



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

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Report on the

SYMPOSIUM ON PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION

OF IRE AND AIEE

IRE International Convention, New York, N.Y., March 26, 1962

The following report gives summaries and extracts of the discussions at the Symposium on Proposed Consolidation of the IRE and AIEE, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on Monday, March 26, 1962. This report is being sent to the entire IRE membership so as to reach them in advance of the May 5th mailing of proxies to the voting members.

Participants and Procedure

Seated on the main dais on the stage was a panel composed of members of the eight-man joint committee formed by the IRE and AIEE Boards of Directors to study the feasibility and form of the proposed consolidation. Those present were:

Patrick E. Haggerty,
President, IRE

Warren H. Chase,
President, AIEE

Lloyd V. Berkner,
Past President, IRE

Clarence H. Linder,
Past President, AIEE

Ronald L. McFarlan,
Past President, IRE

Haraden Pratt,
Secretary, IRE

Unable to attend were Elgin B. Robertson, Past President of AIEE, whose duties as Mayor Pro Tem of Dallas, Texas, unavoidably detained him, and B. Richard Teare, Jr., Director of AIEE, who was in Pakistan. Also seated at the main dais was the Symposium Moderator, Donald G. Fink, Past President of IRE.

Seated on a lower dais were members of the two-man study committees formed by the eight-man joint committee (as listed on page 3 of the Red Supplement to the March issue of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IRE).

The meeting was open to all comers; no convention registration fee was required to attend.

The meeting began with statements from IRE President Haggerty and AIEE President Chase. It was then opened to questions and statements from the floor. The audience was provided cards by which they could ask the Moderator a question directed at the panel at large or at a specific member of the panel, or could request recognition to deliver a statement from the floor. A straw vote was taken at the end of the meeting.

Statement by IRE President Haggerty

The Moderator opened the meeting by introducing those on the platform and describing the procedures for conducting the Symposium. He then introduced Patrick E. Haggerty, President of the IRE, who spoke in part as follows:

"It goes without saying that the men and women who make up the Institute of Radio Engineers are individuals who, since they spend their lives applying science, are engineers, and, as such, their purpose in life is the performance of an end useful to society. The society of which we are all a part does not really judge us by how good we are as engineers, but rather in terms of how useful are the products and the services that we bring to that society. I think that makes it very clear that, as individuals or in a group, our primary focus must be on getting useful products and services for our communities, our nations, and the society as a whole.

"Inevitably, the proliferation of knowledge which has taken place, particularly since the early 1940's, has demanded ever greater specialization on the part of many of us. The need for interdisciplinary ties is now enormous and, at the same time, almost infinitely difficult to achieve. What every engineer needs as he pursues his own roadway to usefulness, whether as a specialist or as a generalist, are plenty of crossroads: crossroads which lead to other specialties, to other disciplines. I think this is one of IRE's prime functions, to help each of us perfect ourselves in our own areas of choice and competence, but at the same time provide improved accessibility to an ever-increasing number of these vital crossroads.

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"It is this same purpose which has led past boards and past officers of IRE and AIEE to discuss cooperation and coordination: discussions which began at least as far back as 1922."

Referring to the start of the present discussions between IRE and AIEE in 1961, Mr. Haggerty said, "We spent most of our time discussing whether, in principle, consolidation of IRE and AIEE made sense. We did this after floundering for an hour or so, during which we occupied ourselves with the multitude of problems and details which would inevitably flow from even the thought of merger of our two societies. We soon came to the conclusion that this was a futile course to pursue, that we must first decide whether in principle the profession and its individual members would be better served by a single society than it was being served by two societies. The result of our discussion was definitely affirmative."

"We then began to study some of the details of how we might proceed toward consolidation, and while indeed the problems appeared infinite in number, they did not appear infinite in scale. Consequently, this committee recommended to our respective boards that we consider seriously and discuss in detail, and on a formalized and approved-by-the-boards basis, the possibility of merger of the two societies."

"As the weeks and the months have gone by, as each of us has had the opportunity to think about the problems, they have really faded away. Nearly all of them turn out to be the kinds of problems that are temporal, very temporal: one-year, two-year, three-year kinds of problems which suggest ready solutions. Of course, we were aware that there are difficulties. The sheer question of size is a difficulty. The sheer question of differing policies in such areas as publications and meetings is a problem. But as we thought about our individual members, our members of today, and especially our members of tomorrow, our joint memberships of 10 years hence, the press of affirmative decision bore more firmly upon us."

"By late January we had evolved a preliminary constitution and set of bylaws which we then set aside because, as of that time, we could clearly see that we could agree on a constitution and bylaws. We then drew up a document, or a statement, that we called principles of consolidation. These principles of consolidation were sent to all IRE members in a red-covered supplement to the March Proceedings, and will appear in moderately amended form in a green-covered supplement to the April Proceedings."

"The question of timing is an important one. I think there is no one on our Board who would not have preferred an additional 60 to 90 days. Yet we have to be realistic. There are many advantages in achieving consolidation, if it is to be achieved, by January 1, 1963. In IRE, we will then have gone through two complete Boards of Directors and two complete calendar years, and AIEE will actually have been engaged through three Boards and three sets of

officers, because of the difference in their actual year, beginning on August 1st instead of January 1st."

"The amount of time it takes in these kinds of volunteer societies is, in my opinion, the primary reason why these discussions never previously reached the same degree of intensity."

Mr. Haggerty noted further that time must be allowed for obtaining a vote of the memberships and, if the merger is approved, for working out many details. "A complete board of directors, completely satisfactory to the boards of both present societies, must still be selected and approved by the membership. A President satisfactory to both boards and to the memberships must be selected and voted upon; a general manager must be selected. The actual bylaws of the projected merged society must be drafted in detail. This will require a great deal of time, and it is somewhat futile to try to put all of the hours of effort which would be involved in working out these infinite details in such things as in the bylaws, as in the merging of Sections, as in the exact boundaries of Regions, unless the membership indeed desires a single society. Because, consumed in this will be even more man-hours than we have consumed thus far in getting to the question of merger."

"The principles of consolidation, the merger agreement and the modus operandi which has been recommended by the eight-man committee and selected by the two boards is a flexible mechanism. It calls for the submission of proxies, really ballots, allowing the usual affirmative or negative vote, to our two separate memberships on May 5th. The AIEE will count its ballots on June 18th at their regular annual meeting; the IRE at a special meeting on July 10th. An additional green-covered supplement to the April Proceedings is being published and will include a report on the action of our Board on March 8th and 9th, a copy of the merger agreement, a copy of the constitution, and a copy of the principles of consolidation."

"Included as well in the April supplement will be a broad collection of letters, some affirmative, many more questioning or negative with respect to merger. Some of our Directors have actually raised the question as to whether, in including a relatively larger number of questioning letters, we are giving the wrong impression to our membership as to the total correspondence received by all of us engaged in these activities. We felt not; we felt that the unanimous vote of IRE's Board of Directors, our strong position in the affirmative direction for consolidation, plus my letters of reply to many of these letters is a sufficiently affirmative statement to express our unanimous recommendation that we proceed with merger. We believe that through these letters nearly all, all that we can think of, of the important questions have been raised and discussed to some extent."

"It is physically impossible to go over with every member of IRE, the nearly 100,000 of them, the hours and the days and the weeks of discussion which have taken place in the eight-man committee, in your Executive Committee, and in the Board. Nevertheless, with the two Proceedings supplements, the supplements of March and of April, every member of IRE will have a sufficient amount of information, in the opinion of our

Board, to make an intelligent decision on the question of merger.

"Since all of you have received the principles of consolidation and since all of you will receive them again in April, I am not going to go over these principles in detail. I think we want to recognize only a few: that we are aiming at the maximum service to the individual, that we are aiming at preserving the flexibility and the viability of our societies, that by providing a small board, an executive committee meeting as often as 10 times through the year, and a strong executive secretariat, we are aiming at creating a body which can meet the needs of transition during these next two years.

"We have not attempted to settle all the detailed questions of transition ahead of time. I do not believe that we could do so if we spent from now until 1965 in such discussions, if one includes the innumerable local questions which must exist in our numerous Sections and Regions and Districts. We have chosen instead to create a vehicle via the Board, the Executive Committee, and the executive secretariat, which can, through the ensuing years, represent the membership. I am confident that this Board, this Executive Committee, and the officers you select will be at least as competent to represent you and to respond to the needs of the membership of the merged society as have your officers, your Directors, and your Executive Committee through these past years.

"I feel I can speak for the IRE Directors in stating that we are completely confident that the mechanism selected will preserve for all of our members at least the strengths and the ability to respond as do our present mechanisms in IRE. All of us therefore are strongly affirmative. We have so expressed ourselves, and we will continue to do so.

"But the question is indeed one for you, the membership, to decide when you receive the proxies."

Statement by AIEE President Chase

The Moderator next introduced Warren H. Chase, President of the AIEE, who spoke in part as follows:

"It is a real pleasure to meet with this group this morning. There are many in this audience who are wearing two hats, like many of us on the podium. As a matter of fact, I almost thought this was an AIEE meeting when I walked in this morning. There are a lot who are in both societies, of course.

"Proper climate is necessary to the growth of anything, whether it be a society or whether it be something in nature. I think we are at that juncture at the present time. Both societies have fundamentally the same ideas of disseminating information to the membership. This has been done by somewhat different methods. In AIEE we have had a very strong committee structure which has done valuable work over the years. The IRE has gone more for the technical groups, and that is a very worthy type of operation. We think that there are advantages to both kinds of operations. It may be that the AIEE will go more for the professional-

technical group in the future than we have in the past, because this whole organization, I believe, must set itself up to be an umbrella for the electrical-technical know-how of this country and perhaps the world.

"We have cooperated, as Mr. Haggerty has said, over many, many years. But you know you can wear yourselves out cooperating. As a matter of fact, cooperation, in many cases, causes the wheels to spin, and doesn't produce anything. I believe that with a merger we can still cooperate, but under one umbrella, and have a more effective society.

"The duplication, as has been pointed out, is tremendous. Various groups are being formed by each society, and there is a nice question whether a given group should be an AIEE or IRE function. If we were together, that question of course would not arise. There has been a lot said about the numbers if these societies merge. Personally, I am not impressed with numbers at all. I am impressed with the amount of service we could give to our members and to the world in general. We will probably be the biggest society if we merge, but I believe that is only incidental. We must think of the service we can perform rather than the numbers that we can accumulate.

"I was recently asked, what are you going to get out of this in AIEE? And what is IRE going to get out of it? Well, the question took me aback because I don't think either society is looking for anything for itself personally. We only get out what we put into it, and we do get out of it a more harmonious group which can be of more service to our civilization. I think the big point is, how much, through this new merger, can we contribute to the technology.

"I want to pay tribute here today to the two-man committees who have been so valuable in bringing their thoughts to the eight-man committee. They have done yeoman service. I want also to say that AIEE is also informing its members in Electrical Engineering, much the same as IRE. In the April issue there will be a supplement with the merger, the resolutions, the constitution, and other information. Also, it has been a real pleasure to work with the IRE men. All of the discussions, I will assure you, have been on a very, very high level.

"I would just like to leave you with this thought. Don't look for perfection at the start. Perfection can be the enemy of progress. We won't have perfection to start, but if we keep our minds open, I know that we can work this out together. And I hope that AIEE can really contribute its part to make this a going organization."

Questions and Statements from the Audience

QUESTION: "What is the general situation regarding cooperation with European and English technical societies?" Dr. McFarlan replied that IRE has had a committee on international activities for two years and that last summer this committee visited eight countries in Europe to establish cooperative arrangements with engineering societies abroad and to encourage the formation of IRE Sections where needed. He noted

IRE now has four Sections in Europe and others all over the world. "In general we found a very strong interest in Europe in the international aspects of IRE," he stated. Mr. Haggerty added that there is full agreement that the IEEE would likewise be an international or, more accurately, a non-national society, and that Regions would be established outside of North America as the needs of the membership require them. Mr. Pratt noted that the AIEE has quite a substantial membership abroad which will add considerably to the strengthening of international activities.

QUESTION: "An objective of the combined society is better service to the membership. Greatly increased size and scope may slow down or impede this objective. What steps specifically are planned to prevent this?" Mr. Linder responded that it is becoming more and more apparent that any large society, whether it be the existing IRE, the existing AIEE, or the new combined society, must be an umbrella organization with a great many specific interests represented. These focal points of interest, the professional technical groups, "will operate really as small societies, but with the integrating force of the total society behind it for administrative purposes and for direction and growth," he said.

Mr. Haggerty added the comment, "Essential to operation of the very large society that IEEE would indeed become is the recognition of two things: one, we are a very large profession; IRE already has about 100,000 members. It will have 150,000 members in five or six years, anyway. We have no real change in scale, and we must face the problems of size whether the two societies merge or not." The second fundamental point, Mr. Haggerty said, was that the principles of consolidation call for a small 25-member board to handle policy, a small 9-man executive committee meeting 10 times per year to administer board policy and society affairs on a month-to-month basis, and an executive secretariat headed by a general manager who will be both allowed and required to administer the daily and weekly affairs of the society.

Dr. Berkner noted that many of the present IRE Professional Groups are plagued by publication backlogs and are not large enough to provide the publication and meeting capability they really deserve. By consolidating the two societies the Groups would increase to a more ideal operating size. Dr. McFarlan stated, "Electrical engineering, because of advancements made in the physical sciences today, is a very rapidly changing type of engineering. This is going to call for a maximum of flexibility and adaptability to meet the future needs of our engineering profession. It is our belief that this structure of IEEE, with its small board, small executive committee, strong general management or executive secretariat, will provide such a vehicle."

STATEMENT by G. L. Turin, Chairman of the IRE Professional Group on Information Theory: "I would like to mention a few things that have been worrying the Professional Groups. Some of us in the PG's of the IRE have been somewhat worried recently about the structure of the professional group organization.

We feel that, in many instances, the organization is obsolete, that there are overlaps between groups that perhaps should not be there. There are some groups that perhaps should be merged, and this has been a continuing problem in obtaining mergers between groups that have similar interests. The problem here is one of perpetuating obsolescence. As I understand it, the merged society is to take over jointly some of the Professional Groups of the IRE and some of the technical group interests of the AIEE. This is more likely to result in a linear addition of the two societies. The ironing out of the flaws in the professional-technical group structure over a period of years I think is wise. But also, we have had experience that when a certain structure becomes entrenched, it is very difficult to change it. One of the troubles that has already come up, which is a minor one, is the name of the professional groups. On the one hand, we have Professional Groups in the IRE. On the other hand, we have Technical Groups in the AIEE. The new name Professional-Technical Groups, which is the sum of the old two names, is somewhat indefensible, and I think you agreed or pointed out that this was a point that perhaps expedience had decided rather than anything else. That is, you couldn't come to a decision, so you just added the two names. Well, on a minor point like this, if such a thing happens one wonders if, over a period of years, some of the entrenched new professional groups and technical groups will really tend toward an optimum or just be a conglomeration of disparate groups with overlapping interests. Perhaps you could comment on that point."

Mr. Haggerty replied, "I think those are very good questions that do need to be considered seriously. They bear, however, on the point I made in my preliminary remarks of not settling everything at once. In addition to those who have the concerns expressed by the speaker, there are also an equally large number who are concerned lest anything be done to interfere with the independence and viability of the professional groups. I do not think this is a subject which appropriately can be settled between now and the year-end. It is a subject in which I have confidence that the coming board and executive committee of the IEEE, if indeed it does come into existence, will be as competent to handle as at least past boards of IRE have been.

"Further, I believe we have learned a few things in our discussions as to merger. I will point out, for example, that we decided that the chairman of the professional group committee should also be a vice president of the IEEE. Thus, we would have a vice president, if you will, representing the membership in geography and a vice president representing the technology via the chairmanship of the professional groups. This became such an attractive and logical solution that it has already been adopted and made a part of IRE's modus operandi. Further, a PG executive committee is provided for in the principles of consolidation. It is hoped that an executive committee of a small number of people would be better able, by meeting frequently, to handle the affairs of the PG's to achieve merger consolidation, assistance in the creation of new groups, etc., than has the larger IRE PG Committee. Only time can tell, but I personally have confidence in the fundamental policy which we have followed in IRE, that is,

to leave as much independence and flexibility to each local group as possible, and interfere only when obsolescence and overlapping require a change to insure viability and growth."

QUESTION: "Will Electrical Engineering and IRE Proceedings maintain their format but cover both fields? Will both magazines be mailed to all members, and will this require additional dues?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "For at least the first year, and for not more than the first two years, both Electrical Engineering and the Proceedings will be published in formats and content patterns markedly like their present formats and content patterns. This is almost a requisite for the first year because of advertising contracts which must be entered into, and will extend through 1963. Former members of AIEE will receive Electrical Engineering and former members of IRE will receive the Proceedings. Members who belong to both societies will receive whichever of the two publications they desire, and will pay only the single set of dues. A committee will be appointed immediately upon formation of the merged society on January 1, 1963, with the express purpose of investigating in detail what the over-all publication policy of the IEEE should be, this committee to work throughout the entire year 1963 and report at the end of 1963. The decision then as to publication policy thereafter will be made by the board of directors at that time, undoubtedly with heavy weight given to the recommendations of this editorial board."

STATEMENT by Fred S. Barton: Mr. Barton commented on the long-standing tradition of cooperation between the IEE in England and the AIEE and IRE, and looked for a continuation of the relationship. He noted that the visit to Great Britain last summer by Dr. McFarlan and "his peripatetic posse of past presidents" had substantially strengthened IEE-IRE relations and had placed them on a more formal footing. He also said that the radio side of the IEE has become much more active lately and that the IEE and the British Institution of Radio Engineers are now actively making plans to get closer together. He finally noted that Great Britain has recently witnessed the successful merger of its two physical societies.

QUESTION: "What consideration has been given to tightening membership standards to avoid excessive size of the joint society?" Mr. Chase replied that this is a question that must be reserved for the future boards of the IEEE to determine, and that it will receive very serious consideration by them.

STATEMENT by Del Roe, Chairman of the IRE Huntsville Section, speaking as well for Mr. Dausmann, Chairman of the AIEE Huntsville Section: Mr. Roe expressed confidence in the actions and proposals, and stated they were fully supported in his area.

QUESTION: Donald B. Harris, Chairman of the IRE Awards Committee, speaking from the floor, emphasized the importance of award activities. He noted that the principles of consolidation said nothing about Fellow awards, and asked for clarification of several points. Mr. Haggerty responded that (1) the Fellow grade will be preserved exactly as it now exists, (2) the percentage of total membership which will be selected annually for

Fellow awards will remain the same, which for the IEEE with its larger total membership will mean 125 Fellows selected annually, (3) one per cent of the IRE membership and three per cent of the AIEE membership hold the Fellow award at present, and (4) all present members in both societies, including Fellows, become members with equivalent membership grades in the new society. In a lighter vein, it was noted that those who now belong to both societies become "squares."

Mr. Harris continued, "One other question I would like to ask is in connection with the prizes. We have an IRE Founders Award. Can we preserve this?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "The present inclinations are that all of the awards of both societies are going to be preserved. Once again, this of course becomes something that subsequent boards will have to face in each of the years. Next year, 1963, the decisions made by the separate societies would be accepted completely by the merged society."

Mr. Harris then asked, "What about honorary members? This is a new grade, isn't it?" Mr. Chase replied that the AIEE had only 10 honorary members—Herbert Hoover, for example, is one—and that they would of course become honorary members of the IEEE. "But in the future, we would have to bow to the wishes of the merged society board as to what we do with future honorary memberships." Mr. Harris replied, "I would like to close simply by saying that I think you gentlemen have answered all my questions to my satisfaction, and I feel that the present stature of the awards and memberships will remain about the same."

QUESTION: "What are the general plans for carrying on standardization activity? Will only one Standards Committee be formed?" Mr. C. G. Veinott, AIEE representative on the two-man study committee on standardization, replied, "I met for about a day with Dr. Weber, who represents the IRE, discussing this. I am sorry he is not here, but I think that what I say reflects pretty much what Dr. Weber thinks. Dr. Weber and I visualized that the merged society would have only one main standards committee. It is our thought that this one standards committee probably will have to act more in a judicial capacity, and will have reporting to it various standards sub-committees."

"One of the good things about IRE is that you have some 28 or 30 committees that you call technical committees, which are concerned only with standards activities. We think this is good that you have a group concerned only with standards. But I sensed from Dr. Weber that you in IRE felt there was a weakness in this; that there was not enough correlation between these technical committees and your professional groups. We personally feel that it would be better if we could take those of our AIEE technical committees which are most interested in standards and set them up as separate committees. These committees that are to work on standards would be selected by the present AIEE technical committee, and this would correspond in IRE to letting your professional groups pick the people who serve on the technical standards committees. We think this would provide better coordination over-all."

QUESTION: "Will the people who are members of both

societies be permitted to cast two votes, one in each society?" Mr. Fink replied, "The answer is yes; that is the only advantage of being a square."

QUESTION: "Will the ballots include any information on the 1963, 1964 and 1965 budgets to be submitted before May 5, 1962?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "Fiscal plans for 1963, 1964 and 1965 will go to the membership. I think it should be clear we anticipate that our expenses will exceed our income in the first year; they may exceed our income in the second year; they will not exceed our income in the third year, or we are bum managers."

QUESTION: "The present Region 8 is the Canadian Region. Is it proposed to rearrange the Regions to eliminate a separate Canadian Region?" Mr. Pratt replied, "There has been no plan to do anything of the sort. The Canadian Region as we now have it in the IRE would continue so far as the recommendations of this eight-man group are concerned." Mr. Pratt noted that consideration might be given to slight boundary modifications, such as in the area around Vancouver. Mr. Haggerty added, "An additional illustration: IRE members in Windsor, Ontario, have raised the question as to whether they couldn't in essence be a part of the Detroit activity instead of the Canadian activity, because of the geography. It has been our general feeling that this is a matter for study, and if local groups of this kind have these very special circumstances of geography, perhaps these could be the exceptions to the rule and indeed perhaps Windsor can belong to Detroit instead of to Canada, without affecting particularly the totality of a Region for Canada."

QUESTION: "In the principles of consolidation, as revised March 8, 1962, section 15, pages 13 and 14, no mention is made relative to conventions and shows other than the International Convention in New York. Only technical paper presentations are mentioned relative to Regions. Are Regional shows such as WESCON to be permitted?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "The answer is yes!"

STATEMENT by Mr. Walter E. Peterson of Los Angeles: "We in the Los Angeles Section have studied very thoroughly and objectively all of the details of the merger, consolidation principles, etc., and, through various meetings--and these will be continuing--we hope to continue to bring up specific questions. The first one having to do with WESCON was purposely brought up to point out that we think very seriously of WESCON, and I am sure you do, too. But it is not in the principles of consolidation. Only reference is made to the holding of regional meetings and with the emphasis on technical papers it does not go into the aspects which would be the technical show part."

"Now, the second question that we had has to do with the agreement of merger, section 6, parts B and C. It says, the continuing corporation shall be operated exclusively for scientific, literary, and educational purposes. Then it goes on, in section C, to say no substantial part of the activities of the continuing corporation shall be carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation,

or participating in or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. My question is: I wonder why the word 'substantial' is in there, and if it must be in there, what do you mean by substantial?" Mr. Haggerty replied that this is merely legal language which was taken directly from the New York State Code.

QUESTION: "Please describe in more detail how the slate of officers will be selected by the 14-man sub-committee, particularly the Regional representatives." Mr. Chase replied, "I think everyone understands that this 14-man committee is to go into operation after the merger is agreed to. AIEE will have seven people, including the four members on the eight-man committee, and so will IRE. This committee acts as a nominating committee for the first slate of officers and, of course, it is up to both groups on both sides to get the best slate we possibly can. That will mean consulting with our old Districts in AIEE, with the old Regions in IRE, and coming up with these Regional people. I don't think that we can have a Regional meeting, our Regions will not be set up at that time. You can rest assured we want to get this thing off the ground in good shape, and we are going to select the best people, be they old IRE stalwarts or AIEE stalwarts, whichever is the best man."

Mr. Haggerty added, "May I second that? There is no practical solution to this first year of operation except a selection of a 25-man slate, including all directors and officers that both boards will agree to. Subjecting it to the normal political practice would almost make it impossible to insure a completely balanced approach during the initial year. After the first year, the normal election procedure will hold. The 14-man committee will nominate all of the members of the 25-man board. That complete slate will be sent out to both sets of membership for their approval. They can, in essence, vote against or for the entire slate. We see no other practical mechanism to insure that the first year, the year of difficult transition, will be properly handled."

QUESTION: "What equitable arrangements will be made to handle the combined assets?" Mr. J. H. Moore, AIEE representative on the two-man study committee on Assets, Resources and Finances, responded that stocks and bonds will be valued at original cost, or at the total market value on the date of consolidation if that were lower, inventories would be checked and valued in accordance with the present practices of the two societies, furniture and fixtures would be valued at purchase price less reserves for depreciation, and lands and buildings would be transferred at the cost values as carried on the books.

QUESTION: "Will the merged society be tax exempt?" Mr. Moore replied that there should be no hiatus or question with respect to the tax-exempt status which would be brought about by a merger.

QUESTION: "Is it expected that present dues will suffice for a financially solvent operation?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "I don't think they will be adequate during the first year, when we have some duplicate functions. I think one can say very simply that if the

IRE with 97,000 members at its present dues structure can be a solvent technical organization, and provide the service that it has provided for its membership, and with equally astute financial management, it ought to be easier for the IEEE, with 160,000 members and the same dues structure to do the same."

QUESTION: "Have impartial certified public accountants approved the merger?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "These opinions come from legal counsel rather than from accountants, and legal counsel has been engaged on both sides. Both books are audited at regular intervals. This is not a merger of corporations which belong to private stockholders. In actual fact, it is a merger of two corporate entities in the public interest."

STATEMENT by Ben S. Melton: "I should like to say that although I am Chairman of the Washington Section, I speak strictly as an individual because, gentlemen, frankly, I do not know the desires of our membership, and I speak as an individual deeply concerned with his conscience. This is not the time nor the place to debate the issue of merger, and I rise only to state that the difficulty of communication with membership makes it impossible at this late date to present opposing views, except perhaps by the letters of opposition which will be published. For instance, to get an editorial into the Washington Bulletin for May, I should have to write it this weekend. Personally, I wish that every section in the country could have a formal debate on this matter of vital importance, but to organize such a debate by late April or May will be well nigh impossible for most sections. In short, while I am completely convinced that every national officer feels that the merger is for the best interests of the membership, I remain unconvinced that these national officers fully appreciate the fact that the members are being encouraged to follow their lead rather than to consider the issue on its merits. I don't wish to stop the wheels or progress, but I wish in all conscience that the membership vote could be deferred until fall of this year."

QUESTION: "Has any policy been established in regard to redrawing the geographical boundaries of the merged sections?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "Generally, yes; specifically, no. We have arrived at boundaries which would look as though they could be satisfactory boundaries, but this is again a specific which will be handled in detail only if the vote is favorable."

QUESTION: "As an IRE member, I am satisfied with IRE policies and procedures now. As an IRE member, what will I specifically gain from the merger?" Dr. Berkner replied: "First of all, a broadened professional structure. Consider, for example, the growth of the interests of our society and of the AIEE in information on magnetohydrodynamics, and the implication of this in the future. This would now be discussed within one society and probably fall to one professional group. So the opportunity for the member to attend meetings and have publications on the main subjects of interest within the society are made more easily possible in a combined society. Secondly, a broadened publication policy which, when the various publications are merged, should give us much better coverage both in breadth and in depth. All of you realize that we have had to invade the Proceedings

rather heavily to bring in tutorial papers in response to the demand by many of our members who need a better picture of what is happening across the whole of the profession. On the other hand, we cannot afford to give up our highly specialized papers. So the development of the society which can provide publications for both breadth and depth will be an important gain. A third gain is in the strengthening and enlarging of the Professional Groups, so that the backlog of Transactions papers can be reduced through the greater financial support that will come to the then larger Professional Groups."

Mr. Haggerty commented, "I think the principal gain that the individual will get is in the improvement of interdisciplinary hooks. Each engineer needs these disciplinary hooks, whether he realizes it or not. The prime function of a professional society, via papers, publications and meetings, is to provide the inter-communication that is an ever-increasing necessity in our complex profession."

"Now I would like to turn the question around, and I would like to remind each individual engineer that he has a responsibility that our society places on those engineers, the responsibility for products and services. And if we don't have that responsibility, we have nothing. If our society then places in our hands this responsibility, then as individual members of our society it is incumbent upon us to see that we serve that society and that we provide these interdisciplinary hooks. If these—as I believe—are better supplied by a single society than by two, then all of us as individuals have a strong responsibility for voting affirmatively for a single society rather than two. The emphasis is on responsibility as well as gain."

QUESTION: "In what specific ways will the IEEE provide a stronger service to the technical interests of the individual members?" Mr. Linder responded, "As we look at AIEE and IRE, there is today a great deal of overlap and competition. In fact, a great many individuals, whether they are in government or in education or in industry, find it necessary to go to both an AIEE and an IRE meeting to get what they are after. By combining our professional-technical groups, it should be possible to have papers given by the very best and most competent people. It will make it easier for any one individual to get to the literature, to get to a meeting and get the significant material he is after. It should give greater strength in approaching other societies where there are common technical interdisciplinary interests. It is a very strong personal conviction on my part, and I believe that the eight-member committee subscribes, that the strength of this combined society is going to be around these technical focal points, or groups."

QUESTION: "Does the consolidation spell the beginning of the end of the Acoustical Society, for the same basis as this present consolidation?" Mr. Haggerty replied, "Well, that depends upon the Acoustical Society, doesn't it? If the Acoustical Society continues to serve its members better, all right. But I do think it is up to them, not up to us."

STATEMENT by Arthur H. Lynch, Life Member, IRE: Mr. Lynch paid tribute to Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith,

co-founder of IRE, and to Emil J. Simon, IRE's first Secretary, who was present, and expressed his good wishes with regard to consolidation.

QUESTION: "What will be the status of the AIEE bimonthly publications, first during the transition, and second, ultimately?" Mr. Chase replied, "In the initial period, I think we shall continue the bimonthlies. This will be again one of those items which must be taken up by the new board."

QUESTION: "In the event that IRE and AIEE do merge, is it feasible and desirable to create Regional status for IEEE members in those countries included in the European Common Market?" Dr. McFarlan replied, "There is already under way a movement on the part of those IRE Sections existent in Europe requesting Regional status. I cannot obviously speak for the actions forthcoming of the executive committee or the board of directors. But speaking for myself, I would personally favor Regional status for these Sections. I think it would be a definite stimulus to IRE activities on the continent of Europe, and it would be my opinion that it should be subsequently extended to IEEE if and when the merger goes through."

QUESTION: "Does either IRE or AIEE have an agreement with any national society that it will not organize sections in certain territories? If so, will the IEEE hold these agreements in force?" Dr. McFarlan replied, "The IRE has no such agreements anywhere in the world."

Mr. Chase added, "Let me speak to that for AIEE. I know of no such agreements in any part of the world."

STATEMENT by Arthur V. Loughren, Past President, IRE: "We have a great deal of evidence that, in the long run, duplication which has existed in some of the services of our two societies has been costly to the members of the profession. This seems to me to say that it is not a question of shall we consolidate, it is only a question of when. And it seems to me that some of the remarks of the panel this morning, pointing to the desirability of making a firm decision to go ahead, making that decision now, and then doing all of the detailed things in the light of such a firm decision, is the right thing to do. I see nothing to be gained by postponement because it seems to me clear that, sooner or later, we are going to do it, and postponing only prolongs the agony and makes the details harder to take care of at a later date. I would like to say, too, how much I think all of us in the profession owe the members of the eight-man committee and the group of two-man teams that have helped that committee in reaching its present program for going ahead. Gentlemen, my congratulations for what you have done."

Results of Straw Vote

The audience was provided ballots which were collected at the end of the Symposium. The results were as follows:

For consolidation	313	(78.3%)
Against consolidation	44	(11.0%)
Undecided	42	(10.5%)
Blank	1	(0.2%)
Total	400	(100.0%)

Compiled by E. K. Gannett, Managing Editor
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