

March 5, 1968

Dear Haraden:

Relative to the AIEE Board resolution of April 1952 and your interest in who inspired it, the answer is Walter J. Barrett. He is quoted in his report which preceded the resolution as saying "... the ultimate desirable outcome is a complete merger!"

My search for "firsts" has so far been limited to the AIEE Board Minutes beginning with August 1940. Here are a few:

Joint Meetings

October 1942 - "The Technical Program Committee considered at its meeting of Sept. 18, a suggestion referred to it by Mr. Everett S. Lee that, in view of their difficulty in maintaining conventions, consideration be given to inviting IRE to the AIEE conventions, or to arranging for certain IRE presentations at some of the AIEE conventions. The Committee voted to inform the President and the National Secretary that it will be glad to have the IRE join with us in the Winter Technical Meeting in any way they wish to do". The Board voted its approval of this invitation and then on a related subject, "VOTED to authorize the NY Section to appoint representatives to (a) joint committee to work out closer cooperation between IRE and AIEE in the New York area, including joint meetings."

Relations

May 1945 - After a discussion of the apparent expansion of the field of activity of the IRE overlapping that of AIEE, it was the opinion "that the only solution is to effect a combination of the two organizations! (If we take combination as equivalent of merger, this predates the 1952 resolution by 7 years.)

Same meeting - "VOTED to authorize the Committee on Student Branches to form a Student Branch jointly with IRE at Northwestern Technological Institute." Then this statement: "It was understood that the National Secretary will inform the Chairman of the Committee on Student Branches that this is an experiment at a single institution."

It strikes me as interesting that the founding of AIEE was inspired by an International Electrical Exposition and that its first technical sessions were held in rooms provided by the "Show".

I expect, I'll be seeing you first at the cocktail party.

Sincerely,

Nelson

11.58.536