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PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT AIEE ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 18, 1962
DENVER

IT'S A STIMULATING EXPERIENCE TO MAKE THIS REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF AIEE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE. I'M CERTAIN THAT I SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHEN I SAY THAT THEY SHARE MY PLEASURE. AND WITH THIS PLEASURE GOES A LIKE MEASURE OF PRIDE IN REPRESENTING AN ORGANIZATION THAT CARRIES IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PROFESSION AND ITS STRONG HERITAGE. WE MUST NEVER OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT IT IS A PRIME OBLIGATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION TO NURTURE AND SUPPORT THE IDEALS THAT HAVE VITALIZED THAT HERITAGE. OUR ROOTS ARE DEEP IN THE SOIL AND BEDROCK OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM. OBVIOUSLY OURS IS NOT A POLITICAL ACTIVITY, BUT IT IS FULLY AS IMPORTANT TO AMERICA THAT ITS DEMOCRACY BE FOUNDED NOT ONLY ON SOUND THOUGHT AND ACTION, BUT ON A DYNAMIC TECHNOLOGY AS WELL.

WE ARE STRIVING TO COMBINE THE TALENTS OF KNOWLEDGEABLE AND RESOURCEFUL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS WITH A SKILLED PROFESSIONAL STAFF INTO A POWERFUL TASK FORCE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. THE AIEE PROVIDES A MEANS FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS TO GIVE AND RECEIVE INVALUABLE TECHNICAL SERVICES. YOU CAN BE PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. WE ALL WANT TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE OUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS EVERYWHERE TO GIVE AND RECEIVE THESE SERVICES.

CERTAINLY WE ALL FEEL THE SATISFACTION THAT COMES FROM PAST SUCCESSES. WE ALL KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME TO LOOK BACK, EXCEPT TO USE THE PAST AS A GUIDELINE FOR THE FUTURE -- AND I SAID GUIDELINES, NOT HITCHING POSTS. WE ARE MAKING HISTORY, NOT RECORDING IT. WE CAN'T STOP TO ADMIRE WHAT WE HAVE DONE OR TO TAKE COMFORT IN WHERE WE ARE. WE MUST SPEND TODAY GETTING A GRIP ON THE PROBLEMS OF TOMORROW.

WE'VE TAKEN GIANT STEPS IN THE VOLUNTARY PLANNING AND FINANCING OF TECHNICAL PROGRAMS. THESE HAVE GIVEN US A KIND OF TAILWIND TO RIDE, A TAILWIND THAT WILL HELP US BUCK THE TOUGH HEADWINDS AHEAD WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE SPACE AGE WILL BRING. WE MUST APPLY TECHNOLOGY TO EVERYDAY LIVING WITHOUT DOING VIOLENCE TO OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIVES. THIS WILL TAKE PATIENCE AS WELL AS INGENUITY.

ALTHOUGH TOMORROWS COME JUST ONE AT A TIME THEY SEEM TO TUMBLE UPON US. THE DAYS AHEAD MUST BE VIEWED REALISTICALLY AND WE MUST GUAGE THEIR NEEDS VERY CAREFULLY. WE CAN MAKE ONE SAFE PREDICTION FOR OUR OWN INSTITUTE AND THAT IS "ROUGH AND TUMBLE TREATMENT LIES IN STORE FOR THE STATUS QUO." WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO PROGRESS. IF WE DON'T SHARE IN ITS MAKING, WE SHALL BE BY-PASSED BY IT.

PROGRESS IS DEFINED AS THE FORWARD TO DEVELOP A HIGHER STAGE, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROGRESS REQUIRES INTEGRATION OF PURPOSE. THE MERGER WE NOW HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION DRAMATIZES THIS KIND OF INTEGRATION -- TWO SOCIETIES COMING TO A CONSTRUCTIVE AGREEMENT....EACH SOCIETY SACRIFICING SOME OF ITS OWN PAST PRACTICES FOR WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE. YOU AS MEMBERS WILL ALWAYS SIT IN JUDGMENT OF THE FUTURE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS. AND ALTHOUGH THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE FUTURE MAY WELL IMPROVE UPON OUR PERFORMANCE, I DOUBT THAT THEY SHALL EVER SURPASS THE DILIGENCE AND GOOD WILL WITH WHICH THE PRESENT BOARD HAS ACTED ON YOUR BEHALF.

WE CAN BE COMPARED TO A SHIP WHICH CARRIES NO PASSENGERS BUT ONLY AN ABLE AND WORKING CREW. WE MUST HAVE A COMMON FAITH IN THE PURPOSE OF THE VOYAGE AND A COMMON AGREEMENT ON THE PORTS OF CALL.

THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A BUSY ONE FOR ALL OF US. THE PROBLEMS OF MERGER HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON MANY SHOULDERS. OUR FOUR-MAN COMMITTEE HAS SPEARHEADED THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR INSTITUTE. STARTING WITH BOARD RESOLUTIONS IN OCTOBER AT THE FALL GENERAL MEETING IN DETROIT TO INVESTIGATE MERGER WITH IRE, WE HAVE HAD MANY HOURS OF INVESTIGATION, CONFERRING AND EVALUATING. THE FOUR-MAN COMMITTEE AND THE TWO-MAN TASK COMMITTEE HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO OUR PRESENT POSITION. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE WINTER GENERAL MEETING IN NEW YORK GAVE APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS. BOTH INSTITUTES HAVE ENERGETICALLY PURSUED THIS MISSION WITH PURPOSE AND STATESMANSHIP. IF APPROVED AT THIS MEETING AND ALSO ON JULY 10 BY IRE, WE WILL HAVE A MIGHTY BUSY PERIOD AHEAD OF US TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO MAKE US ONE SOCIETY ON JANUARY 1, 1963. LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT THIS WILL BE THE STARTING DATE. IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO INTEGRATE COMPLETELY THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. YOUR HELP AND SUGGESTIONS WILL GUIDE US IN OUR DELIBERATIONS.

THE STATURE OF AIEE CAN BE MEASURED BY THE MEN WHO TAKE PART IN ITS ACTIVITIES. WE ARE FUNDAMENTALLY A TECHNICAL SOCIETY BUT LIKE ALL ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAVE MANY ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES. I WANT YOU TO KNOW AND FEEL THAT MANY DEVOTED MEN HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DAY-BY-DAY BUSINESS OF OPERATING THE INSTITUTE. THROUGH THEIR DILIGENT EFFORTS THE DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS HAVE TURNED IN AN EXCELLENT JOB. MANY CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE INSTITUTE HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BY THESE MEN.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, TECHNICAL OPERATIONS, PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & RECOGNITION DEPARTMENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY ARE GOOD MANAGERS AND HAVE HANDLED THEIR DUTIES WITH INTELLIGENCE AND DISPATCH.

THE TECHNICAL VICE PRESIDENTS ARE KEY MEN AND ARE CONTINUALLY REFINING AND MAKING THE COMMITTEES MORE EFFECTIVE IN OUR TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE MAKING OF STANDARDS.

I HAVE NOTHING BUT THE HIGHEST PRAISE FOR OUR OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, SECTION CHAIRMEN AND THOSE CONCERNED WITH STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

IN THE COURSE OF MY TIME OF OFFICE, I HAVE COME TO REGARD OUR STAFF AMONG THE BEST OF THE FOUNDER SOCIETIES. THEY HAVE TAKEN A BROAD BUT REALISTIC LOOK AT MERGER MATTERS. THEIR SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE.

THANKS TO ALL OF THEM BUT ESPECIALLY TO NELSON HIBSHMAN WHO HAS BEEN A MOUNTAIN OF STRENGTH. HIS UNTIRING ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS OF THE JOB, HIS KINDLY AND PATIENT UNDERSTANDING OF OUR MEMBERS' PROBLEMS AND HIS INSATIABLE CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK MAKES HIM THE BEST SOCIETY SECRETARY I HAVE EVER MET.

ALL OF YOU HAVE MADE THIS YEAR A RED-LETTER ONE IN MY CAREER. I HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL GET EXTRA STARS IN YOUR CROWN.

TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED OVER THE PAST YEAR AND HAVE BEEN SO UNDERSTANDING, MY SINCERE THANKS. FROM THE STATISTICS YOU CAN MEASURE OUR PROGRESS. AS I COME TO THE END OF MY ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR, IT IS WITH SOME REGRET BUT WITH FERVENT HOPE THAT YOU WILL LET ME JOIN YOUR FUTURE AND WORK FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE SOCIETY FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.

BERTRAND RUSSELL OBSERVED: "IN OUR SCIENTIFIC WORLD, BAD MEN CAN DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD MEN CAN DO GOOD THAN SEEMED POSSIBLE TO OUR ANCESTORS IN THEIR FONDEST DREAM."

BY DILIGENT PLANNING AND CONCENTRATED EFFORT, LET US WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM; WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO DO MORE GOOD FOR THE ELECTRICAL PROFESSION THAN WE EVER DREAMED POSSIBLE.