More $ for Engineering Education

H. R. 582 originally called the “National Engineering and Science Personnel Act of 1983” establishes a fund of $500 Mega- bucks for the National Science Foundation (NSF) under the name of Engineering and Science. I addressed this issue in March and still believe it is not only a waste of the taxpayers dollars, but it is detrimental to the engineering profession and practitioner. H. R. 582 seemed to be going nowhere in its past form (1982) and original 1983 title, so it was buried in the back of H. R. 1380. Apparently this was successful as it was passed in the House on March 2, 1983. Perhaps the Representatives did not read past the first 15 pages.

Title II of H. R. 1380 provides for the money outing of engineering graduates. With current engineering graduating classes of 100,000 and a total engineering job market of 2,000,000, the system can be refilled in ten years. In my view, most of these new graduates will never serve in their selected profession. They may apply for engineering work but, they won’t find out until it’s too late. Older engineers will be bumped and salaries will drop.

NSF is being used by educators to gain more tax dollars to educate more students for engineering. The primary goal is to keep funding the colleges and universities. The student is merely the catalyst and the victim. H. R. 1380, page 13, line 21, Paragraph 6 reads “The nation now faces critical shortages in science as well as engineering and technical skills.” Only one widely disputed survey can be used to support this statement. That survey was taken by the American Electronics Association (AEA). IEEE does not believe it. AAEs does not believe it. Why did Congress believe it?

No Potential For “Potentials”?

Dear Editor:

I have read, in the May issue of the section newsletter, that the Executive Committee of the North Jersey Section has decided to donate $500 of the members’ money to support the IEEE student magazine, “Potentials.” I think this is a mistake.

The student magazine is principally an organ of IEEE’s educational establishment. The Winter, 1983 issue, for example, carried a long article extolling the virtues of full-time graduate engineering education. At no time was it mentioned that, by pursuing this course immediately after graduation, the novice engineer actually postpones one of the most important career decisions he/she will have to make — whether or not to remain in engineering! Not surprisingly, this one-sided article was written by the Dean of Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The academic establishment within IEEE has never suffered from a dearth of funds. Let their resources support “Potentials.” The majority of members in the North Jersey section are not academicians. The gift of $500 could have been put to much better use, for example, inserting advertisements in the student newspapers within the area warning the readers that the claims of engineering shortages are simply myths.

Irwin Feirst — Committee of Concerned E.E.’s

The meetings of the North Jersey Sections Executive Committee are well run in a democratic fashion. A motion to donate $500 to the magazine “Potentials” was made, seconded and discussed at length. Some of your concerns were discussed at the meeting and the magazine will be reviewed for accuracy in its future content.

Thank you for your letters and interest in North Jersey. We wish more engineers in North Jersey were as concerned and interested as you.

Keeping Up With The PACE

This column is dedicated to keeping IEEE Members and other professionals up to date with PACE. We need and appreciate your comments and participation. We invite you and your associ- ates to attend any and all Section Meetings. Our Executive Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month. Other meetings are listed on the Newsletter. Call any Section Officer listed on the masthead for information about Executive Committee meetings.

You may copy this Newsletter or show it to your associates. Encourage other professionals to support PACE by joining IEEE. Contact Don Weinstein at (201) 945-3000 for a free information kit about IEEE membership.

Solicent Centennial Medal Nominees

In 1984, the IEEE will recognize 100 years of electrical progress in its Centennial celebrations and is planning a distinctive recognition program in honor of its Centennial. This recognition will take the form of Centennial Medals to be awarded to those who have made outstanding contributions to the Section and Profession. The principal recipients of the medals will be determined by the Sections, Societies and the major Boards.

The North Jersey Section has been allocated thirteen of the 1984 Centennial medals. The Awards Committee of the North Jersey Section is soliciting nominations for these medals. For a section award, the committee is seeking people who have made outstanding contributions to the Section, Chapter or the local community. The Awards Committee will meet in August and determine the thirteen awardees to be submitted to IEEE.

The procedure to submit candidates is quite simple. Write the name, address, company affiliation and phone number of the prospective candidate together with a short paragraph describing the outstanding contribution on a single sheet of paper and submit by August 1, 1983 to: Dr. J. J. Suszi, Chairman, IEEE North Jersey Section Awards Committee, Bell Telephone Laboratories, 25 Lindsay Drive, Morristown, New Jersey 07960.

The medals will be presented at the Section Awards banquet in 1984.
Consultants Wanted
To teach 4-Day Short Courses for Technical Professionals in the field of:
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LEGISLATION
-- A National Effort
By Sandra Blair—USAB Staff Member, Washington, D.C.

With almost 300 people on the PACE/Government Action mailing list asking 20 engineers to contact their two Senators and one Representative, we would have 18,000 requests for legislative action. The number of members that would benefit from legislation is far greater. Keep in mind, it is not only engineers that benefit. People in many other occupations suffer from inequitable regulations. If you can expand your campaigning in your community, so much the better.

Some points on contacting Congressmen:
1. Handwritten letters that are customized to you do not look like form letters are most effective.
2. Make sure your Congressman’s local staff is effective, especially if quite a few people call. Get on a first name basis with local staff members.

FREE UPS Catalog!
Quality UPS Systems by HDR Power Systems, Inc.

LEGEND/83, the annual high technology electronics show and convention and Mini/Micro Northeast, the computer conference and exhibition, directed at the OEM market place was an outstanding success. Sponsored by Region I, its sections and the Electronic Representatives Association, it was held in New York City during April 19th to 22nd.

The combined registration of 5,374 was far the largest number of people ever to register for Electro since its inception in 1976 as a replacement for Intercon and MERE. The number of exhibit booths was also a record.

The Electro Board of Directors extending its thanks to all Section members who worked to make Electro/83 a success.