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To the Editor:

As I contemplate the proposed merger of AIEE and IRE, I see opportunities for great good for the profession. But with these opportunities are associated problems of organization calling for skill and statesmanship equal to, and perhaps greater than, that which has brought the prospects of merger to their present stage.

It has been said that there is but one kind of electron and only one electromagnetic spectrum. This is a sound technological basis for unifying the profession. For many years some of us, using a very limited part of the spectrum, have managed to keep a lot of electrons busy in the service of the public. Now the electric power industry draws more and more on the techniques popularly called electronics.

If there are differences in outlook between the two organizations, or components of them, it may have its roots more in economics than in technology. For some, cost considerations are submerged by the urgency of military and quasimilitary competition. Rapid internal communications within highly specialized segregated groups appears desirable. Others deal with large long-term capital investments which must meet exacting requirements of efficiency, economy, and dependability. They have become accustomed to a different type of organization and procedure in handling information.



If these differences are real, there is certainly room to accommodate, and skill to coordinate, the procedures required for their effective integration into the organization of IEEE. The important fact is that the opportunity now exists to realign the directions and scopes of our Professional Groups, Technical Committees, and Divisions to match the needs of today's and tomorrow's technology, to provide for a maximum of participation by our members, and an optimum use of our resources.

It seems to me that the Power Division and the Industry Division of AIEE are moving into a large and unfurnished wing of this new house. It now behooves them to furnish it comfortably, to be sure, but with modern furniture. Technical Committees can and should provide leadership for broad membership participation. The publications they sponsor should have popular and self-sustaining support. All of this, I am confident, can be worked out in the first year of the merger, if diligent effort is applied in the spirit of accommodation which has characterized the merger effort so far.

Signed: