

movie JOURNAL



by Jonas Mekas

July 7. At the Kitchen. Takahiko Iimura's one-man show of video tapes. One monitor, black and white. Iimura's tapes are very dry, semi-minimal, very gray. Little happens in them. He plays with the "uninteresting"—variations of gray, shadows, reflections, superimpositions. They are all barely perceptible. To really appreciate what Iimura is doing one should see his work under special conditions, where one can give it one's fullest attention. One viewing at the Kitchen didn't help me to make my mind up one way or the other.

July 11. Watching the Democratic Convention on tv. As one of the key speakers was going through his talk, suddenly the

was a most frustrating experience. They missed almost all the speakers. In my desperation, I began switching from one channel to another, but all channels were involved in their own yappings. I saw little of the convention proper. It was all a big tv sabotage. It seemed to me that it was not the delegates of the convention but Cronkite and Company who were running for election.

TV people haven't understood yet the glory and the ability of their medium. Instead of showing it all they still try to TELL or to RETELL it all. There it is, right in front of them, the truth itself, the convention itself, the people, their faces, their voices. Focus your cameras on the people, and stop yapping. Let us see what is there. You don't have to tell us what is there. We can see if for ourselves. TV belongs to the people, not to the announcers.

July 14. A letter from Quadrant Communications (575 Madison Avenue, NYC 10022. Phone 688-6900). It is a new guild for filmmakers. The letter says they are

organization open to all filmmakers—student, amateur, professional, of all ages. Members will make or have available films on subjects appropriate to audiences of children ages four to 14, or a segment of that audience, and the films will be released for sale to television by the Guild. . . . Films can be on any subject appropriate for children." The letter contains more information, but I guess if you are interested you will contact the Quadrant Guild itself. One more thing. The letter says, "We're into equipment, on the side—the Leacock MIT camera, for example." In case you don't know what that is, it is the amazing Super-8mm sync sound camera that Leacock designed at MIT.

Electronic Concert

Gershon Kingsley and the 1st Moog Quartet will appear on Monday, July 24, at 7 p. m. in Central Park's Mall, Fifth Avenue and 72nd Street.