The past year has been one of considerable internal change for AIME. The purpose of the change has been to utilize more effectively all of the organizations, officers, and staffs in the Institute to serve AIME members in a wide variety of technical endeavors and geographic locations.

AIME was the first national engineering society founded to serve a specific industry—the mining industry. Since its founding in 1871, this industry has broadened into the entire spectrum of industries covering and non-metallic minerals, numerous metals, and all forms of petroleum. During this past century, AIME has been through three major cycles of change in organization, publications and activities, always adapting its organization and operations to meet the changing needs of what is now almost 50,000 members. The Institute has become a federation of membership groups interested in different technical specialties concerned with minerals and products made from them.

These membership groups were organized into the three Constituent Societies of AIME in 1957. Since that year the AIME Headquarters has operated a central business office for membership records, membership services, accounting, and special programs. The Society of Mining Engineers of AIME and The Metallurgical Society of AIME have been located in the United Engineering Center in New York along with the AIME Headquarters, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME has been located in Dallas, Texas. During the past decade the operations and activities of the three Societies have varied considerably and their respective needs and financial resources have also varied. An increase in membership dues for SME-AIME and TMS-AIME has become necessary, but SPE-AIME hopes to maintain the membership dues schedule it has had since 1950. In order to accommodate different dues in three Constituent Societies, the AIME Board of Directors in February, 1972, decided to decentralize the AIME Business Office and delegate to each Constituent Society the responsibility for maintaining its own business services, membership records, meetings, publications, and special programs for members of the Society. Further, the Board directed that the responsibility for administering AIME local sections and student chapters should be delegated to the three Constituent Societies to facilitate membership services. The Constituent Societies will continue to function within the framework of the AIME Corporation and policy determined by the AIME Board of Directors, operating under the respective Boards of Directors of the Constituent Societies. Each Society maintains its own staff and headquarters office as well as the facilities for providing member services.
The AIME Corporation is the legal entity through which all its subsidiary units exist, and is the owner of all AIME assets, now some $5,900,000. With the decentralization of the business office, the AIME Corporate Headquarters will consist of a small staff under the AIME Executive Director, reporting to the AIME President and Board of Directors; It will be responsible for the administration, activities and functions involving AIME as a single organization; the management of the AIME Annual Meeting; the coordination of AIME programs internally; the administration of AIME Awards; and providing staff support for the AIME Councils and 38 all-Institute Committees. The Headquarters will also handle external functions for AIME emphasizing interdisciplinary activities and our relations with other engineering societies, federations and government agencies. For example, the Headquarters is engaged in the development of a possible program for certification of individual engineers through the Engineers Joint Council.

In summary, the year 1972 has brought organizational changes which will permit the Corporate Headquarters to function in ways that will benefit all AIME members and the Institute as a whole, and the Constituent Societies to conduct operations and activities aimed toward serving members directly. The changes have been of considerable magnitude. In general, they have been accomplished without major difficulty and the years ahead should bring stronger organization to the entire Institute and a broader range of service to all AIME members.

Dennis L. McElroy 1972 AIME President