



Report of the 1973 President

James B. Austin

During 1973 major attention of AIME officers and staffs continued to be devoted to internal activities and organization. At the beginning of the year implementation of the plan to decentralize the Business Office previously operated by the AIME Headquarters was started, and business services, such as accounting, membership records, data processing and Section-Student Chapter administration, were transferred to the three Constituent Societies. The AIME Headquarters was established at the same time as one of the four operating units of the Institute. Since the decentralization involved changes in procedures, making the plan work has required constant effort. All four units are now operating effectively on a decentralized basis.

Under the decentralized plan the AIME Corporate Headquarters is responsible for external functions involving AIME as a single organization and the coordination of AIME programs internally. The Constituent Societies are responsible for direct service to members, the conduct of Society meetings, and the issuance of publications. The Societies are also charged with administration of all AIME local Sections and Student Chapters.

The AIME Council of Section Delegates has been in an interim status in the past year. Decentralized administration of local Sections created a need for different types of Section officer meetings. In place of the six geographical regional meetings of the CSD held in prior years, four special meetings were held in 1973. AIME President James B. Austin and Executive Director Joe B. Alford made presentations at these meetings on AIME organization and operation. The meetings were successful, and further study is now being conducted on the best means of maintaining communications between the AIME Headquarters and Section officers.

Improved communications with AIME members from the AIME Headquarters has also been a goal during 1973. Articles on the merger study between AIME and the American Society for Metals, and on the question of unity in the engineering profession have been published in AIME journals. Plans for publication of an AIME Headquarters Report were completed. The first issue of this Report, an in-depth presentation on AIME and Constituent Society headquarters offices in New York, Dallas and Salt Lake City, has been published. The Report will be sent directly to all officers of the Institute, Constituent Societies, Divisions, Councils and local Sections on a quarterly basis in the future.

In October 1973 the AIME Board of Directors took an important step in authorizing the President of the Institute to speak on national affairs in matters of a technical and professional nature within the purview of AIME. The President may call on various groups in the Institute for counselor expertise in speaking for AIME, and he will report significant statements made to the AIME Board. In December the occasion arose for the engineering societies to express their position on a new Energy R&D Administration in the federal government. President Austin joined with six other society presidents in supporting the principle of an expanded R&D effort in the energy field. This change in procedure will enable AIME to express a position on important national issues more rapidly in the future, and to join with other technical societies in being more active in public affairs.

Important developments occurred during the year in AIME Constituent Societies. The Society of Mining Engineers of AIME, after extended study, decided to move its headquarters offices from Manhattan to Salt Lake City. The move was started in December, to be completed in the spring of 1974. The offices will be housed in a building in Utah Research Park, a new development of the State of Utah near the campus of the University of Utah.

The Metallurgical Society of AIME conducted internal studies from which came a proposal to expand the Iron and Steel Division to an Iron and Steel Society of AIME, to be the fourth Constituent Society. The proposal has been presented to the AIME Board of Directors. An in-depth study of the proposal and its possible impact on the rest of the Institute will be made during 1974.

The Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME started an extensive study of its internal organization and operations to further implement the decentralization and its service to members. The Society headquarters staff in Dallas continued the management of the still expanding Offshore Technology Conference. The increasing recognition of the importance of energy and mineral resources to the nation brought a sharper focus on AIME and its role in further development of the technology for these resources. The Institute is responding and will continue to respond to the challenge of this responsibility in providing a continuing forum for the dissemination of rapidly expanding knowledge in its fields of activities. AIME members, the engineering profession, and the nation will continue to benefit from the ongoing programs of the Institute.

James B. Austin 1973 AIME
President