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Kingsville, Md.  
24 May 1962

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Mr. Battrick Haggerty, President, IRE  
Mr. Warren Chase, President, AIEE

Gentlemen

As a Senior Member of the IRE, and a Fellow of AIEE, I have for many years been actively encouraging the development of closer liaison between the two Societies. Since I feel that closer cooperation between the two societies is of utmost importance, I am voting for unification, in spite of some reservations and misgivings I have about the way it seemingly is being "crowded through".

I feel that consolidation of top-level administration should be done immediately, as is planned. I feel that whereas consolidation of sections and technical groups should be encouraged, it SHOULD NOT BE EITHER PUSHED OR FORCED. Since few technical groups currently exist in AIEE, the first step is to offer membership in the various IRE groups to all IEEE members. Since few technical groups are AIEE oriented, however, it is important not to damage the existing AIEE structure, but let the AIEE people themselves decide the disposition, what technical groups should be formed, consolidated, etc. In that way, maximum service and minimum dislocation should result.

At the same time, I feel that there is need for both the Proceedings and for Electrical Engineering. The AIEE has generally taken a broad general viewpoint in connection with editorial policy, and has published much invaluable material which would not have been accepted under present IRE standards. Actually, although my primary area of interest is electronics, circuit theory, devices, information theory, etc., I read more papers in Electrical Engineering in their entirety than I even scan in the Proceedings.

The question of New York winter meetings should be given careful consideration. I personally feel that the late January meeting and the late March meeting both are needed, and probably both should be five-day meetings. Possibly the areas of electronics which essentially concern high-power systems and equipment should be incorporated in the earlier meeting, and many of the current AIEE technical sessions would continue at that time. And the more theoretically oriented work would continue to be in the March meeting. Too many good papers are currently being turned away by IRE for there to be justification for combining the meetings.

The place for evening discussion sessions in the programs I think should be given careful consideration. One of the most useful features of the Solid-state Devices meetings in Philadelphia is the separation of the panel discussions to a series of evening sessions, and the use of day-time sessions more for contributed papers on new results.

There is always a tendency to fill programs with invited papers rather than contributed, and to turn away contributed papers because they do not fit the selected session programs. Such a process tends to limit the



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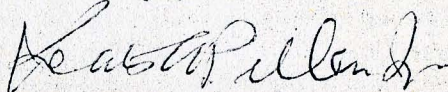
usefulness of technical meetings, because it often makes "who you know" much more important than "what you know" as far as getting papers accepted is concerned. And the profession grows on published new work, nothing else.

The use of technical preprints as used by AIEE I feel has much to offer. I personally feel that the small amount of lost time involved in getting papers prepared for preprinting (particularly since many of them have to be prepared for clearance anyway) is more than offset by improved quality of papers since many clearly inadequate papers can be rejected directly, and many good papers whose titles and summaries may for some reason not indicate their true worth can be retrieved and presented.

The use of the preprint plus presentation of additional information as given as the technical session itself prevents almost entirely the "droning mathematical derivations" quite often encountered at IRE meetings. The distribution of complete paper transactions in conjunction with meetings has helped to discourage these "derivations". Whenever such texts are available at the time of the meeting, and when it is known that they WILL be made available, the use of newspaper style in giving the papers would be extremely worth while.

The problems which will be encountered in this merger I know will require the wisdom of a Solomon in solution, and I sincerely hope those burdened with the task will be able to meet the challenges. But please do not destroy important structures in either society without being certain that something either equal, or preferably better, is available, and all required functions are adequately provided for.

Sincerely yours



Keats A. Pullen, Jr.