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6 Merger Will Spur Advances, Joint Portland Session Hears

PORTLAND, Ore.—Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner, past president of the Institute of Radio Engineers, warned members of the IRE and American Institute of Electrical Engineers here last week that "preoccupation with the past" would "allow history to pass us by."

In a strong bid for support for the proposed merger of IRE and AIEE, Dr. Berkner said a reorganization of technical societies was needed to stimulate potential new engineering applications from science and "to welcome new forms of engineering as they appear."

Dr. Berkner, president of the

Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, spoke before a joint meeting of local IRE, AIEE and Western Electronic Manufacturers Association chapters.

"I submit that we can no longer classify engineers under a few specialties represented by specialized names of a few technical engineering societies, and exclude all the rest," he said.

The proposed new technical society, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, he described as symptomatic of the engineering response to demands by society on the profession.

"The key to the success of the new society will be its flexibility to respond to new technical needs and enthusiasms through organization of new professional technical groups quickly when needed, and to modify, combine or drop older

groups as needs pass or enthusiasm disappears."

Dr. Berkner said he believed the consolidation would come to pass within the year. "I hope so," he added.

It will be the assembly of a very substantial number of quasi-independent professional technical groups, each focused around a center of technical interest and enthusiasm, and each served by its own specialized administration, meetings and publications, he said.

Above all, he said, the society must be organized to respond readily to new forces "as they appear at the grass-roots," to function on a highly decentralized basis.

In addition to the needed flexibility in technical engineering organizations, Dr. Berkner said technological evolution also placed a new demand on engineering education.

The traditional departmentalized form of undergraduate engineering education makes no sense at all since the mid-century," he stated.

He urged reorganization of our educational system so that specialization in engineering would come only in graduate work. "As engineers, we must face the fact that the day of the bachelor of engineering is about over," he said.

He pointed out that some engineering schools had been making changes or considering them. "Revolutionary changes in education do not come easily," he said, "particularly with their consequent tragedies of the professors of yesterday who are left behind."

ASTM Buys Termatrex Retrieval Unit

WASHINGTON. — The American Society for Testing Materials has ordered a Termatrex information retrieval system from Jonker Business Machines, Inc., Gaithersburg, Md., according to Frederick Jonker, president.

He said the initial order from ASTM will result in sales of more than \$100,000. It is for 300 indexes to identify chemical compounds from their X-ray patterns. Mr. Jonker said potential sales of this index to industry, Government and universities throughout the world may be as high as 2000 units.

He said ASTM is currently evaluating test indices for use of Termatrex equipment for other areas of analytical spectral data, including infra red, ultra violet, near infra red, mass spectroscopy and emission spectroscopy.

The system enables the analytical chemist to identify chemical compounds by matching the X-ray pattern of an unidentified chemical

ELECTRONIC NEWS, MONDAY, MAY 28, 1962

Ford Held Hoping To Sell Off Philco Consumer Lines

SEATTLE. — A belief that Ford Motor Co. is hoping to sell off the consumer product lines of its recently acquired subsidiary, Philco Corp., was expressed by industry participants at the Institute of Radio Engineers' Seventh Region conference here last week.

Those interviewed, including employes of Philco, felt certain Ford would retain all the defense electronics activities of the subsidiary.

[No comment had been received from the firm at press time.]

A few felt it likely that Ford may also drop the Philco computer line, in spite of a statement last year following the acquisition that it would continue to market data processing equipment. Faced with stiff competition in the computer field, Ford is now willing to do an about face on its earlier decision.



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