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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 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 <sup>proposed</sup> ~~present~~ ~~day~~ aim of the Technical Professional 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. ~~With neither~~ <sup>in this merger are not</sup> ~~partners~~ <sup>as</sup> competitors in the heavy current field, ~~coming in with the merging society,~~ <sup>It is entirely up to the AIEE</sup> technical committees in the power area <sup>now to</sup> ~~must~~ develop quite quickly <sup>their</sup> 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!

W. D. Hoover  
Past-President AIEE



EDITOR EW

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