

1.3.42

February 8, 1956

Mr. C. E. Davies
ASME Representative on EJC
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
29 West 39th Street
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Clarence:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 25 in which you comment on the statement in my paper "The Struggle for Unity" where I stated "Any action within EJC must be referred back to the constituent societies Boards for concurrence before action is taken". I am very pleased indeed that this is the only comment that you make on my paper and on the plan proposed. It is gratifying to know that the many other statements in the paper meet with your concurrence.

As to the statement commented on, I endeavored to point out that there are certain areas in which a federation of societies can serve the membership of the technical societies and I listed many of these in which EJC has a record of outstanding accomplishment. However, if you read further beyond the statement that you quote, you will find that I was trying to point out that a true unity society should be completely informed of the wants of its individual members and it should provide for effective action in line with the desires of these members, but without necessity for referring back to the constituent societies Boards. In other words, I was pointing out that the Boards of Direction do not always represent the opinions or the desires of the individual members in matters that affect the individual members. A typical case is the matter of polling the individual members on the matter of unionization of engineers. You will recall that EJC was not in a position to obtain the necessary figures from the individual members of the technical societies without requesting this from the societies Boards. You will also recall that not all of the societies were willing to have such figures published. In this instance, the individual member had no voice whatever in the matter.

Another instance where EJC cannot act effectively for the individual member is in its persistent stand in favor of a federation of societies to represent all engineers which stand reflects only the opinion of the officers of the various societies and does not necessarily reflect the opinion and desires of the individual members. In a true unity organization, such a decision would be made and such a stand taken only after it became clearly evident that the position taken was that desired by the majority of all the members of the profession.

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I should not, of course, have used the word "any" without clarification, but the word "any" was of course intended to refer to actions affecting the individual member rather than the usual broad aspects such as a national water power policy, the setting up of a nuclear congress, etc., which the individual engineer is quite willing to have his elected representatives handle in the way they see fit.


You have sent me 50 copies of your letter suggesting that I send it to those who have received copies of my paper and of course I am pleased to distribute these 50 copies as far as they will go. However, there have been over 1200 copies of my paper requested and distributed in various areas which include 250 copies to members of the ASME and 150 copies to officers of the NSPE. Since I do not have the individual addresses of all these persons, it will be rather difficult to obtain complete coverage as you suggest. If you will send me 150 more copies of your letter, I will be glad to distribute them as I can.

Since you mention that you are widely distributing your letter among your ASME Sections, it will be appreciated if you will also include in that mailing a copy of this reply.

I am suggesting to the Editor of Electrical Engineering that he print your letter and my reply in the next issue of Electrical Engineering.

Again, many thanks for your comment and your acceptance of the other facts that have been stated in the paper.

Sincerely yours,



Walter B. Morton
AIEE Representative (Alternate) on EJC

WBM:MPR