

by John T. Salisbury

ACTION REQUIRED! NO TIME FOR HOBBLETRED

A recent news report quoted that "the advancement of the theory and practice of electrical and radio engineering and the educational and scientific objectives of both institutes (IRE and AIEE) may be better served by merger or consolidation". Also, Dr. Showers, Philadelphia IRE Section Chairman, has announced his request which appears elsewhere in the *Almanack*, that members should discuss the proposed merger or consolidation of the IRE with the AIEE.

After penetrating the proposed ideality, my reflections turn to a challenging one word question, "Why?"

- Why will "the objectives of both the IRE and AIEE be better served," as the resolution blandly states.
- Why will the enjoyment of "rights and privileges" be greater to the individual member than that degree of rights and privileges being taken advantage of at present?
- Why will one new society be "better than both societies" as they now stand?
- Why do membership grades differ? An IRE Member is equivalent to an AIEE Associate. Why? (Refer to item on p. 16, Almanack, April 1961)
- Why eliminate by merger that competitive spirit of professional society development?
- Why are we encountering the present trend to remove individual group identities?
- Why should a consolidation of diversified professional interests be stressed under the statement that "Industrialists are getting tired of sending their men to two different society meetings dealing on the very same subject"?
- Why should the same "subject" (an abstract in itself) be considered "duplication" that is "harmful" and "wasteful"?
- Why have two non-profit societies with assets of \$4.5 million for IRE and \$2 million for AIEE combine into one new society? Both seem capable of individual growth.
- Why is this push being made to consolidate societies when fewer than 4% of the total IRE-AIEE memberships are members of both societies?

To a few persons, perhaps, answers to the above questions may appear to be academic, but if more than a head-nodding understanding for the proposed merger is to be reached by the majority, it is the viewpoint of this writer that general and individual discussions be held and that press releases be forthcoming to clarify the many seemingly meaningless generalities made to the public.



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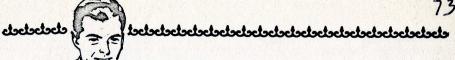


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IRE-AIEE Move To Consider Consolidation

New York, N.Y.—First steps to consider consolidation of the two largest engineering societies in the world—the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Radio Engineers—have been taken, it was announced here today. In a resolution passed by the Boards of Directors of both societies, a committee has been formed to determine the feasibility and form of such consolidation.

The proposed new organization would be international in scope and involve 150,000 engineers, scientists, educators and industrialists.

The announcement was made jointly by Lloyd V. Berkner, president of the Institute of Radio Engineers and Warren H. Chase, president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. The resolution was first approved by the Board of Directors of IRE in New York on Wednesday, October 18. Approval of the Board of AIEE was given at the close of the Fall General Meeting of that organization in Detroit, Friday, October 20.

The resolution pointed out that "the advancement of the theory and practice of electrical and radio engineering and the educational and scientific objectives of both Institutes may be better served by merger or consolidation . . . into one organization in which all present members would be included, and in which they would enjoy the same rights and privileges now conferred on them by their separate organizations."

The resolution further stated that the Boards of Directors of the two Institutes deem it advisable, in accordance with the stated objectives of each society, "to move actively toward the consolidation of the activities and organization" of the IRE and AIEE, "by consolidation or otherwise, provided that the legal and operational problems incident to such consolidation can be satisfactorily resolved.

AIEE was organized in 1884 and has approximately 70,000 members from the United States and Canada. IRE, organized in 1912, has a total membership of 91,000 and is international in scope. Approximately 6,000 members belong to both societies.

