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### Functional Grouping Vital in IEEE

*(The following letter written by Clarence F. Paulus has been circulated within the power division of AIEE and is printed here with the permission of the author.)*

With the favorable vote on the AIEE-IRE Merger, it seems to me that the Power Division of AIEE 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 AIEE have not provided adequate help to the many engineers, both inside and outside the AIEE 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 still is astounding. My contacts with the Prime Movers and Electrical Equipment Committees of EEI, the Power Division of ASME, the ISA, various committees of AIEE, 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 AIEE Power Generation Committee. A subcommittee on control, protection and automation was formed for this purpose.

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In my tour of duties in AIEE from subcommittee member to chairman of the Power Generation Committee, I advocated this viewpoint as much as I could. Yet, now 10 years later, I feel that not enough has been accomplished. The joint effort with ASME in the National Power Conferences has gotten limited acceptance. The representation from ASME and their cooperation within the Control, Protection and Automation Subcommittee have been very meager. I know of no joint operations with the civil engineers; even now with the prominence of pumped storage generation. The ISA has just held its own Fifth National Power Symposium. We have not established effective working relations with the EEI, either Prime Movers or Electrical Equipment.

This is not good enough. Groups not experienced in the power plant field are moving in. We have only ourselves to blame. If we had the right cooperation among the groups mentioned greater progress could have been made in the American power generation field.

The time has come for the several organizations interested in the power generation and the entire light and power industry to get together. Maybe then we can be properly represented in the international picture as well as the national. Possibly this merger will speed things up by getting engineers to do some serious thinking.

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