



Report of the 1961 President

Ronald R. McNaughton

Completion of the United Engineering Center has demonstrated that members of the engineering profession can and will cooperate effectively when the significance of the objective has been clearly defined and accepted. Each of the Founder Societies exceeded its quota in raising money for this \$12 million headquarters. The building was designed with care and distinction. The site, in the United Nations complex, was selected with inspiration and foresight by the United Engineering Trustees, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their sincere dedication and devotion which brought this project to a successful conclusion.

The advantages of the decentralization of AIME into three largely autonomous societies have become more apparent with the passage of time. Probably of greatest importance is in the area of service to members, who are naturally inclined to attach more significance to technical as opposed to professional interests. The importance of the latter cannot, however, be overlooked. Our membership, with the other Founder and associated engineering societies, in the Engineers Joint Council and the Engineers Council for Professional Development, assures that the technical and academic interdisciplinary interests of AIME members will be adequately represented in fields of broad significance. Any consideration of AIME organization and functions should properly emphasize this important phase of our activities.

A matter of concern to your Board, as it has been to others previously, has been the problem of communication. Past efforts designed to encourage and assist the individual member to attain recognition of his counsel and consideration of his problems have, for one reason or another, been singularly ineffective. Your Board assigned the highest priority to a solution of this problem and we are encouraged to believe that the reorganization of the Council of Section Delegates is a first step in the right direction, although it is fully recognized that there is latitude for improvement. The device of grouping sections into geographic regions reduces the participants in discussions to a manageable number and effectively improves the opportunity to develop answers to subjects of mutual interest which can be applied with profit to Local Section operation or transmitted to the Board

with dispatch. It is our hope that the Sections will now have a greater opportunity than ever to demonstrate that they are a vital force in the growth and health of the Institute.

Considerable concern has been expressed over the downward trend in university enrollments in engineering. Mining courses in many institutions have been discontinued due to lack of student demand. The Education Committees of our three Societies are aware of this situation and have been giving increased attention to student guidance matters in cooperation with ECPD. It is true that some Sections do an outstanding job on student relations but there is ample room for improvement in many cases and I urge you to give this matter your serious consideration.

The worrying problem of inter-engineering society unity, which has engaged our attention for some years, has been under continuing study and discussion by a committee of your Board. Although no completely acceptable plan has been proposed which satisfies the technical and professional, as well as the economic and legislative aspects of our engineering life, we are continuing to meet with our sister societies for discussions in these areas. It is encouraging that definite progress is being made in arriving at a satisfactory compromise of opposing interests.

A glance at the 1961 Condensed Financial Statement will show that it cost a record \$1.206 million to run the Institute in 1961. This amounts to \$33.50 for each of the 36,000 members. The gross cost of publications alone was \$19.13 per member. You will observe also that \$393,498 of income from our endowment and custodian funds was used to finance those activities for which these funds were originally established and this amount is not included in the gross operating cost. We must make every effort to conserve intact those endowments, whose use is unrestricted, for special projects or emergency situations.

Your Executive and Finance Committees have been giving very serious attention to the sources and disposal of our income. Operating expenses have been continuously under intimate inspection and the many demands on AIME for financial support have been closely scrutinized. We have been extremely fortunate in having been able to enlist the help of able and devoted members who unselfishly gave much of their time to the consideration of our problems of finance.

Another year of progress and promise for the future has been completed. To the Board of Directors, to the members who have so generously given me their aid and counsel, and to the staff of our three offices I tender my sincere thanks for their dedicated help and cooperation.

R. L. McNaughton
President