AIEE Board Votes to Act On Consolidating with IRE

By MARC RAIZMAN
Special to Electronic News

DETROIT.—First positive steps toward a possible merger of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Radio Engineers were chronicled Friday when the AIEE's 35-man board of directors unanimously decided to consider the consolidation.

The IRE's board had voted unanimously on Wednesday for the same resolution.

Steps in the proposed consolidation will include a report by an eight-member committee composed of four members of each society which will report to the boards of both groups by Feb. 13 on a proposed constitution and bylaws, as well as "such other documents as counsel may recommend."

Upon approval of this committee's report by both boards, it will be submitted to a vote of the membership of AIEE and IRE by January, 1963.

"There are not two kinds of electronics, why should there be two societies dealing with that very same electron?" Mr. Haggerty asked.

Warren H. Chase, AIEE president and vice-president of the Ohio Bell Telephone Co., said that merger talks had been going on since January of the year, but that both organizations had for many years operated in a number of areas. They had cooperated in technical conferences and special shows, he said. In engineering schools the students join one amalgamated society, not two.

"It is in effect a reciprocal charter annual agreement, in which there is no initiation fee for a member of one of the societies if he joins the other."

Another Reason.

Mr. Chase pointed out another reason for the proposed merger. "Industrialists are getting tired of having to send their men to two different society meetings dealing on the same subject. "And," he said, "this kind of duplication is costly but also wastes manpower."" Mr. Haggerty added.

"AIEE's vote came at the end of a week-long Fall General Meeting held here."

The AIEE resolution called for the appointment of four of its members to join with four members of IRE to undertake "such studies as shall seem necessary and appropriate to determine the necessity, practicability and desirability of such consolidation..." The four AIEE members in the committee are Mr. Chase, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Alford, and Mr. Trent, IRE, and group vice-president.

AIEE, and group vice-president, General Electric Co., Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Robertson, former AIEE president, Mr. Haggerty, and Mr. Terek, IRE director, Dean of the College of Engineering, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh.

On Wednesday, a similar resolution, identical in words except that IRE's name was used instead of AIEE's, was approved unanimously by IRE's 25 board members, according to Mr. Haggerty.

IRE's four members that will join AIEE's four members are Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Vechter, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Haggerty, and Mr. Terek. Mr. Haggerty, IRE's president, and former president, American Cable and Radio Corp., New York.

Merger Timetable.

The consolidation timetable, assuming that the proposal for merger is approved by both societies' membership, calls for the eight-man committee to make a report to the boards of both societies by Feb. 13 on a proposed constitution and bylaws, and "such other documents as counsel may recommend."

If this report is approved by both boards, it will be submitted to a vote of the membership of the eight-man AIEE and IRE by Jan. 1, 1963.