

Return to Helshorn

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M. D. HOOVEN
President

April 12, 1956

Board of Directors
American Institute of Electrical Engineers

Gentlemen:

Each of us I am sure came away from the Dallas meeting with real regret that there was insufficient time to talk over matters of high policy which confront AIEE at this moment. Among several matters there are two which I consider of great importance which should have been explored thoroughly. I have discussed one or both of these matters with each of you personally or in correspondence, and there has been sporadic correspondence among all of us on these subjects. I refer specifically to relationships with IRE and, in a different field although still outside of our own Institute, to EJC.

After catching my breath from the Dallas meeting, it occurred to me that each member of the Board has a continuing duty of thoughtfulness; that it is possible to have an expression of opinion by correspondence rather than by open discussion. Exchange of opinion by correspondence even has certain advantages over open discussion in that it crystalizes the views of the writer and affords the reader a chance to see the other person's views without the possible distortion of open debate.

Therefore, I am requesting that each of you before May 1 if possible give me a separate memorandum on two subjects:

1. General policy and development of AIEE aims toward EJC
2. Policy toward and conduct of joint responsibilities with IRE

Background is outlined in two memorandums attached.

You may, as you see fit, write formal letters with copies to other members of the Board, write me a personal note on these subjects, or assume that previous correspondence or conversations have given me the picture of what is in your mind on either or both of these subjects. In any event, I shall attempt to digest and arrange a kind of spectrum of opinion which I shall send to you well before the end of May. This will establish a proper background for Board discussion which must take place in June.

Yours very truly,

M. D. Hooven
M. D. Hooven

MDH:AF

MEMORANDUM - EJC

Among other societies a kind of joke is occasionally made concerning the fact that AIEE seems to cooperate haltingly in EJC. This probably is due to the fact that EJC is not constituted according to AIEE's original concepts. On the other hand, AIEE went into EJC knowing this and with the implied obligation of making the present body operable. AIEE, like its associates, also has the obligation of improving the present setup. However, it has become increasingly difficult as EJC expands for AIEE to keep in touch with the common opinion of other societies.

There seems to be no doubt that, if AIEE has any mandate at all from its members, it is toward developing a unity body along the lines of Plan "C". This mandate, however, is by now several years old, and opinion may have changed, although there is no particular indication that it has.

EJC quite possibly may develop into a society which differs from any concepts previously held. The attitude of its constituent bodies toward its organization may change. Most certainly there is no considerable body of opinion within AIEE which endorses EJC in its present form. The questions to be discussed include the following:

Should AIEE withhold its support from EJC until its organization approaches more closely the desired form of unity organization? What is the desired form of unity organization, the plan as presented in the Walter Morton article in the October, 1955, issue of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING? a deviation from that plan? Should a re-survey of AIEE opinion be made? Should AIEE participation in EJC be conditional upon acceptance of an AIEE plan?

Discussions on these questions and on other similar general questions are needed to clear the air and define the issues.

MDH:AF 4-12-56 *MDH*

MEMORANDUM - IRE

IRE until the war was a society of specialists in electrical engineering about one quarter the size of AIEE, a ratio which lasted roughly through the explosion of the twenties and the depression of the thirties. However, since the war IRE has multiplied itself by seven, whereas AIEE has done a little better than double itself, until the two societies are now almost within ten thousand members of being equivalent. IRE has changed from a kind of an open association to one which has, under different names, grades of membership uniform with AIEE:

<u>AIEE</u>	<u>IRE</u>
Fellow	Fellow
Member	Senior Member
Associate Member	Member
Affiliate Member	Associate Member
Student Member	Student Member

AIEE, however, is distinctly ahead of IRE in the numbers of corporate members, which are Associate or above in AIEE and Member or above in IRE. A geometric extension of the curve would show that within another fifteen years IRE will be much the larger association in all grades. Common sense says, however, that the two societies will be about equivalent.

AIEE covers the whole field of electrical engineering, with perhaps an understandable lack of emphasis on purely radio subjects. IRE, originally covering only radio, now covers almost the whole field of electrical engineering, it having not yet invaded the power utility field except insofar as control and instrumentation is concerned, where its inroads are significant.

There is a large amount of joint activity continuously going on between the two institutes in student branches, section meetings, joint technical committee assignments, and joint special technical conferences.

IRE traditionally devotes its time only to technical activities. It has outside contacts with ASA, RTVMA, and so forth, in much the same way that AIEE has such contacts with ASA and NEMA. IRE does not participate in ECPD, EJC, and similar bodies. AIEE members active in such work have often indicated that they feel they represented the whole profession including IRE. IRE might not agree with this point of view.

The questions to be discussed are obvious, such as, should joint work be extended? or restricted? Should IRE be encouraged to take up extra-technical activities? or discouraged? A wide variety of opinions is to be expected. However, it is possible that general discussion will indicate clearly some path to be followed. A specific item which was not discussed at all at Dallas was a common initiation fee into both societies.

MDH
MDH:AF

4-12-56