

# New ALPS system running on IBM PC AT

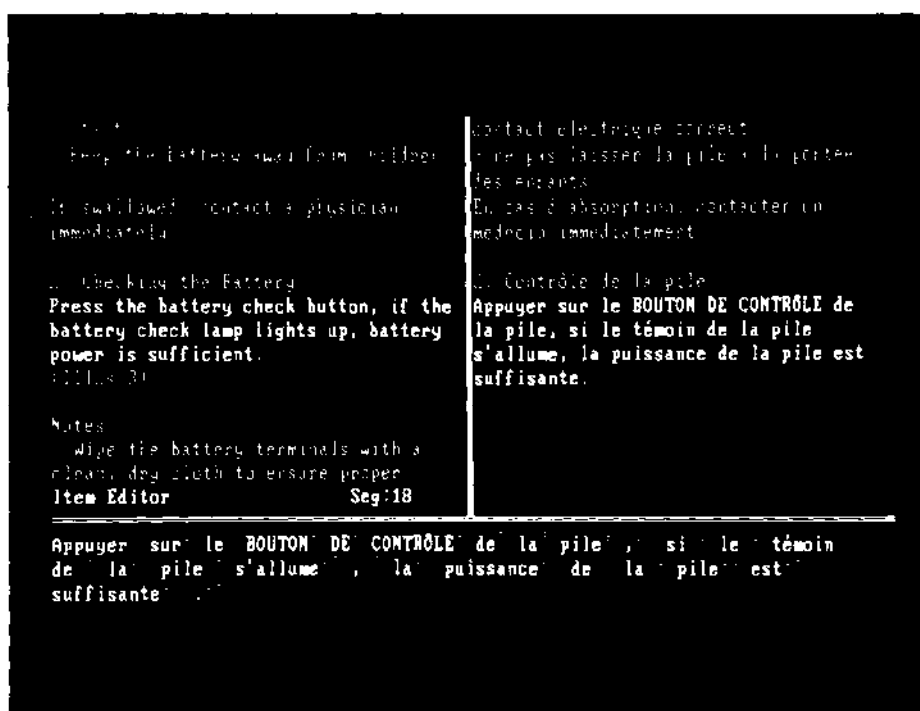
Automated Language Processing Systems (ALPS) launched their new TSS (Translation Support System) software in November with a press conference in London on November 11. The system was on show at the Translating and the Computer conference two days later.

The new TSS system, version 4.1, makes interactive automatic translation using the ALPS technology much neater and faster. ALPS's own estimate is that it would triple the productivity of the individual translator.

When ALPS was last demonstrated to *Language Monthly*, over two years ago, the proposed translation came up on the screen with every word numbered so that it could be moved or deleted using the minimum of keystrokes. This was convenient but made for a crowded looking screen, although operators apparently soon accustomed themselves to this. Now the source text appears on the left, the automatic translation on the right, and the same translation at the bottom with the numbers (see illustration). This seems a much neater and more practical arrangement.

The cost of five work stations is quoted as being approximately 50,000 US dollars, and ALPS claim that the return on investment would be realised over a period of 12 to 18 months.

ALPS, whose headquarters are in Provo, Utah, United States, have been marketing TSS, which is the result of 400 man-years of research and development, since 1983, and have had a European marketing headquarters since July 1984. As previously reported in *Language Monthly*, they are increasingly diversifying their product range, and now have four major families of products. In addition to their computer assisted translation software, available as TSS, AutoTerm, and TransActive, running on microcomputers and on



mainframe systems, they have recently been distributing computer assisted writing software (CAW), including the MacProof on MacIntosh and DRF (Document Revision Facility) on mainframe. They have indicated that shortly they will be extending this area to include a full range of CAW software running on personal computers.

Their other fields of activity are in programming tools specifically designed for use in the area of natural language processing, where their main product is the recently launched PeriPhrase (see story in last month's issue of *Language Monthly*), and in electronic dictionaries. The company

now estimates that since it was set up in January 1980 it has invested over 8.6 million dollars in the development of its products.

ALPS has always based its computer translation philosophy on the interactive approach, whereas most machine translation systems use the batch approach. In the batch approach the whole translation is usually performed by the machine unattended, followed by post-editing on a word processor by the translator. In the interactive approach the translation is produced, usually at a sentence at a time, for the translator to resolve ambiguities and make revisions as he goes along.