

ON THE CONSOLIDATION

Some time ago, the AIEE and the IRE jointly announced a plan to merge into one organization involving some 150,000 engineers, scientists, educators and industrialists. In the November 1961 Newsletter, members were asked to voice their opinions on the merger to the local IRE and AIEE section chairmen. To my knowledge, there has been no significant reply. This indicates that the members are either in favor of the consolidation, feel indifferent toward it, or they don't read the Newsletter.

A few members have asked, "What follows the consolidation?" Several have made suggestions toward making the new organization more effective:

1. Name — IRE has not been an appropriate name for many years. The IEEE has been proposed as the name of the new organization. In addition to being cumbersome, it could easily become outdated. Twenty years hence, computer, logic and calculating functions may be performed primarily by hydraulics or pneumatics. Communications may be by optics. Electronic design may be replaced by growing functions or even end products. Perhaps a more appropriate name for the organization would be the "Institute of Physical Engineers."

2. Direction — The proposed emphasis on professional or technical groups is in the right direction if carried far enough. These groups should be created and dissolved according to the need of the time. Each member should belong to at least one group, according to his interests.

3. Publications — Although the IRE has certainly tried to make its "Proceedings" the type of publication the members want, we must admit the more down to earth publication of the AIEE is probably more widely read. A larger "Proceedings" will not serve the membership better. Instead, the "Proceedings" should probably be discontinued and its budget funneled into the professional group publications which in general have been

(Continued on page 7)



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Consolidation —

(Continued from page 5)

ham-strung from lack of funds. This would give the member one or more PG publications, according to his interests.

4. Conferences — Would anyone like to see the March madhouse increased in size by 65 per cent? The trend should be toward smaller conferences on a topic basis and larger conferences on a group basis. These would certainly be more meaningful than the one large conference which may have the individual's sessions of interest running concurrently.

What are your feelings on consolidation? If they're fit to print, we'll print them. If they're interesting enough, we'll print them anyway.

R.C.E.

93

4, 18, 220