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April 25, 1962

Mr. Charles F. Hochgesang
Editor, Electrical World
330 West 42nd Street
New York 36, New York

Dear Mr. Hochgesang:

Mr. Brownlee's letter to the editor published in the April 16 Electrical World discusses critically a number of aspects of the proposed AIEE-IRE merger. The points he makes are important ones and deserving of full discussion. ~~Let us remember, however, that the king may after all have worn only a business suit sans glamor or ornamentation of any sort which even the indoctrinated youth failed to recognize.~~

Much of my work in AIEE has been with ~~National~~ Technical Committees, and has included almost all phases of their work. I have developed the highest respect for this type of organization and for its ability to attain our technical objectives in standards, high quality publications, and productive national and local meetings.

When, in 1959, the Board of Directors approved a recommendation for formation of ^{AIEE Institute} ~~National~~ Technical Groups ^(ITG) I could not visualize what

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useful function they would serve. The ensuing discussion and study have brought the conviction that they offer the great advantage of a broader participation for all interested members of the Institute than can be achieved by ~~National~~ Technical Committees alone. Their members can, through their publications and meetings, be kept fully informed and abreast of current problems and of advanced thinking in their areas before these subjects have reached the point where formal papers can be written. It is through such knowledge that new ideas are stimulated.

Our first ITG is in operation, and a number of others are in various stages of development. Irrespective of the merger, it seems logical to think that in time they will absorb the committee which spawned them (if their fields of interest are the same). There is no reason why an ITG, in its governing or executive committee should not contain the same body of technical competence as now resides in our Technical Committees and hence should be qualified to perform all the functions now carried out by these committees, including standards, reviewing papers, and organizing technical meetings

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I, therefore, ~~can~~^{do} find no loss and ^{do} find substantial gain
(PTG)
in a new society where Professional Technical Groups_A are encouraged
to replace ~~National~~ Technical Committees. It should be noted,
however, that such replacement would be permissive, and not mandatory.
Where there is insufficient interest in forming a PTG, the Technical
Committee would continue to function. Only where the PTG is fully
qualified to take over would the TC be disbanded.

Adequate publication policy for the new society is a matter
of vital importance. AIEE Bimonthlies and annual Transactions are ~~are~~
~~to the best of my knowledge,~~ very effective means of keeping our
members informed in their fields of interest and of providing a
permanent record for worthy technical literature. There is nothing
in the "Principles" which says that this will be abandoned, for the
simple reason that the whole problem of meeting the needs of all
members of both societies is very complicated and a solution is yet
to be reached (Principle XIV(c)). An unresolved problem often gives
the appearance of a "hodgepodge" in its initial stages. So long as
we can expect full and competent examination by qualified people, it

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seems proper to leave the solution in the hands of the new society.

Some of the present AIEE Divisions, such as Power, Industry, and General Applications, are presented with a unique opportunity to shape their future with a minimum of compromise and restraint from an incoming society having few parallel or overlapping interests. Their members may, or may not, be ready at this time to form PTG's. There has been increasingly intensive examination of this problem. If they are ready, a new organizational structure is provided. If they are not, the present one can continue. The strength developed by our years of experience need not be lost, and should be enhanced. The intent in developing Principles of Consolidation is to lay down guide lines without hampering the exercise of judgment and ingenuity by the new society in shaping its course.

There are many aspects of the proposed merger which must be considered beyond technical organization and publications. Let us examine them all critically and, while making sure that essential values are retained, recognize that they should not all be solved before a merger but rather must be the responsibility of the new society itself.

Very truly yours,
J. H. Kinghorn
Technical Vice President (Power) AIEE