

Presidents's Letter
May Issue ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

3.15.182

Dear Member:

READ - THINK - VOTE

You have, or soon will have, the proxy form with which to vote on the question of merger with IRE.

You are asked first to read the facts and plans on which the proposal is based as they have been put before you in several issues of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING. Last month, April 1962, the Agreement of Merger, the proposed Constitution of IEEE, and the Principles of Consolidation, were published in complete detail. In this, the May issue, on pages _____, are summarized the salient facts and, so far as can be anticipated, effects of the merger on the practices and procedures to which members of AIEE have become accustomed.

As you read, let me ask you to think about this: The purpose of AIEE, IRE, and the proposed IEEE is common^{and} singular. It is "... to advance the theory and practice of electrical engineering, electronics ...". The personal returns, benefits, and services derived from membership are by-products, reflections, rewards, growing out of the achievement of that purpose. It is the responsibility of membership to contribute to the common professional objective. The society, regardless of its name and size, offers the member essentially one thing: a convenient, efficient channel through which to make a personal contribution to the advancement of the art. In advancing the art, he advances himself and he does so to the degree he succeeds in identifying himself with it. Your Board of Directors believes IEEE can be, if you will help to make it so, a far better means of advancing the art than either AIEE or IRE alone, even fully cooperating, can ever be.

As you read and think about this and come to vote on it, you will realize that you don't have all the answers. Nobody does. Your Boards of the two Institutes (Constituent Corporations, you notice, the lawyers call them) and their Eight-Man Committee and all of the Two-Man Committees are not smart enough to design and deliver IEEE to you as a finished package, but they are wise enough not to try. You must help shape it in years to come. The important thing is that it shall be flexible and responsive to the needs of the developing environment of which it is a part, and that its future leadership shall be bold and decisive and devoted to the purposes of the organization. After reading and thinking, your vote will indeed be an expression of your vision of the future, ~~be an expression~~ of your profession and your relation to your fellow members.

(A) If you don't want to read, and you'd rather not think; just return the proxy, signed but unmarked. Your officers, who have done a great deal of reading and thinking about this, will vote for you.

(B) If you feel that no amount of reading or additional thinking on your part will prepare you to reach a wiser conclusion than have the AIEE officers after their many hours of thought and deliberation, just return the proxy, signed and unmarked. Your officers will then vote for merger in your behalf, and will exercise your proxy on all matters at the June 18th meeting in Denver according to their best judgment.

W. H. Chase
President