With this issue, I have completed my second year as Editor of *Optical Engineering*. I'm certain that this disclosure has elicited a big "ho hum" from a number of you, unless you happen to be among those who are eagerly anticipating my retirement. The bad news—particularly for those who do not appreciate my editorial style—is that I have agreed to stay on as Editor at least through June 1989. However, the good news is that Martha Stockton, my Associate Editor, has agreed to stay on in her position as well. One last comment before getting on to the main topic of this editorial: May 31, 1987, is rapidly approaching, and I am still wondering what event will occur that might have the same sort of impact on my life as the events of May 31 of the two preceding years (see my Editorial in the June 1986 issue).

In a recent conversation with Eric Pepper, the Managing Editor of *Optical Engineering*, I learned that the circulation of the journal has nearly reached 10,000 copies per issue and that each press run now exceeds 10,000 copies. Thus was born the topic for this editorial, which contains some information I think might be of interest to readers of the journal.

The circulation of *Optical Engineering* has increased dramatically during the past several years, an occurrence that is quite obviously linked to a similar growth in the membership of SPIE. Specifically, the circulation has grown from 6300 in May 1983 to 9950 in May of this year, and Eric expects that it will exceed 10,000 within the next issue or two. This increase represents a growth of 58% in a period of just four years, or an average growth of approximately 12% per year. During the past year alone, the circulation has increased by 1200 copies, or 14%.

The membership of SPIE has been growing at an average rate of about 11% per year for several years, but jumped 17% to a total of 8025 members between May 1986 and May 1987. If the Society keeps growing at its recent average rate, both the membership of the Society and the circulation of the journal will exceed 30,000 by the year 2000. I'm not necessarily predicting that this will happen, but it is interesting to ponder the ramifications of such continued growth.