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December 24, 1968

Mr. Nelson Hibshman
1885 Shore Drive South
Apt. 525
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707

Dear Nelson:

Your memo of December 10 mentioned the President's SPECTRUM article, in particular the statement about some members who expressed disagreement with IEEE's objectives. You suggested that, if the file of these letters has served its purpose, you would appreciate reviewing them.

I'm not sure what you mean when you mention "letters." The comments quoted by the President were made by members who were interviewed personally, or who filled out a questionnaire, for the survey conducted for the IEEE by the Opinion Research Corporation. I enclose the two pages of the report of this survey that relate to this question.

I haven't fulfilled your request but, unless I've misunderstood it, I don't think it can be fulfilled. Please correct me if I've misinterpreted it.

Most sincerely,

W. R. Crone
Staff Secretary
IEEE History Committee

WRC/jw

P.S. Thanks for the Christmas wishes, which were forward from our old Flushing address to our new address (23 Sunnyside Ave., Olean, N.Y. 10570). Hope you got our card.
The very best wishes for the new year!

8.44.408

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION IS MOST FREQUENTLY CITED AS AN OBJECTIVE OF THE IEEE.

Members were asked what they believe the objectives of the IEEE to be. The only objective mentioned by a majority of the members is the dissemination of information. Next most frequently mentioned -- by three members in ten -- is the upgrading of the profession.

Objectives of the IEEE as Seen by the Members

	<u>IEEE Members</u>	
Dissemination of information (general)	53%	
Upgrade the profession	31	
Education/personal growth of members	16	
Interchange of ideas among engineers	11	
Organize Electrical and Electronics Engineers	8	
Publish material for members' use	7	Q. 4
Public relations; improve status of engineering	3	
Fellowship	2	
Increase; recruit members	*	
Miscellaneous answers	4	
Don't know; no answer	9	
(Percentage base)	(817)	

(Totals more than 100% because of multiple answers)

THE VAST MAJORITY OF MEMBERS ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THESE OBJECTIVES.

Agreement with IEEE Objectives

	<u>IEEE Members</u>	
In agreement	79%	
Have basic disagreement	14	Q. 5
No opinion	7	
(Percentage base)	(817)	

*Here and throughout the report as well as the accompanying appendix tables, an asterisk represents less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%.

Members who have a disagreement with IEEE's objectives mention the following:

1. IEEE should behave more like an organization such as the AMA -- that is, upgrade the profession's status; be politically involved; represent members' interests.
2. IEEE should, perhaps, go so far as to act like a union in protecting members.
3. The AIEE and IRE should not have merged.

Some typical verbatim comments:

"The interests of the professional engineers should be promoted in the same way the AMA and American Bar Association promote the interests of their professional members."

"I'd like to see it functioning more like the AMA for the well-being of its members in terms of professional standing."

"There should be a public relations department to improve the image of the engineer, to promote the professional status of the engineer. The IEEE could act in a political sphere as well as a technical sphere to the benefit of engineers to the extent of influencing employers. So that we don't become a bunch of gypsies -- especially in California not a union -- more like AMA."

"Should make an effort to support engineers. If there's a contract, there's a job. No contract, no job."

"They ought to represent people for wages and working benefits -- something like the AMA."

"Perhaps it would be better if IEEE took a stand for the engineers like where they're being fired en masse and help prevent maltreatment toward the engineer."

"I'm not convinced that the merger was a good idea. I think that it diluted the activities."

"It should be split as it was before with electric and electronics in two different groups."