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The IEEE History Committee has been asked by the Executive Committee to prepare a History of the Merger of AIEE & IRE. My assignment is to gather material for the project. As I review the record, I get a strong impression that the Committee - - - you headed did a great deal to clear the way and set the stage for acceptance of the proposal brought to proceed forth with to the consummation. I do not, however, find in the record any further ~~comment~~ personal comment from you during the debate that followed the resolutions of the two Boards and preceded the membership vote and the incorporation on Jan 1, 1963.

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I would appreciate an informal summary, for my own background, of your ~~views~~ retrospective view of the evolution of the situation that made possible the rapid and relatively painless culmination of the event. I know your ability to take the broad view and the philosophic approach to organizational problems. This is something that must find expression in the History of the merger. The documentation of the many, partially successful, and some completely abortive, efforts at cooperation over the years may be possible, although the records are not very clear. Coordinating committees were appointed, reported, dissolved and the Presidents were empowered to confer. Such conferences usually led to another series of committees with little real progress. ~~There~~ The nearly 90% part of the trouble, no doubt, was the time-phase difference in administrative years. Officers and committees were never quite able to carry through in the ~~six~~ first or seven months of annual tenure.

What, in your opinion, were the factors that broke the stalemate and opened the way to ~~merge~~ ^{successful} contacts?

On several occasions AIEE's Board, ^{formally} declared its ~~acknowledged~~ ^{acknowledged} the desirability of merger and its willingness to discuss ^{the subject,} it. I have not found similar expressions in what I have the excerpts of IRE Board minutes that I have available prior to ~~the~~ (date). There must have been "off the record" ~~talk~~ ^{talk} going on, ~~conversations~~ ^{conversations} There Berliner + Chase met in Washington and Haggerty and Teare met in Pittsburgh and things - merger.