

February 15, 1968

Dear Dick:

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 IEEE History Committee, I have been assigned 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 we can 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 occasional informal suggestions concerning fields of common interest and perhaps even of merger before you and Pat Haggerty got together in May of 1961. That meeting, however, appears to have been the starting point for what happened on January 1, 1963.

I guess what I'm particularly interested in at the moment is your recollections of those early considerations that convinced you that merger was the only solution 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 into the job to raise many specific questions. I need to review more fully the published record. Unfortunately, I brought no files, nor even my library, with me. But in the meantime, I would greatly appreciate your help in several ways:

1) Review the enclosed proposed tentative outline, comment on any omissions, and indicate points requiring emphasis. For instance, it has been suggested that the article or story, which might run to a series of several articles in SPECTRUM, should start with a very brief review of the evolution of the organized engineering profession, starting with the British Institution of Civil Engineers.

2) Direct our attention to any documents, published or otherwise, which you consider particularly useful to the project. (I have the minutes of the 14-Man Committee, the Red, Green, and Yellow supplements published by the societies in their monthly magazines. I hope to find EE and PIRE in some local library. Your and Haggerty's reports to your Boards should be in the minutes. I haven't yet seen any minutes of the 8-Man Committee, nor reports of the 2-Man Task Forces. They should be somewhere. Or, did the 8-Man Committee keep minutes?)

3) If you have a personal file of correspondence, or memoranda that might yield interesting highlights and sidelights which should be reviewed, they might be useful.

4) Any suggestions on how to handle the job.

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

Sincerely,

*Nelson*

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