Dear Sir:

The letter to the editor appearing on Page 8 of the Feb. 19, 1963, issue of Electronic News commented on several aspects of the proposed merger of IRE and AIEE. The undesignated IRE members of the committee considering plans for a consolidation offered a few observations concerning the remarks in that letter.

Neglect to Provide for Open Discussion of Pros and Cons

A possible merger has not been under investigation for 15 years. Until 1961, only the possibility of the two societies agreeing to study such a plan arose several times, but no studied action was ever taken. The process of initiating such a discussion has been evolutionary. First, the committee had to agree to some basic issues as otherwise there would be nothing to discuss or examine. Then the IRE sections were informed, discussion at section level encouraged and comments solicited. Starting with basic criteria to the sections on Oct. 20, 1961, additional information was sent Nov. 28, Dec. 28, and Feb. 5, which latter included a detailed draft of preliminary "Principles of Consolidation." It was possible to prepare these Principles only because of the groundwork previously done that brought forth many helpful ideas originating from the sections and individual members. The several letters to the sections were responded to in the Proceedings of the IRE and all of this data is being republished in a special supplement to the March issue. About four months elapsed between Oct. 20 and Feb. 19.

The committee realizes that the process to Feb. 5 has only been introductory, but it seems clear that as the proposals evolve they have had wide circulation and members have not been denied the reading of the Proceedings articles and participation in section talks. It felt that at least this much information had to be absorbed before any thoughtful discussions could result.

The next step is to seek support of the two boards of directors on March 8 (Ed. Note: See related story, Page 1), and if that is forthcoming, an open discussion forum at the International Convention March 26 will be held.

Ground Rules

A two-thirds vote of a quorum of the voting members would be required under the laws of New York State where the IRE is incorporated. The quorum called for 33 1/3 per cent. A simple majority will not suffice. In recent elections many more than 33 1/3 per cent have returned ballots.

In conclusion, we point out that once the basic framework of merger has been adopted, innumerable details that surely will concern many members, will require time to become resolved and that six months will be available from mid-year to January, 1963, for doing this.

The letter of Feb. 19 has been timely and, I hope, provided a means for diminishing conjecture and establishing a better basis for further membership consideration.

LLOYD V. BEKKER
Past president, IRE
HARADEN PRATT
Secretary, IRE
Pompano Beach, Fla.