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T. M. LINVILLE

Mr. Linville is Manager, Research Operation Services Department, General Electric Research Laboratory

"...It may well be that the supply of professional managers may determine the fate of our civilization. Adequate supply coupled with further development of the science of managing is needed, because the fulfillment of human wants demands organized human effort on an ever-increasing scale. The result of this expansion of organized operations will be to provide more free time for each individual person to pursue happiness through his own private pursuits.

Human progress marches on. The professional manager recognizes the objectives of people as a whole and directs his work toward that end as well as toward immediate objectives. People today, as always, are seeking more comforts and less drudgery as well as protection from the hazards of life. Today the outstanding hazards are war, unemployment, illness, old age, and dependency of loved ones. The comforts being sought are the age old ones of food, shelter, and clothing, and the newer ones of education, recreation, and personal freedom and development.

If professional managers fail to meet these objectives, some shortsighted politicians are likely to lead the people to give up their economic and political freedoms, thereby freezing the economy into low-level production.

Professional managing is a calling in which one puts special knowledge to use with broad human understanding in the services of not only himself and his employers, but also in the service of his employees, his customers, and the community and nation.

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E. S. LEE

Mr. Lee is Editor of the General Electric Review

"...The prophecy made years ago by Dr. Steinmetz that the electrical age—and the electrical industry—was in its infancy, can still be made today. In 1935 the electrical manufacturing industry supplied only 1.7 percent of the gross national product. Today it supplies 4 percent. There are those who forecast that as early as 1961 the products of electrical manufacturing will represent an estimated 51/2 to 6 percent of the gross national product.

The forecasters have been busy, too, drawing dotted lines to show the probable kilowatt-hour output of electric power in the years ahead. A once daring prediction of one-trillion kilowatt-hours for the year 1970 is now moved ahead to 1965, and the really long-range prophets are talking among themselves about an annual output of five-trillion kilowatt-hours by the year 2000.

By virtue of its position, the electrical industry must be prepared to grow more than twice as fast as the remainder of the economy. Based on the best estimates of the growth of the economy as a whole, it is probable that in the next 10 years as much electrical generating equipment will be built, sold, and installed as has been built and installed in the industry's past 75-year history.

What a prospect for the engineer! Such growth means the solution of new and more complex technical problems, together with the advancement of managing ability to solve the many human problems that come with the expanded units of production. In both of these realms the call for solutions is intense. In ever-expanding avenues the opportunity for the new is more extensive than ever.

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