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Post Office Box 8478
Dallas 5, Texas
June 8, 1961

Mr. H. I. Romnes, President
Western Electric Company
195 Broadway
New York 7, New York

Dear Mr. Romnes:

I have just received a note from Mervin Kelly concerning our discussions about the professional duplication involved in the IRE and the AIEE. Early this year, President Linder of AIEE invited Dr. Ronald McFarlin, then President of IRE, and me, as President-elect of IRE, to join the AIEE Board to discuss mutual problems. This was followed by an invitation from the IRE Board to President Linder to meet with them at the IRE International Convention in New York.

Both of these meetings led to very frank and constructive discussions of the mutual problems of IRE and AIEE, their deficiencies in service to the profession, and the areas of overlapping about which action should be initiated. These meetings led to an invitation from President Chase of AIEE to me to meet him to discuss these matters further, and we met in Washington in mid-April.

From this meeting came the decision to appoint a two-man task force to examine thoroughly into all aspects of the service of AIEE and IRE to the profession, placing no limits on the character of the discussions. Appointed to this Task Force were P. E. Haggerty, President-nominee of IRE (1962), and Professor B. R. Teare, Jr., Chairman of the AIEE Inter-Society Relations Committee.

Haggerty reported to the last meeting of the IRE Board that he had his first meeting with Teare, the entire tone of the discussions looking to the orientation of future society relations in a way which would serve the profession best by eliminating duplication of effort and through the

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closest possible merger of the activities of the two institutes. I understand that included in this discussion was also a rather basic exploration of the potentiality of combining the two existing institutes into a single institute.

You may be interested to know that the IRE Board has authorized Haggerty to carry on these explorations with the AIEE without any holds barred, looking to the best possible service to the profession as a whole. I cannot, of course, speak for the AIEE on this matter, but both Chase and Linder impressed me as being extremely able men who would look beyond minor difficulties to achieve major objectives.

As I told Marvin Kelly, the conversations are rather delicate and must be eventually formulated most carefully as substantial progress is made toward simplifying the present organizational structure in the field of electrical and electronics engineering. In my conversations with Merv, I gathered that you would like to be aware of the favorable progress that has been made in an exploratory way.

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely yours,

L. V. Berkner
President

cc: W. H. Chase
P. E. Haggerty
C. H. Linder
R. B. Teare

cc: George Bailey ✓

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