

**THE SELF ADAPTIVE FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEMS
SYMPOSIUM**

SESSION II

**Dr. C. S. Draper, Chairman
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

OPENING REMARKS BY CAPT. R. R. RATH

During the break, it was pointed out to me that there has been a bit of an oversight. It seems that up to now there has been no definition of what an adaptive control system is. That may not have been an oversight. This is a highly controversial issue. I think I might be safe in giving a definition because we are not going to allow any questions or discussion at this time. I like the definition that we at the Flight Control Laboratory have been following as a guide when discussing an adaptive system. We consider a system adaptive when it maintains a desired performance throughout the entire flight regime of a vehicle in a closed loop fashion with no air data scheduling of control parameters and with a minimum of advance information about the vehicle characteristics. This covers a broad area, but if a system does this, it operates the way we want it to and, therefore, we feel that we can consider it to be adaptive. This subject will be open for discussion during the open forum. The chairman of the second session will be Doctor C. S. Draper, who needs no further introduction.