



AMERICAN INSTITUTE of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

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

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND COORDINATION 1955-1956

*L. F. HICKERNELL, *Chairman*
c/o Anaconda Wire & Cable Co.
Hastings-on-Hudson 6, N. Y.

N. S. HIBSHMAN, *Secretary, AIEE*
33 West 39th St.
New York 18, N. Y.



General Committee Chairmen:

*J. P. NEUBAUER, New York, N. Y.
Finance
E. S. LAMMERS, JR., Atlanta, Ga.
Constitution & Bylaws
L. R. GATY, Philadelphia, Pa.
Management
W. E. SCHOLZ, Philadelphia, Pa.
Membership
W. R. BROWNLEE, Birmingham, Ala.
Prize Awards
W. SCOTT HILL, Schenectady, N. Y.
Publication

General Committee Chairmen (Cont'd):

F. S. BLACK, New York, N. Y.
Public Relations
DIXON LEWIS, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sections
W. B. MORTON, Allentown, Pa.
Student Branches
*J. D. TEBO, New York, N. Y.
Technical Operations
Members-at-Large:
*W. J. BARRETT, Newark, N. J.
Treasurer, AIEE
HENDLEY BLACKMON, E. Pittsburgh, Pa.

Members-at-Large (Cont'd):

J. L. CALLAHAN, New York, N. Y.
*J. H. FOOTE, Jackson, Mich.
A. H. FRAMPTON, Toronto, Ont.
E. I. GREEN, New York, N. Y.
*R. E. KISTLER, Seattle, Wash.
W. A. LEWIS, Chicago, Ill.
*A. C. MONTEITH, Pittsburgh, Pa.
*C. S. PURNELL, Los Angeles, Calif.
H. I. ROMNES, New York, N. Y.
H. L. RUSCH, Princeton, N. J.
F. V. SMITH, Chicago, Ill.
*J. C. STRASBOURGER, Cleveland, Ohio
G. C. TENNEY, San Francisco, Calif.
**Member, Board of Directors*

April 23, 1956

ENGINEERS' JOINT COUNCIL

Mr. M. D. Hooven
President, AIEE

Dear Morris:

Re your letter of 4/12/56:

In view of my current experience in carrying on a written debate, I should know better than to get mixed up in 2 more. However, these subjects are of such importance that as one of your Representatives on EJC, and a Past-Chairman of CTO, I cannot remain silent on either of your proposed subjects. For no good reason, I will tackle EJC first.

It seems to me that we have to determine first what sort of "Unity" we are seeking:

1. If all we wish is a body to represent and speak for engineers in questions of National Policy (such as Labor Legislation, Selective Service for Engineers, etc.), then EJC is probably adequate, or as good as can be obtained with retention of independent technical disciplines by the existing Societies.
2. If we desire a body whose purpose is to enhance the professional standards and prestige, hence the economic status, of the engineer in the manner in which the AMA serves the medical profession, then EJC is not, and never will be, THE "American Engineering Association" (AEA) to rank with the American Medical Association and American Bar Association.

What do "we" electrical engineers want? And by "we", I mean the 50,000 members who elected us to represent them on the Board of Directors. This is a difficult, if not impossible, question to answer. One reason is that our membership ranges from Affiliates to Fellows, from "technical clerks" to owners and Presidents of engineering firms, and executives of firms employing large numbers of engineers. Sometimes I think the only thing the various segments of our membership have in common is that they all pay dues!

Our Board has no clear-cut mandate from the membership as to what kind of a "Unity" organization they presently want. The vote on "Plan C" was taken many years ago. Even this was only a choice among 4 Plans (A to D) offered to them. Plan C was a compromise which seemed to retain the identity of the individual existing technical societies and turn the non-technical activities over to NSPE and the umbrella organization.

From my talks with the rank-and-file "average" engineer, I think I know what he wants. He wants a "Unity" organization which will do for him professionally and economically what he thinks the AMA has done for the medical profession. Unfortunately, he expects this for the same dues he pays AIEE (or paid before the \$5 increase). In fact, many of them have told me that if dues to 2 Societies were required, such as AIEE and NSPE, or AIEE and AEA, they would drop membership in AIEE.

In this same group, I find little or no interest in the activities of EJC as a federation of Societies. In fact, most of them never have heard of EJC.

The more I have thought about this matter, the more I am inclined to agree with the conclusion Jim Fairman reached many years ago. As I understand it, he recommended we look to AIEE for our technical development and to NSPE for our professional (hence, economical) enrichment.

In one way, this would parallel the medical profession. Some folks think that the physicians have only one association, the great AMA. Actually, there are some 260 medical associations, as shown on the attached list. Most, but not all, of the physicians belong to AMA. In addition, AMA members belong to one or more independent associations devoted to their technical specialty.

Conclusions

Based on my observations as an AIEE Representative and Alternate on the EJC Board of Directors, I have come to the following conclusions:

- 1) EJC is a Federation of Societies, and will never be anything else within the presently foreseeable future.

- 2) The only difference between the present EJC and the defunct American Engineering Council is that the present EJC Board of Directors is composed of members of the Governing Boards of their respective Societies. This difference, in my opinion, is not sufficient to avoid death from the same cause which claimed its predecessor.
- 3) It was a mistake for AIEE to join EJC (a Federation of Societies) with the idea of converting it to the "Plan C" for which our members expressed a preference.
- 4) We are spending \$10,000-odd per year on an organization which is contributing little or nothing to the advancement of the professional and economic status of engineers in general, and electrical engineers in particular.
- 5) The ASCE still considers itself the Society of "Civilian" Engineers. The rest of us are wayward children, or splinter groups, who someday may return home. The ASCE will never recognize NSPE as anything other than a Constituent Society, if that.
- 6) The NSPE more closely parallels the organization of AMA than does EJC. Add the accreditation activities of ECPD to NSPE and NSPE is practically the same as AMA.

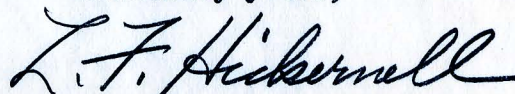
Recommendations

If these Conclusions be valid, they would lead logically to the following Recommendations:

- A) AIEE should withdraw from EJC.
- B) AIEE should throw its support behind NSPE to make it THE "Unity" Organization. To encourage AIEE members to join NSPE, perhaps some reciprocal agreement could be reached between the 2 Societies on entrance fees and dues.

I realize this means that engineers would have to have a State license to belong to the "Unity" organization. However, if they really want an "AMA for engineers", they will have to accept this one of several cornerstones of the AMA.

Sincerely yours,



L. F. Hickernell, Chairman
Planning & Coordination Committee

cc: Members, B of D

PS: I am not a member of NSPE.