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RESEARCH LABORATORIES  
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**AIEE Representatives on AIEE/IRE Merger Committee**

Messrs. W. H. Chase  
C. H. Linder  
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B. R. Teare

**Technical Operations and Publications**

Gentlemen:

Because technical operations of any society are so closely related to publications, here, for whatever consideration they merit, are several ideas regarding Section "500 Publications" in the proposed C&B for a new society.

With particular regard to Section 501, I believe the following four functional-types of periodicals should be published:

- 1 - A single all-member monthly magazine, comparable to Electrical Engineering, such as proposed by Section 501.2.
- 2 - Several community-of-interest Transactions, grouping Transactions Papers produced by Professional Technical Groups (PTGs) within a technical-family relationship. The Transactions Papers (TPs) should be accepted by society-wide, uniform procedures for review and evaluation by qualified experts. Each member would receive free only the one periodical covering his personal field of interest; but could subscribe to any others he cared to pay for. This system is used by several societies with good success.
- 3 - A unified Annual Society Transactions. Each official society Transactions would be a yearly compilation of the group Transactions of item 2. A main point here is that the Transactions should be contrived as a society-Transactions and not simply a



compilation of PTG Transactions; i. e., society-wide mandatory regulations should be established for uniform review and evaluation procedures for accepting a paper for Transactions. (Note: My understanding is that at present IRE's PGs each are free to write their own ground rules as to what shall constitute a Transactions Paper for their particular PG. At the end of the year these are grouped as the Transactions of the particular PG; and a compilation of all PG Transactions then represents the IRE Transactions. However, in my opinion, for a Society Transactions all TPGs in the new society should use the same ground rules for accepting TPs.)

- 4 - A PTG publication for each PTG that wants to publish a periodical of its own for its own members. Each such periodical would publish whatever information the particular PTG wanted and could pay for; i. e., the PTG has complete control.

Thus, in principle, I would be inclined to substitute the "group Transactions" periodicals (item 2 above) for the proposed Proceedings (BL 501.1). Frankly, in BL 501.1 I do not believe the two concepts of (a) a monthly magazine comprised of selected exceptional highly technical papers and (b) aimed at a readership of all members (BL 302.10) are compatible ideas. By virtue of such a content, it seems to me that the potential readership is inherently concentrated in prime specialists and closely related communities of technical interest. In other words, any material that has potential appeal for a major segment of the entire membership, I think, should deliberately be published in a single general interest magazine, such as the proposed Electrical Engineering. In fact, just as a basic principle, I do not believe it would be good business to compete with ourselves by publishing two magazines aimed at precisely the same audience. Incidentally, my guess is that the present IRE Proceedings has worked as an "all member" magazine by virtue of the general new content (which would go into EE) and not because of the highly technical articles that are included.

In passing, it occurs to me that you might wish to consider revising BL 503.1 to make the publication of standards in an all-member magazine "permissive" rather than mandatory. Most of the time, I think a brief notice and concise summary, with reference to where the complete standard can be obtained, would be equally effective and much less costly.

In closing, it seems to me that at the appropriate time, the proposed technical operations and the proposed technical publications should be



considered as a common problem and the combined equations solved for the best overall answer. I'm sure you will agree that these two factors are highly dependent one upon the other in any technical society and must work in complete harmony for best society results.

Aside from publications, some other thoughts on the proposed C&S include:

- C-10, Name - Society of Electrical and Radio Engineers is preferable since "Electrical" is the generic and more inclusive term. In the text of the C&S this is the consistent sequence because it is the natural one; e. g. 10.2, 105.2, 300.6a and b, 300.8, 9, 10, 12.
- 405.2 - Clarification of intent of term "Standing Administrative Committees" and phrases "be advisory to ..." Don't quite see how a committee can be both "administrative" and "advisory" at the same time.
- 405.3 - Since Professional Technical Groups Committee is in 405.2, suggest putting Standards Committee in 405.2 also and eliminating 405.3, "Standing Technical Committees."
- 405.14 - Should provide for Members-at-Large, if desired; i. e., make permissive.
- 405.15 - Recommend consideration be given to having all "Technical Standards Committees" an actual part of the concerned PTG organization. Thus the PTG itself (and chairman) would have direct "line" responsibility for implementing standards work for use by their own segment of technology and industry. Also, being part and parcel of their PTG would insure the membership of the standards committee would be kept current. The society's Standards Committee would continue to be the coordinating agency for all PTG standards produced.
- 406.1 - Include chairmen and secretaries of PTGs in request to offer names for elective offices to nominating committee.



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My recommendation for the merging of the technical operations of the two societies includes that the PTGs be grouped into a few broad "communities of interest" for administrative and publication purposes. If this is done, then the membership of the PTG committee could be one member per family-group (instead of one for each PTG), which would simplify administration.

Sincerely,

  
Barclay Blackman

(blind cc) - M. D. Hooven  
N. S. Hibshman ✓