Dr. Hoagland, the ACM has established an "Ombudsman" program. Do we have any thoughts along that line?

I am looking forward to receiving more substantive information on their activity and its utility in this area. We have no action plan at this time. However, this question does lead to some remarks concerning the nature of our organization.

In contrast to the ACM, we do not have local chapters closely tied to the Computer Society. Our chapters primarily identify with their IEEE section. This situation reflects the nature of the parent IEEE structure and has proven its effectiveness over many years. With the emergence of more autonomous societies within the IEEE, we believe the Chapter/Society relation needs reexamination.

We have recently initiated a Chapter Newsletter to improve communications with the chapters and to better understand how we may cooperate. At this time, we are essentially a society with primarily "national" orientation, and one key feature of our committees is their geographic diversity. We even have an office on each coast. I believe we should view this situation as a strength and as an opportunity. Our office in Washington, D.C. is well situated to assist us in coming to grips with matters of national concern to professionals in the computer field.

Would you like to see our publications change?

Yes. I believe the magazine Computer is an outstanding success. I still would like to see more issues debated in its pages and a greater reflection of topical matters of interest. For example, I am aware of many opinions on the future need for engineers in the computer industry. When we are asked to provide career guidance information how do we respond? Surely thoughtful opinions and any controversy over such a question deserve expression.

One could also question whether we should abdicate to the trade press all commentary on topical matters, such as the demise of the RCA computer operations, etc.

Another type of publication I would like to see more of, in either Computer or the Transactions, is tutorial reviews. For instance, "magnetic bubbles" came to public attention in a very dramatic way with much speculation as to their significance. A good review paper on magnetic bubbles published (or even reprinted) strikes me as a useful service we should have provided to our membership.

Finally, I would like to see a better balance of articles in the Transactions, and under Bob Short, our new editor, I am pleased to see progress in this direction.

The vote on the Galindo petition was very close. Does this have any meaning for the Computer Society?

Obviously! As a member society, the health and well-being of the IEEE is of paramount concern to us. I intend to work closely with IEEE headquarters and our Divisional Director to do what we can to help identify what further changes may be in order in the role the IEEE should serve in the future.