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CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.

4 IRVING PLACE

NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

J. F. FAIRMAN  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

January 25-1962

Mr Warren H Chase, President  
American Institute of Electrical Engineers  
345 West 47th Street  
New York 17, N Y

Dear Warren

4, 18, 213  
Your memorandum of January 15 and attachments addressed to A.I.E.E. Past-Presidents had my prompt attention. I had previously read the resolution and your statement that appeared in the December 1961 issue of Electrical Engineering but I read them again as reproduced in the material accompanying your letter and, as on the occasion of my original reading, had the same favorable reaction that substantial progress was being made toward the attainment of a most desirable objective. Then I read your letter of January 2 to the AIEE Officers regarding the merger forum to be held on January 31 and had the impression that real progress was being made. Finally, I read the draft of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws for the SREE (Revision #1, January 2-1962) and began to have my doubts. Was it possible that the organization and method of operation of IRE were so greatly superior to that of AIEE that AIEE should, in effect, be taken over and absorbed into IRE? Did our representatives on the several study committees really believe that? Would our members accept such a result, even if it were demonstrable? I, for one, would have to be sold and I felt sure I was not alone.

A few days later, before I had time to collect and express my thoughts in a more constructive vein, I received a copy of Past President Hickernell's letter of January 18 in which he expresses very well some of the things that were bothering me, so I shall not repeat them. He had given the matter much more study than I had done or am likely to be able to do. Subsequently, through the kindness of Charlie Hatcher I have seen copies of some of the responses you have received from others which show the results of careful analysis and support my own conviction that there is a lot more work to be done before we can achieve a substantial, if not unanimous, meeting of minds and present a proposal which would truly advance the interests of the members of the two organizations and be accepted by them. I am concerned lest too hasty action in the attempt to unite the two groups might result in further "splintering" of the profession. This should be avoided at all events. Continued peaceful "coexistence" and persistent courtship are preferable to a shot-gun wedding.



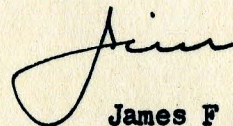
Mr Warren H Chase

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I hope that our friends in IRE will understand that we are prepared to compromise on non-essentials and even to discard elements of purely traditional or sentimental value to the extent that they may impede the attainment of our common objectives, that our suggestion for more thorough study of the problems is prompted solely by our desire to bring about the marriage on a basis of mutual respect and clear understanding, and that we sincerely believe the extra time and effort will result in more substantial and lasting benefits to our members and to the whole engineering profession.

Sincerely yours



James F Fairman  
Past-President, A.I.E.E.

JFF:em

cc AIEE Past Presidents  
AIEE Board of Directors