



AMERICAN INSTITUTE of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

(HEADQUARTERS: 33 WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.)

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

(No. 13)

May 1, 1962

Address Reply to

Clarence B. Grund, Jr.
Southern Services, Inc.
600 North 18th Street
Birmingham 3, Alabama

Mr. W. H. Chase, President AIEE
Ohio Bell Telephone Co.
750 Huron Road
Cleveland 15, Ohio

Dear Mr. Chase:

Attached for your information is a letter "To the Editor" of Electrical World. I have been informed that this letter will appear substantially in the attached form in the May 7th issue.

Sincerely,

Clarence B. Grund, Jr.

Clarence B. Grund, Jr.
TOD Representative

CBG/rb

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original sent to HNC 5/3/62

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To the Editor:

The proposal to merge AIEE and IRE is founded on sound principles and has merit from the viewpoint of the engineer, his employer, and educators. However, under the proposed Constitution (Electrical Engineering, April, 1962 Section II) I believe that IEEE will not be as effective as AIEE, even with such duplications of activities as exist with IRE. The Constitution and other merger documents exhibit such fundamental shortcomings that the proposal should not be accepted without further clarification.

A Constitution should provide a basic framework encompassing conditions and guarantees under which an organization should operate, and the Bylaws should provide less vital details developed within this framework. It is my carefully considered opinion that under the proposed Constitution this is not accomplished, particularly in certain instances in which important basic requirements are not specified but are improperly relegated to the Bylaws. These may be formulated or changed at any time by as small a segment as two-ninths of the members of the Board of Directors. This could conceivably place control in the hands of as few as two members of the entire organization, permitting them to establish policies, standards and qualifications and to act on vital matters, without adequate representation of the thousands of members. (See Electrical Engineering April, 1962 Section II; Constitution, Art VII, Sec 2; Art XIII, Sec 7; and Art II, Sec 2). While we do not anticipate such an occurrence, why should we allow the possibility to exist?

It is possible that the shortcomings of the proposed Constitution are due to the insufficient time allowed for the formation and discussion over a period of years. Certainly the idea has been discussed. But the proposed Constitution has not been adequately discussed, since it was not submitted to the membership until April of this year. This is a regrettable situation since in its understandable desire to complete the merger immediately, the Board recommends blanket approval and does not point out the shortcomings. It is perhaps significant that under the proposed Constitution no voice in vital discussions is guaranteed to the membership; this is reserved exclusively for the Board, and as previously indicated, decisions may be made by a small minority of Board members.

The following are a few of the highly questionable points in the proposed Constitution and Principles.

1. In Art I of the Constitution of IEEE, no reference is made to the maintenance of high technical and ethical standards among members. Does this mean that these factors are to be neglected in the proposed IEEE, whereas they are of the utmost concern to AIEE and so stated in the AIEE Constitution?

2. Art II states that the grades of membership, qualifications, privileges, etc., shall be stated in the Bylaws, whereas such basic requirements should be stated in the Constitution, and not subject to change by a few members.

3. Art IX states that the number, method of election and terms of office of delegates-at-large and directors-at-large shall be specified in the Bylaws, and thus subject to change by the Board, whereas in the

Constitution they would properly be subject to change only by the membership which elects these officials.

4. Art XII, Sec 2, states that the method of nominating delegates, directors and other officers shall be specified in the Bylaws, and thus subject to change by the Board, whereas the AIEE Constitution provides a majority representation for the individual members.

5. Art XII, Sec 3 and Art XIV, Sec 1, state that before a candidate may be nominated by petition, or a change proposed in the Constitution, a petition must be signed by one-third percent of the total number of voting members, or approximately 300 to 400. This makes participation at the sectional level virtually impossible outside of very large metropolitan areas. The AIEE Constitution provides that 25 members may petition the Board of Directors to nominate a candidate or to make a proposed change in the Constitution. Is IEEE attempting to form a more centralized control, thereby eliminating the true representative form of the present AIEE organization? X 100 for count

6. The Principles of Consolidation, VI-f(4) state: "The policy of IEEE shall be that wherever possible, professional technical groups will replace the technical committees in all functions except standardization." This indicates what shall be discarded, but does not give firm indication as to what will replace the discarded system, how the replacements will function or what their responsibilities will be to the advancement of technical knowledge. It appears that if a member wishes to be active in technical activities he will have to be a member of IEEE and also one or more Professional Technical Groups, which may result in greater expense and time involvement to a member than does AIEE now, thus negating one expressed aim of the merger.

7. Principles XIV-f and XV-a indicate that IEEE may acquire a high degree of commercialism, which would seriously detract from the present high technical and professional purposes of AIEE.

Obviously all details of a merger cannot be solved in advance. However, it seems apparent that the proposed Constitution and Principles have not adequately provided even the basic framework on which to build a new organization. In view of these shortcomings, I recommend to all AIEE members that they give very serious consideration to this problem before they vote.

Remember that once the proposed Constitution is adopted by acceptance of the merger, it will be much more difficult for changes to be effected than before adoption.

Remember also that a negative vote at this time does not mean that you reject the merger permanently, but that you reject it in its present inadequate form.

Clarence B. Grund, Jr.
District Representative of Technical Operations Dept.
AIEE District No. 13