

As an engineer with \_\_\_\_ years of experience in the power industry, I have been looking forward to the joining together of AIEE and IRE and am somewhat distressed at apparent misunderstandings of some elements of the proposed merger.

In my lifetime I have seen the profession of electrical engineering change rapidly. At one time electrical engineering meant power engineering. That is no longer true.

The field of electronics has not only expanded but has become an inseparable part of the power industry itself. Surely it would be a mistake to maintain an artificial dividing line between the two great engineering societies that are responsible for educational activities in the related fields of electrical and electronic engineering. Surely the merger of these two groups is a step forward.

I would be the last to say that the merger proposals are perfect in every detail. In fact they omit many details which can better be worked out after some operating experience. Like other old timers in AIEE I also have a feeling of nostalgia for the traditions of our Society and I would like to see many of them preserved, as I am confident the great ones will be. On the other hand, if a change in organizational structure will make the electrical-electronic engineering professions more progressive, more efficient, more adaptable, then I favor such a change. This is why I favor the merger plans.

Similar situations have been faced by others in the past. At the time the Constitution of the United States was written there were many who hated to see the old order change the prerogatives of separate states and territories merged into a Federal system.

4.17.206



No one today, however would contend that the United States of America would be better served by 50 separate armies and navies, by 50 separate customs systems, by 50 separate libraries of congress. I believe that our profession is at a turning point, comparable to the one faced by the United States in 1787. At that time Benjamin Franklin said, in urging the adoption of the Constitution of the United States:

"I doubt too, whether any other Convention we can obtain may be able to make a better Constitution. For when you assemble a number of men to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests and their selfish views. From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected? It therefore astonishes me, sir, to find this system approaching so near to perfection as it does."

I believe that these sentiments are as valuable today as they were then and plan to vote for the merger.

Sincerely,