Functional Grouping Vital in IEEE
(The following letter written by Clarence F. Paulus has been circulated within the power division of AIEEE and is printed here with the permission of the author.)

With the favorable vote on the AIEEE-IRE Merger, it seems to me that the Power Division of AIEEE must do some very serious thinking in order to chart its course. This would be true even if there were no merger.

I will discuss this subject within the scope of the Power Generation Committee. It seems to me that we in the AIEEE have not provided adequate help to the many engineers, both inside and outside the AIEEE in the power generation field. Our efforts to gain the full cooperation of the other engineering societies have not been successful. In fact, we have not done too well within the Institute.

My own experience within the Power Generation Committee and my professional work have been closely allied. It was in 1951, as I recall, that I first became conscious that there was no technical society which interested itself in the overall engineering problems within a power plant. As I was a member of EEI, I first approached it seeking the formation of a group which was interested in boilers, turbines, generators, and everything else involved in what I chose to call "integrated control."

It was very evident that there were many committees in the several technical institutes which were interested in certain phases of this subject. Their parochialism was and is astounding. My contacts with the Prime Movers and Electrical Equipment Committees of EEI, the Power Division of ASME, the ISA, various committees of AIEEE, and individuals prominent in the power generation field supported my views that our Balkanized technical societies are not adequate. Here was a tremendously important area with larger units, automation, and many other challenges on the horizon. Liaison was quite haphazard. Many engineers, both in the technical societies and at their places of employment blithely went their way feeling that if they did their particular jobs well, all would end well.

I was advised that the proper place for the coordination of the overall controls lay in the AIEEE Power Generation Committee. A subcommittee on control, protection and automation was formed for this purpose.

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