

## PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNICATIONS

or (I'm alright at the test-jack)

As we cluster round the console  
There's a gleam in every eye  
For today we prove the circuit  
(or at least today we try).  
We are going to check the line-up  
All the way from end to end  
- It's a network competition  
You win any time you send.  
The sending end is always perfect  
And we are the sending site  
So rest assured the signal  
Will be "leaving here alright".

For we are video circuit experts  
(says the chorus of our song)  
We can't say we are always right  
- Just very seldom wrong.

Watch the progress of the countdown  
Watch us setting-up with speed  
As we check our trusty check-lists  
As we gather what we need.  
Have we got the sine-squared window?  
Have we got the pulse and bar?  
Have we all the test transmissions  
We shall send both near and far?  
Set the rise-time, set the sync. pulse,  
Set the width and set the height.  
Now we've got the perfect picture  
Now it's leaving here alright.

For we are video circuit experts.....

SCAMA calls and we must answer  
It's the station down the line  
They advise they are receiving  
Only sixty over nine.  
Not one hundred over forty  
As we're sending from this end  
(What other grade of signal  
Do they think that we would send).  
So our sympathy we send them  
"Roger - understand your plight  
And we wish that we could help you  
But - its leaving here alright".

For we are video circuit experts.....



It's beyond our comprehension  
 How the other stations manage  
 To take our perfect signals  
 And do them so much damage  
 It's an oft-recurring problem  
 Which happens every test  
 But it cannot be our signal  
 For our signal is the best.  
 It's amazing what can happen  
 After signals leave our site  
 But it's really not our problem  
 'Cause they're leaving here alright.

For we are video circuit experts.....

But wait - should these components  
 Be hanging in the air?  
 Let's put them where they should be  
 - In that circuit over there.  
 That's upset the downline station  
 Their fault-findings at a halt.  
 Let's suggest they check their circuits  
 For an intermittent fault.  
 "Down-line station? Solved your problem?  
 Only took you half the night?  
 Glad to hear it. And of course  
 The signal's leaving here alright.

For we are video circuit experts.....

But that retribution cometh  
 Is something truly said  
 For I went home that evening  
 To rest my weary head  
 And I dreamt I had a picture  
 Of a blond of classic mould  
 But I seemed to have a problem  
 With the horizontal hold.  
 "Dear Lord" I said "why don't you  
 Transmit this picture right  
 Turn up the sending contrast  
 And put brightness in the white?"  
 Came a voice from out the darkness  
 Like a whisper in the night  
 "How I wish that I could held you  
 But - its leaving here alright".

I'm a video circuit expert  
 (Says the chorus of my song)  
 But when it comes to dreaming  
 I get all the settings wrong.

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Written at Sydney Video during the Apollo 15 Mission.