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From the Illuminating Engineering Society,
29 West 39th Street, New York, N. Y.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

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STATEMENT FROM JULIUS DANIELS, PRESIDENT, ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY,
ON DEATH OF THOMAS A. EDISON.

The full fruition of the life work of Thomas Alva Edison will never be known by the present generation. He is the father of illuminating engineering and his name, synonymous with light, will carry down through the ages. He has been an honorary member of the Illuminating Engineering Society for many years and though his passing leaves an insurmountable void, it is our willing privilege to work with the tools he has left us. Civilization has benefitted widely by his hand and the world is dimmed with sorrow at his departure, a world that is vastly better and brighter in every respect because he lived.

JULIUS DANIELS, President.

Guy Bartlett, News Bureau
General Electric Company
Schenectady, N. Y.

Recd 10/20/31
P.M.
too late!

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Gerard Swope, President:

"It is difficult to express in any statement an appreciation of the significance of Mr. Edison's life and contributions. Not only have his achievements and many inventions contributed to the progress of civilization and the benefit of mankind, but also his philosophy of living and his encouragement of youth has been a tremendous stimulation not only to his own generation but to many generations to come."

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✓ E. W. Rice, jr., Honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors:

"America has lost one of its most famous citizens and the world one of its greatest benefactors, in the death of Thomas A. Edison.

"Men from all countries have celebrated recently in London the centenary of Michael Faraday's epoch-making discovery--the method of producing electricity from magnetism--a discovery which formed the foundation of our amazing electrical development. Edison perhaps more than any other person, building upon the facts and principles disclosed by the researches of Faraday, successfully developed and applied its results on a large scale to the needs of our workaday world.

"Edison may be best remembered as the inventor of the practical incandescent electric lamp, and of the speaking

phonograph. The first regarded as the most useful and the second as the most novel of his many inventions. But he has even larger claims upon our gratitude, as in a very real sense he was the founder of our electrical era. He first employed in practice the only methods by which electrical energy could be generated, distributed and utilized on a scale suited to our modern life. What a fine thing it would be if such a useful and inspiring personality could be granted a span of life commensurate with his value and usefulness to the world. If so, Edison would have lived for ages. We are too near to see his life in proper perspective. Future generations will honor his memory equally with its heroes in other fields. However, it is a comfort to remember that while still alive he frequently received evidence of the respect, admiration, gratitude and affection of his fellow citizens.

"It was a privilege to meet Mr. Edison--his personality was truly magnetic, he radiated cheerfulness and common sense. He enjoyed telling and listening to good stories and incidentally was a master of concise epigrammatic English. Those who came to see a great inventor left with a real affection in their hearts for the man himself.

"I feel that I have been most fortunate to have lived during Edison's lifetime and to have had the privilege of calling him my friend.

"In her heavy time of trial our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Edison, whose loving and intelligent care so clearly increased the happiness and prolonged the useful life of her husband, our benefactor, and friend, the immortal Edison."

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Dr. W. R. Whitney, Vice President and Director of Research Laboratory:

"Edison was doing--and is doing--more to advance our human affairs and interests than anyone whom I know. I repeat 'is doing' because his example of activity trying to lift us continually a peg higher in our civilization by strenuous personal effort is now actuating countless youth of all lands. To them his useful life demonstrates a certain and good road open to everybody. No man in our century is as truly the helpful friend of all the others as Mr. Edison."

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Dr. W. D. Coolidge, Associate Director of Research Laboratory:

"One is impressed by the universality of his interest, his courage to treat the unknown, his power of intense concentration, his perseverance in the face of difficulties, his tremendous will to work, his rare judgment in the choice of worthwhile fields of effort. He wasted no time in making claims for himself nor in seeking honors of any kind. He did not allow his special genius to be diverted into administrative work, but continued, to the last, to use his rare judgment, based on a wealth of experience, in active creative work.

"It would be hard to overestimate the importance of his inventions, but still more difficult to overestimate the importance to us and to future generations of the inspiration to be found in such a life of service to his fellow men."

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Dr. Irving Langmuir, Associate Director of Research Laboratory:

"The world has just celebrated the hundredth

anniversary of Michael Faraday's discovery of electro-magnetism. The fundamental researches of Faraday, Maxwell and others enriched scientific knowledge, but did not immediately directly affect the welfare of mankind.

"Just fifty years after Faraday's discovery Edison by building upon the foundation of these early pioneers, demonstrated to the world the enormous practical importance of electric power and its applications. Edison's inventions of the incandescent electric light and of systems by which power could be distributed to the consuming public inaugurated the first fifty years of the Electric Age in which we are now living. His inventive genius not only started us on this path, but has been leading us during the greater part of this period. Few men have ever benefitted more of their fellowmen."

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Dr. E. F. W. Alexanderson, Consulting Engineer:

"With Edison passes away a world character, one who has become more than any other individual a symbol of the spirit of our age of invention. Great as is the importance of Edison's many inventions, an appraisal of these inventions still would not begin to give an adequate estimate of Edison as a leader, a symbol and an inspiration for the last two or three generations. It is significant that Edison was not primarily a scientist and not a captain of industry but an inventor, and it is as such that he had made such an impression on American life. In our age when so few succeed to be any more than cogs in the machinery of a vast industrial system, our imaginations and our hearts cling to those rare leaders who had the strength to stand alone and the vision

to blaze trails for the rest to follow. The two most outstanding of Edison's inventions are no doubt the incandescent lamp and the phonograph. The significance of Edison's career is that he not only made such inventions but he succeeded to make them practical and useful for the general public. Who knows whether the many inventors who have followed in his footsteps and expanded these arts into the electric service and the radio entertainment of today would ever have started along those lines or become successful unless Edison had set an example by showing that such fantastic dreams can be made a reality."

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In Memory of
THOMAS ALVA EDISON

Minute adopted by the
Board of Directors of the
American Institute of Electrical Engineers
at Kansas City, Mo., October 23, 1931

Copy
The physical life of Thomas Alva Edison, world benefactor, ended on Sunday, October 18, 1931. The spiritual benefits of his contributions to humanity continue to live.

His genius, vision, patience, persistence, industry, and widely diversified talents, which brought to fruition many of his conceptions, have contributed greatly to the comfort, convenience, and happiness of mankind, and his achievements constitute a great incentive and inspiration to those who follow.

In particular, his invention of the incandescent electric lamp and his conception, more than fifty years ago, of the combination of a central generating station with a suitable distributing system for electrical energy, firmly establish him as the founder of the electric lighting industry of the world.

He was the outstanding world leader in the group of inventors, scientists, and engineers whose achievements in technology have produced great social and economic benefits, including the employment, in useful occupations throughout the civilized world, of tens of thousands of men and women.

He was respected and admired by his associates who cherish their memory of his ability, simplicity, and other personal characteristics.

Mr. Edison was, in 1884, one of the signers of the call for the organization meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and he was elected a vice-president at the first election of officers; later he was elected an Honorary Member. His achievements caused a group of his associates and friends to establish the Edison Medal, which is now awarded annually by this Institute.

The Board of Directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers hereby records in its minutes this appreciation of the great debt which the world, and electrical engineers in particular, owe to his memory, and directs that a copy of this minute be sent to his family.
