

February 15, 1968

Dear Warren:

The Executive Committee of IEEE has decided that the time has come to record and publish a comprehensive history of the merger of AIEE and IRE into the present IEEE. As a member of the History Committee, I have been assigned to the job of collecting material for the project.

Much of the story is, of course, in the published record. With the help of the Headquarters Staff, I am bringing the bulk of this together. But, beyond that, I hope to gather a file of personal recollections of the discussions, accommodations, compromises, and decisions that led to the Boards' actions in recommending merger to the memberships and culminated in the implementation on January 1, 1963.

There was, we know, some cooperation and many joint activities over the years since 1912. There are references to informal suggestions concerning fields of common interest and perhaps even of merger before May of 1961.

What I'm particularly interested in, at the moment, is your recollections of earliest contacts and any knowledge you may have of events during the two or three years preceding May 1961 that would throw light on preliminary moves toward merger negotiations.

I'm not far enough along with the job to raise many specific questions. I need more fully to review the published record and such of my own files as I have recovered from storage at Headquarters. I brought nothing, not even my library, down here with me. But in the meantime, I'd greatly appreciate it if you would look over the enclosed tentative outline for the story and comment on any omissions, indicate any points needing special emphasis, and let me have any thoughts that the outline brings to mind which are not covered by the published record. In addition to a most fortunate coincidence of personnel in the leadership in the two societies, what factors, in your opinion, were at work to make the merger possible at that time?

The History Committee, and I especially, will appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Nelson

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