



THE INSTITUTE OF
ELECTRICAL AND
ELECTRONICS
ENGINEERS, INC.

Ivan S. Coggeshall
670 Maywood Avenue
Maywood, N. J. 07607

345 EAST 47TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 AREA CODE 212 PLAZA 2-6800

February 23, 1968

Dear Nelson:

I saved my IRE Minutes of BofD and ExCom for 1951, the year of my officiating. Under March 6, p. 36, I find Minute 53-A:

S. L. Bailey moved that the petition for the formation of a Student Branch, to be operated jointly with the AIEE, at Johns Hopkins University, be approved, and that the Joint Student Branch be established. (Unanimously approved.)

I suppose that by wading back through the Minutes of IRE and AIEE, one might officially piece together when the various elements of cooperation started, the dead weight of which, culminating in the joint Standards arrangements, may be said to have made top-side wonder Why Two Societies?

That would be quite an undertaking. If History Committee had any money, and assuming Minutes of both societies are intact, something worthwhile might be turned up, especially bearing on your question as to whether there's anything back of the statement that several suggestions for merger were discussed over the years.

A possible short-cut would be to get dated leads, then go to the Minutes to find supporting evidence.

Can I help by offering space in E.E., or could you persuade Jurgen to take space in Spectrum, to run something like this:

Mr. N. S. Hibshman, who is compiling an official history of the merger of IRE and AIEE for the IEEE History Committee at the Executive Committee's request, is looking for source material looking to the fixing of the following early dates:

- (1) Joint meetings of AIEE and IRE Student Branches at the same school or college.
- (2) Formation of a Joint Student Branch.
- (3) Joint meeting held, or activity jointly pursued, by AIEE and IRE Sections in the same locality.
- (4) Joint meeting held by an IRE Professional Group Chapter with an AIEE Section's local Group, Division, or Technical Discussion Group.
- (5) Any combination of (3) and (4).
- (6) Intersociety conference or symposium in which IRE

11, 58, 528

and AIEE were joint participants in the technical program.

- (7) Intersociety conference at which IRE and AIEE were joint financial sponsors.
- (8) Meeting of Standards entities of AIEE and IRE to formulate a joint Standard.
- (9) Any other joint activity prior to 1960.
- (10) Any official reference to merger prior to 1960.

This is not a search for all instances of joint activities but only the first ones.

To be of maximum value, the place, date, and occasion should be documented. Failing that, a less refined authentication will be acceptable, especially if it might lead to finding documentation in the files.

Records of Sections and Groups, Committees, etc., are of primary value—also anything in print or in correspondence. Chairmen, former chairmen, editors, and historians are urged to recollect, make inquiries, and write Mr. Hibshman, whose address is . . . etc.

Here is the question mark to end my interrogative sentence. (?) Is it worthwhile for you to work on the foregoing to turn it in some way to your purpose? Individual copies could be mailed to all living Past Presidents, inviting participation. Maybe George Bailey could be invited to comment on a draft and thus be made a sidelines party to the hunt.

With gusto

Coggie