



American Institute of Electrical Engineers

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Copy to:

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April 10, 1962

Dear Bill:

This refers to your letter of March 6, 1962 to President Chase, and your letter to me of April 6, 1962.

I wish you could have had the benefit of the discussions which took place at the Board Meeting in New York on March 8th and 9th, as well as the open forum which was held at the District Meeting in Memphis on April 4th.

At both of these meetings many of the same questions which you have raised were thoroughly discussed, and I hope somewhat clarified in the minds of most of the people present.

I don't know whether or not you have had an opportunity to review the data which will appear as a supplement in the April issue of Electrical Engineering. Some of the questions which you raised are covered in that supplement in a manner which should be satisfactory to all of us. There are, of course, a few "open end" questions which remain to be solved between now and the close of the June General Meeting, and some which in all probability, can not be solved to the entire satisfaction of everyone until the merged Societies have been operating as a unit for a period of time.

Clarence Grund was present at the open forum in Memphis, and gave a very clear and concise presentation of the problems as both you and I, as well as some

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others have seen them for quite some time. President Chase was able, I think, to clarify some of them in our minds, and of necessity had to leave some of them in the "open" stage. Clarence had evidently given this matter a lot of thought and made a profound impression on Mr. Chase. In fact he asked him to forward his questions in writing at the earliest possible moment in order that the Joint Committee would have the benefit of his thinking and could thus be enabled to move toward a proper evaluation and solution.

If you will refer to the Memphis District Program and analyze it very carefully, I believe you will come to the same conclusion that Mr. Chase and I reached, after reviewing it. A considerable majority of the papers presented could very easily be handled, or duplicated at an I.R.E. Meeting. This, I think, is the primary urgent need for the merging of the two organizations. Industry, in general, and the Engineering Schools are sponsoring a considerable amount of time, cost, and effort on the part of their personnel to serve the two organizations. This, in the opinion of many of us, could be considerably minimized through the merged organization, and still provide equal or better service to all interested people.

From my own experience, and I am sure this coincides with yours, we are spending a considerable volume of time, both Company and personal, to carry on our A.I.E.E. activities, not to mention the cost. Others in our respective organizations, are to some extent, duplicating this effort in I.R.E.

There has been for some time, the question in my mind as to how long Industry and the Universities will be happy with this duplication. If it were left to Industry alone I am quite confident that such a merger would be considered mandatory. If we in the Technical Societies do not work out some minimization of this duplication through merger or otherwise, it is conceivable that our sponsoring Industries and Universities might find it appropriate to apply pressure in this direction.

There has been considerable discussion of the proposed constitution and principles. The principal idea back of the proposed streamlined constitution is to facilitate the handling of matters which under the A.I.E.E. constitution have been much more time consuming than warranted by their relative importance. The amendment of the constitution is a laborious process. On the other hand the bylaws can be amended as appropriate by Board action.

The A.I.E.E. Board, in my opinion, is much too large to permit expediting the handling of matters which most any business organization would delegate to its Executive Committee. The size Board (25 members) recommended in the merged organization is, in my opinion, ample to transact business which must be handled by the Board. Sixty per cent of these Board members are elected by the members, and procedures are available for the nomination of Board members other than those nominated by the Board if the membership should ever feel that the Board is becoming too self-perpetuating.

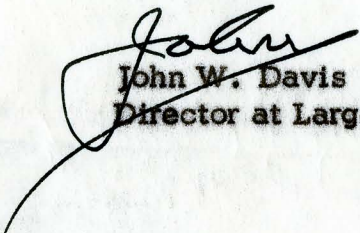
I, for one, feel that those people who by virtue of dedicated activities, and resultant broad knowledge of the needs of the Society are in much better position to recognize and nominate outstanding members for the Board than the "Body Politic." The Regions nominate their own directors and these Regional directors can exercise sufficient control to keep the general action of the Board fairly well in line. It is my feeling that the A.I.E.E. members on the fourteen man committee have the best interests of the overall Societies well in mind, and are thoroughly capable of protecting A.I.E.E. interests in the consummation of the merger. I further feel that it would not be practicable to work out all of the details and knotty problems prior to the consummation of the merger. If we should attempt to do this there would be no merger, and all of this effort would have gone for nothing.

Speaking specifically of the present committee setup, I feel sure that if the merger plans proceed, the committees and the Institute technical groups will fall in their proper focus, and that the present valuable services of the various committees will continue as a part of Institute activity, regardless of how they may be named.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my associations in A.I.E.E., and the work which I have done in various categories. I also realize that under the framework of the merged Societies, there will be quite a few less assignments which carry with them a number of the more pleasant associations and activities. I am perfectly willing to forego these if the best interests of the members of the merged Societies can be served by a reduction in these assignments, which will in all probability, eliminate me from these very pleasant and interesting activities.

I don't know that this has been much help to you but my interest in the overall Society is such that I feel that this expression of my personal feelings is justified.

Yours truly,



John W. Davis
Director at Large