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PROPOSED MERGER OF AIEE & IRE

The Board of Directors of AIEE approved an Agreement for Merger with IRE in March 1962. A copy of this agreement was included in the April issue of Electrical Engineering. In the interest of presenting both sides of the question of merger the Executive Committee of the New Orleans Section has summarized the viewpoints of those opposed to merger.

In reviewing the 3 basic merger documents published in the Supplement to Electrical Engineering, April 1962, the following facts are pertinent:

- A. The Agreement of Merger contains several objectionable provisions, such as possible limitation of occupancy of the United Engineering Center to the present 2½ floors occupied by AIEE.
- B. The Constitution is practically word-for-word IRE's current constitution.
- C. The Principles of Consolidation are essentially a statement of the current mode of operation of the IRE organization.

Hence, the proposal upon which the AIEE membership is asked to vote is not a true merger, but a carte blanche waiver permitting IRE to absorb AIEE. All that is to remain of AIEE on a permanent basis is the date of its legal incorporation. It is certainly not unreasonable to believe that:

1. There are many facets of AIEE's operations which are superior to those of IRE, such as AIEE's technical committees vs IRE's professional groups, and AIEE's publication policy.
2. World-wide operations would be financially burdensome and would disturb working relationships AIEE has enjoyed with sister societies in other countries.
3. Membership qualifications, and nomination and election procedure for officers, should be spelled out in the Constitution, which is under control of the membership, rather than in the yet-to-be-written By-laws, which can be changed at any time by the Board of Directors.
4. Future expansion of IEEE headquarters should take place in the new United Engineering Center, for which AIEE members have contributed nearly \$1 million.

5. Insufficient time (October 1961-March 1962) has been allowed for exploration and planning for such a far-reaching step as a merger.

It can not be argued that it is highly desirable to have one American electrical engineering society, but not at any price. Plans for a new society should combine the best features of the two Institutes. Improvements in the organizational plan and operations developed by AIEE committees along with the aid of management consultants should most certainly have been included in the proposed merger documents.

In view of the lack of basic principles and procedures set forth in the proposed Constitution and Principles of Consolidation, it is recommended that all AIEE members give very serious consideration to this problem of merger before they vote. Whatever your feeling may be, mark and mail back your proxy ballot. And remember also that a negative vote at this time does not mean that you reject the merger permanently; it only means that you reject it in its present inadequate form.