, not just a proposed application, and an *evaluation*.

Finally, I would like to call the readers' attention to an interview which represents a shift from those previously appearing. In this issue, General Walter Kerwin talks about the information needs of the U.S. Army. This interview is an interesting contrast with those which we have done with chief executives from private sector organizations.

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**SENIOR EDITOR**