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LETTERS

Pointed Questions on AIEE-IRE Merger

To the Editor:

While I hope that the AIEE-IRE merger can be consummated on a satisfactory basis, your issue dated April 30 points up two questions on which I wish that you could obtain the answers:

1. Are we to be asked to vote on President Chase's comforting statements in his letters to you on page 5, "All of the functions now performed by the AIEE technical committees will continue," or on the statements of the "Merger Supplement" Principles of Consolidation, Article VI (f) (4), "The policy of the IEE shall be that wherever possible, Professional Technical Groups shall replace the Technical Committees in all functions except standardization."

2. Who is right, you or President Chase? In your editorial on page 35 you state, "This is not a matter to be taken lightly or a decision to be made in haste." In answer to a question here in Chicago, President Chase stated that if this merger does not go through now, it probably would not be considered again for ten years.

L. B. LeVesconte, Chairman
AIEE Power System Engineering Committee

Backs Merger—But Sees Challenge

To the Editor:

The AIEE-IRE merger, as I see it, presents great opportunities to the profession of electrical engineering. With these opportunities are associated problems of organization calling for skill and statesmanship and hard work equal to, and perhaps greater than, that which has brought the prospects of merger to their present stage.

It has been said many times that there is but one kind of electron and only one electromagnetic spectrum. No one has ever seriously questioned the technological basis for unifying the profession. The power industry, perhaps more than any other, has long recognized the
(Continued on page 140)



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common ground trod by the light and heavy-current electricals. In the office with which I am most closely associated, one-half of the electrical engineers have traditionally earned their bread-and-butter by working with heavy current equipment, the other half in the field now popularly called electronics.

If there are differences in outlook in the two organizations, these differences are chargeable to varying fields of commercial interest rather than to technology. For some, cost considerations are submerged by the urgency of military and quasi-military competition; rapid internal communications within highly specialized groups are required. Others deal with large long-term capital investments which must meet exacting requirements of efficiency, economy and dependability; careful checks and balances in discussion and treatment of a slowly changing art are required. There is room for both approaches. The important fact is that the opportunity now exists to realign the directions and scopes of the Professional Groups, Technical Committees, and Divisions to match the needs of today's and tomorrow's technology and to provide for a maximum of participation of Institute members.

This careful planning of membership participation is traditional in AIEE. TOD as it appears today was initiated by the 1946 Asheville resolution which attempted to enlarge the coverage of technical committees and increase participation of the membership. Among the recommendations of the resolution was the establishment of steering committees to preserve the continuity of technical committee administration thus allowing flexibility and growth in technical committee membership—exactly the proposed aim of the professional technical groups. In the 1920's a similar recommendation of the old Electrical Machinery Committee sparked the technical committee organization that rode through the Depression and World War II. The presently proposed merger provides the same increased opportunity for wider technical participation.

Among the segments of operation of both the old and new institutes the committees composing the Power

Divisions carry perhaps the greatest responsibility in the year of adjustment to come. Partners in this merger are not competitors in the heavy current field. It is entirely up to AIEE technical committees in the power area now to develop quite quickly their adjustment to the new and preservation of the well-tried old practices. The wisdom and the skill of committee management is now available; the opportunity of organization development presents itself almost without restriction; the future of the power people within the new framework cannot be brighter. On with the merger!

M. D. Hoover
Past-President, AIEE

No Clothes On At All

To the Editor:

I hope your AIEE readers studied my other 16 references (EW, April 16, p 3) more closely than my friend, John Kinghorn, (EW, May 7, p 46) examined Reference 1. Hans Christian Andersen's boy, obviously a future engineer, relied primarily on his observation of the product—not just sales-talk. It wasn't just the gold robe that was missing, and clearly the King was *not* wearing a business suit. The exact quotation is, "... but he hasn't got any clothes on!"

William R. Brownlee
Fellow, AIEE

► *Electrical World's* position on the proposed AIEE-IRE merger was spelled out in the editorial of last week. Letters on this subject have been carried in the issues of April 16 and 30 and May 7.

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