



# AMERICAN INSTITUTE of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

(HEADQUARTERS: 33 WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.)

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April 24, 1956

## INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

Mr. M. D. Hooven  
President, AIEE

Dear Morris:

With further reference to your letter of 4/12/56:

This is a much more difficult subject to discuss than EJC, probably because the course that AIEE should pursue is not as clear-cut.

Common sense would dictate that the 2 organizations should merge. Because of the frailties of human nature, I do not believe there is any possibility of this being accomplished in the foreseeable future.

With regard to IRE, I have reached only one definite conclusion; namely, that the IRE credo is:

- 1) IRE should handle all electronics subjects.
- 2) AIEE should confine itself to the power apparatus and systems (60-cycle) field.

Since the applications of electronics are rapidly spreading to every field (especially for control), this division of subjects, were we to agree to it, would mean eventual suicide for AIEE.

As Mr. I. S. Coggeshall, Chairman, Communication Division Committee, pointed out in his Chairman's Letter No. 4, 9/16/56 (see B of D Minutes, 10/6/55, Appendix E), AIEE is in a tough spot in competing with IRE for the attention of electronics engineers. Judging from the subscriptions to the Bimonthlies, roughly 1/3rd of our membership is interested directly in electronics. Presumably, all the membership of IRE is

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interested in this subject. While we could spend perhaps 50 to 60% of our publication budget on electronics, if we did spend more we would alienate the power and industry membership. On the other hand, IRE is free to spend 100% of its budget on electronics.

Accordingly, we have to face realistically a hard fact; namely, that AIEE is not, and will not be, the dominant Society in the electronics field insofar as number of members is concerned. For their technical development, electronics engineers will look first to IRE. However, for our existence, we must stay in the field and do better than we have been doing. Our Technical Committees should be given every encouragement and support to improve our position in the electronics field.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- 1) We must reconcile ourselves to being Society No. 2 in the electronics field insofar as number of members is concerned.
- 2) We should never agree to abdicate the electronics field; instead, we should make an all-out effort to improve our position in that field.
- 3) We should emphasize quality rather than quantity.
- 4) We should emphasize the broad coverage of AIEE in all branches of electrical engineering; that we are, to borrow your phrase, the "umbrella" organization.
- 5) We should encourage IRE members to belong to both IRE and AIEE for their full professional development, emphasizing the value of engineering contacts and acquaintances in more than one technical field.

Re whether IRE should be encouraged or discouraged in undertaking this or that, I feel the question is more or less academic. IRE will do whatever it believes to be in its best interests, regardless of our position.

Sincerely yours,



L. F. Hickernell, Chairman  
Planning & Coordination Committee

cc: Members, Board of Directors

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