Merger Plan of AIEE, IRE In Hands of Membership

By LEON TOLOPKO

NEW YORK. — The proposed consolidation of the Institute of Radio Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers is now—for all intents and purposes—in the hands of both organizations' membership.

This development resulted from separate IRE and AIEE board meetings held here last Thursday and Friday at which the proposed constitution, principles of consolidation and the agreement to merge were approved.

The constitution of the new organization—tentatively called the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers — the principles of consolidation, the agreement to merge, and a proxy ballot will be sent to both memberships by May 4. Their decisions should be made known by June 18.

One-third of each membership must vote, and of this one-third, two-thirds must vote in favor of the merger. Both societies will continue to exist as is until Jan. 1, 1963, at which time the consolidation will be consummated. However, until that time, either society has the right to withdraw from the merger.

Warren Chase, president of AIEE, said that most of the time at the two-day meeting was spent putting the constitution, principles of consolidation, and the agreement to merge into legal form.

Board members of the AIEE met at the United Engineering Center, and those of the IRE met at its headquarters. Both meetings were linked by an intercommunication system through which the boards discussed, when necessary, details of the proposed merger.

On March 26, during the 1962 International Convention of the IRE, a panel composed of the joint committee that was formed by the IRE and AIEE boards to determine the feasibility, practicality and form of the proposed consolidation of the two societies will meet to discuss the merger. Those in attendance

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will have the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

Among the principles of consolidation of the proposed IEEE are the following:

● To establish seven regions in North America, with an eighth region representing the rest of the world.

● To set up a series of Professional-Technical Groups to consist of IEEE members and non-members, which would be organized along professional rather than geographical lines.

● To establish an over-all Professional Group Committee to guide the operation of these units.

● To hold four meetings a year of a 25-member board of directors.

● To establish 13 Standing Committees to deal with finance, awards, students, editorial, etc.

● To merge all assets of both groups.