

November 30, 1955

Mr. Morris D. Hooven
Public Service Slectric and Gas Company
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Morris:

Walter Morton and I have spent two and a half hours together, in which Walter has reviewed for my benefit the full history of the AIEE's Board deliberations on the unity problem. It is clear to me, at long last, that the position has always been in favor of the type of plan that is represented by the AEA plan, the plan published in Electrical Engineering for April, 1953, and plan C. If there has been any inconsistency, it is on the part of the article published by Elgin Robertson, April, 195h issue of Electrical Engineering. This is the only inconsistency that I see, and it is a matter of interpretation of the meaning of that article. This results from the fact that it did not tie the statements to any specific plan, and it presented a series of weaknesses inherent in a council type of organization.

I am now fully agreed that the position of the AISE Board, and the instructions to its representatives, on EJC, is to work toward the plan C type of organization.

Walter and I have reviewed some of the philosophical, as well as the practical, aspects of the situation, and have also given some attention to tactics. The result of this is that I am convinced that we should work within EJC, and as a member of it, to try to create a situation there, which will lead to individual membership and the creation of a unity organization of the type desired.

I have certainly appreciated what Walter has done for me, and the contribution which he is making toward a solution of the unity matter consistent with the desires of AIRE. I needed just the kind of session that we have had, and I feel most grateful to him in particular, but also to you and to the others who have contributed to the correspondence and the discussion directed toward me.

Sincerely yours,

TML:deb

Copies to: W. B. Morton

W. J. Barrett

A. C. Monteith

E. B. Robertson

N. Hibshmen

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RESEARCH SERVICES DIVISION P. O. BOX 1088, SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

THOMÁS M. LINVILLE

MANAGER
RESEARCH OPERATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

November 17, 1955

Mr. N. S. Hibshman, Secretary
American Institute of Electrical Engineers
33 West 39th St.
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Nelson:

You asked me for a copy of the letter I sent to the members of the Board last September 26 attempting to clarify the remarks I made on the Unity question at the Board Meeting in Butte. Certainly it was my intention at the time that a copy be sent to you as, of course, will be the case in any communications I might send to Board members.

It would be wonderful if we could pin down the thinking of the Board members on this problem. Clear and well-defined objectives in answer to this problem from any strong influential quarter would be most helpful. I thought AIEE had gone pretty far in this direction when Elgin Robertson published his "Message on Unity From the President," pages 299-300, in Electrical Engineering for April, 1954. This article says in bold type: "The report was approved by the Board, and the Institute's representatives on EJC were instructed to advise the Council to work toward implementing the recommendations of the Committee." It goes on to say: "The most important basic requirements in the preferred form of organization were the following. It should be based upon individual membership rather than a council of Societies; it should be clothed with power to act promptly when required; and it should be adequately financed."

I know of no action taken by the Board since to change this public declaration of policy.

It has been difficult for me to understand why Walter omitted this most important reference of all from his recent article. It was also my understanding at Butte that Walter was to present the article as an individual author and not in any official capacity. It seemed to me unfortunate that it was presented by him as the AIEE representative on the Executive Committee of EJC.

It seems to me that the Board is on public record and the lack of recognition of this public declaration has sorely puzzled me.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

TML:JD Att.

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September 26, 1955

Board of Directors American Institute of Electrical Engineers 33 West Thirty-ninth Street New York 18, New York

Gentlemen:

The remarks I made during the discussion of the Unity question at the Board Meeting in Butte are likely to be misunderstood. Particularly my reference to NSPE's position in case EJC should establish a new organization of individual members. I believe I said that NSPE would then have to consolidate with the new organization or become a society of relatively little importance.

I would like to make my thoughts as clear as I can on this matter as follows.

My thinking is directed toward sound practical objectives expressed by AIEE, and maintenance of a clear, consistent position before EJC.

The following points seem fundamental to me:

- (1) The engineering profession has all the organization that is needed, with the exception of a general, professional society of individual members, with membership open and attractive to engineers of all branches.
- (2) NSPE is such a general, professional society except that membership is not open to engineers who are not registered.
- (3) The existing organization of the profession is sound, except for the missing general society.
- (4) The AIEE Board, as I understand it, according to the position worked out under Elgin Robertson, has declared itself in favor of a general society composed exclusively of individual, dues-paying, voting members. I believe this position was clearly expressed to the EJC Board in a written memorandum prepared and presented by Walter Barrett.

- (5) The establishment of a new society formed by EJC on the one hand, and an NSPE-type of individual member organization on the other hand, with over-riding Board of Directors and Officers at the head, is faced with practical difficulties that appear virtually insurmountable. Furthermore, it would marry technically oriented societies, having District and Section sub-divisions, with a politically oriented society having State and County sub-divisions. Fundamentally, such an organization would be a society of societies (several on one arm, one on the other), irreconcilable with the position expressed by the AIEE Board.
- (6) By feeding and sustaining the public belief that EJC will act, and that membership in a technical society, and in the general society will then be simultaneous at the price of one dues payment, we are misleading the members of the engineering profession and delaying the development of the general society.

Conclusion: The simple conclusion that the foregoing six points seem to lead to is that attention should be given to recognition of NSPE as the general society, to complete the needed organization of the engineering profession, with some provision to make NSPE membership available to engineers who currently are not registered.

This discussion has no bearing on the publication and presentation of the proposed article by Walter Morton so long as it is clear that the article is exclusively his own, and does not represent any change or serious disagreement in the thinking of the AIEE Board as a whole.

These are the thoughts that were in my mind when I spoke at Butte, and I hope if there has been misunderstanding of them, they will now be clear.

Sincerely yours,

T. M. Linville

TML:gd