

Pompano Beach, Fla.
January 24, 1968.

Mr. Donald Fink,
IEEE, New York, N.Y.

Dear Don,

To enable me to write my recollections of the merger story, I need some assistance and wonder whether you could have someone look up in the files of the minutes of the Board and Executive Committee of IRE for the data? I have not kept such files.

First; prior to 1960 following a futile attempt by a joint committee (I think it was a joint committee though it may have been a unilateral effort by IRE) to find grounds or areas where the two societies had overlapping interests where collaboration might be undertaken, IRE wrote a letter to AIEE indicating that the door was open and that IRE was ready to discuss such questions at any time AIEE indicated interest. I would like copies of any references to these meetings and the reports made back to IRE and particularly a copy of the letter in question.

Second;; either late in 1960 but more likely early in 1961, a letter came from AIEE referring to the previous IRE letter and suggested talks be resumed and, unless my memory fails, that a joint committee be established. I would like copies of references to this and also a copy of the AIEE communication.

Third; Early in 1961 IRE had the job of appointing someone to serve on a joint committee that had been established previously to see how the societies could collaborate on, as I recall it, student matters particularly. AIEE wanted to get in on IRE's successful Student Journal. Jack Ryder and I were IRE members. George Brown was an AIEE member. We held several meetings but the effort lagged due to an intransigent attitude on the other side. It was to this committee that an appointment was needed early in 1961. When it came up I was sitting next to Berkner (who was IRE President) and I suggested Haggerty. Lloyd asked Pat if he would take it and he accepted. I think it was after this action that the AIEE letter arrived and Pat Haggerty thus became the IRE contact man and he came to Pittsburgh to confer with Teare to see if there was a basis for an understanding. I would like copies of minutes referring to the previous committee on which I served (probably set up in late 59 or early 60,

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how it came to be established, its reports, etc. Also copies of the action taken in 61 appointing Haggerty, then Haggerty's trip to Pittsburgh and his report, the establishment of the next committee, then the committee of eight and its report and the action taken thereon and finally its expansion to the committee of fourteen to proceed with organizational details.

Through the years occasional efforts were made to find grounds of common interest where the societies might work out programs to avoid unnecessary duplication. One such committee (Morris Hooven was on it) visited my office in the 1940's with proposals. It was this theme that accompanied the efforts toward collaboration in the late 50's, further stimulated by troubles AIEE was having in the Student Branches area. It was still the theme early in 61, the thought of an actual merger being somewhat of a fantasy in view of the lack of success in getting together even on details. Somewhere after Haggerty was appointed IRE representative and before he went to Pittsburgh the concept suddenly changed from talks about areas of common interest to merger. I have an idea that it was Berkner that generated this rapid shift in thinking and if the minutes of the early 61 meetings indicate anything like this it would be of great interest.

One more item. I think it was the year that Clarence Linder was President of AIEE that he was invited to address a special luncheon meeting of the Board of IRE to talk about collaboration. Linder laid it on the line as to trends in AIEE he thought were dangerous for its future wellbeing. If Linder's talk was recorded I would like a copy. Probably it was not but minutes might record that such a meeting was held and its date would be of interest, also any correspondence that led up to it. I think it was during one of the March Conventions of IRE.

Best regards,

Haraden Pratt

cc: Nelson Hibshman