

C. E. DAVIES  
29 West 39th Street  
New York 18, N. Y.

January 25, 1956

Mr. Walter B. Morton, AIEE Representative  
on Executive Committee of EJC  
c/o Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.,  
901 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Dear Walter:

Fallacy: Federation Impotence

This acknowledges your letter of October 24, 1955, in which you transmitted to the EJC Directors your article on "The Struggle for Unity" asking that they withhold judgment on your proposal until the EJC Planning Committee has had opportunity to review the plan and make recommendations to the EJC Board.

The purpose of this letter is not to discuss your proposed plan but to point out a fallacy in your article which is too often accepted and which you disprove in your own article.

The fallacy is "the inherent weakness of any federation type organization" which you mention on page 6 of your reprint. You state: "Any action within EJC must be referred back to the constituent Societies' boards for concurrence before action is taken."

On page 5 you recite eight accomplishments of EJC and state that EJC in a short time performed well in meeting its objectives.

Every one of the accomplishments you appraise as noteworthy were put into action without reference to the boards of the member Societies.

At least one project came to EJC through a suggestion by the board of a member body.

You omit other EJC accomplishments all made without benefit of board reference. The Atomic Energy Panel, the National Engineers' Register, the Nuclear Congress, and the Planning Committee which you proposed, are such accomplishments.

I attended the Cleveland Nuclear Engineering and Science Congress instituted and coordinated by EJC. It was a great occasion with over 3000 attending the presentation of more than 200 papers contributed under the auspices of 26 Societies. This Congress resulted from informal discussions of EJC committee members during the summer of 1954 when the need became

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apparent that something should be done to dramatize to the entire profession that nuclear engineering problems defy the existing disciplines. None of the succeeding actions of EJC which led to this highly successful Congress were referred to the constituent boards for approval. It is true that the success of the Congress required the support of the cooperating bodies through the proper agencies in each Society and undoubtedly the boards had cognizance of what was going on. However, as the plans were developed by EJC no detail was referred by EJC for acceptance or veto by the board of any constituent body. There was a unity of spirit demonstrated in this venture more significant and far-reaching than a unity organization on a chart.

In the same way, the dramatic story of the EJC Manpower Commission can be told. To meet an imperative need in 1950, the Commission was organized in two months; in another four months it had a permanent staff and within a year, it was operating an annual budget of \$100,000. This was done without benefit of referral to Society boards and its results have been of far-reaching value to the national security and the engineering profession. It is true that some Societies advanced funds to start the Commission in business. This required individual board action but the fact still remains that the initiation of the project was made without any board action.

An important reason why EJC has been able to take quick action on pressing problems is the fact that the EJC Board is made up of Society representatives who are members of the boards of the constituent Societies. As they sit on the EJC Board, they are conscious of their responsibility to their Societies as well as their broad responsibility to the profession and they act accordingly.

Changes in the EJC Constitution and the election of new members require action by the boards of member bodies. Each board must take action to provide its quota of the EJC budget although the budget as a whole is not submitted to the boards for approval. Each board must decide whether it wishes to participate in any particular EJC program requiring financial support over and above the annual EJC budget. These processes are fundamental to EJC operation and are necessary in carrying out a useful program. They do not hamper EJC or deaden its initiative.

This letter is written in my capacity as an individual director of EJC, as your letter was written. It has the cognizance of my fellow ASME directors on EJC and of the ASME Executive Committee. On the same basis, I assume your letter and article are expressions of your personal view and not the official expression of AIEE.

I am sending you fifty (50) copies of this letter because I know that in your usual fair way of encouraging discussion you will want to send it to those who received your letter and article with any comments you may



wish to make on this letter, which I will welcome heartily.

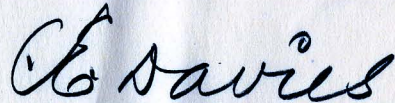
One copy of this is going to William F. Ryan, an ASME member whom you mention in your letter of October 24, 1955.

Whether you wish to forward the salient portions of this letter to Electrical Engineering as a discussion on your article is a question for you to decide. I do not press it.

I am making the general purport of this letter available to the ASME Sections who will discuss "unity", at the Spring Regional Administrative Committee meetings. Some of the Section officers have heard of the doctrine of the inherent impotence of federations and they are entitled to the facts.

With best wishes for your discussion program,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. E. Davies".

C. E. Davies

An ASME Representative on EJC