

# IRE-AIEE MERGER

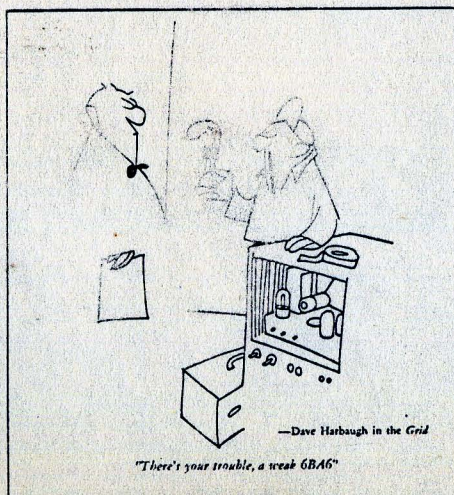
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To date we have received one letter on the proposed merger of the two societies. There is nothing like a good stimulating discussion to promote understanding. Other Sections in our area have provided some stimulus among their section members by discussing the merger at special meetings. We have reprinted a small excerpt from "the Almanack," the magazine published by the Philadelphia Section which the membership of the NNJS may find interesting, and we have reprinted the one letter received from a NNJS member.

## PRO

"In response to questions from the floor, Dr. Brainerd, of the Moore School, said that the IRE has been investigating the possibility of merger for 15 years. He also said, in explanation of the points queried by Mr. Salisbury's article, that the membership grades do not differ significantly, that AIEE is the principal publisher in the computer field, that the two organizations are more equal than is apparent (AIEE does not count some of its members who would be counted in an equivalent IRE tally), that IRE was admitted to the Engineer's Council for Professional Development through the good offices of the AIEE, that the AIEE is not power-oriented although a plurality of its membership is, that the committee structure of AIEE is similar to, though more extensive than, that of IRE, and that there is no point in losing the greater assets which would result from merger. Speakers from the floor mentioned that preliminary straw votes of PGMTT had indicated membership approval for the merger, that the subsections (marginal at present) would be much better after a merger, and that PGEC is already, in effect, merged with its opposite group in AIEE and gets better attendance therefrom. Others argued that AIEE had not served their technical areas until the last 10 or 15 years, that AIEE had recently been proselytizing in the electronics field and that at cosponsored events IRE carried the ball with AIEE trailing along, and that AIEE has conflicted with IRE activities, not the other way around."

More discussion seems needed.



## CON

This letter concerns the proposed merger of the I.R.E. and the A.I.E.E. Of course, there is more overlapping of disciplines today than ever before. This is a healthy development. It is difficult to draw lines between electronic and electrical engineering, between chemistry and physics, or between physics and electronics. But this is not a valid reason for combining all the separate societies in these fields.

I am against the proposed merger. I think the I.R.E. is big enough now. Making it bigger would introduce new problems.

1. The American Chemical Society, of which I am a member, is about the same size as the I.R.E. The national meetings are already too big. There are few cities in the United States with sufficient facilities (hotels and meeting rooms) to handle an A.C.S. meeting. The Society is discussing the possibility of holding two or more simultaneous meetings for this reason. Although the I.R.E. meetings have been held in New York, an increase in membership of two-thirds would surely strain even the mammoth facilities of the big city.

2. The I.R.E. Show is too large to cover comfortably in one day now. Imagine it enlarged by two-thirds! Where would the additional exhibits be housed? The aisles are now narrow for comfort now.

3. The American Society for Testing Materials, a national organization devoted to the writing of specifications for materials and methods of test had a Committee B-4 on electrical and electronic materials. About six years ago, a Committee F-1 on materials for tubes and semiconductors was formed from part of B-4 and F-1 is now larger than B-1. The problem of overlap is not at all serious. A redefinition of terms from time to time is all that is needed.

4. In my field of receiving tubes, I find very little of interest in the I.R.E. Proceedings. In a larger organization my field and those of others would be further diluted.

5. With an organization of 92,000 and resources of \$4.5 million, headquarters efficiency should not be a problem. If it is, headquarters organization should be examined.

Yours truly,

Irving F. Stacy

## TO ALL NNJ MEMBERS

If you have any news of IRE group activities, or any information which you believe might be of interest to other members of the Northern New Jersey Section, please contact the Editor of this Newsletter. We will make every effort to print suitable material as soon as possible.

Remember, this is your publication.

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