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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

CLASSIFIED BY	00254
DATE	3-15-60

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, June 30, 1952

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: June 30, 1952

Attending: C. W. Adams, D. R. Brown, S. F. Dodd, H. R. Everett,
H. Fahnestock, N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser, P. Youtz

- Agenda:
1. Stockroom Procedure
 2. Whittemore Building--Fourth Floor Building 3
 3. IAS Computer
 4. Memory Development

1. Stockroom Procedure

Taylor asked for a clarification of the stockroom procedure with respect to assigned stock. Many critical items such as crystal rectifiers are now only in assigned stock. General stock is open and can be taken by any staff member or technician. Stock ordered for a particular construction requisition or for a particular job is assigned stock and is set aside when it is received. Shortages in the stockroom may result from procurement difficulties or from inadequate inventory control. The latter difficulty may be improved by requiring that each person taking material from general stock sign a slip indicating the parts he is taking. This slip would not require approval and would be for record keeping purposes only. Also, representatives from the Standards Committee should make their anticipated needs known as early and fully as possible. Minimum quantities for general stock are now being estimated and being increased. The situation for items which are difficult to procure might be improved by requiring a Group Leader's signature on the stockroom slip when critical items are removed. A list of critical items will be obtained and discussed before any such scheme is put into effect.

2. Whittemore Building--Fourth Floor Building 3

Partitions will be put on the fourth floor of the Whittemore Building as soon as a misunderstanding between the Administration and Buildings and Power is cleared up. The same applies to the space for Adams on the first floor of the Barta Building.

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3. IAS Computer

Brown reported on his visit to Princeton to see the IAS Computer. The computer is very impressive considering that it is a high-speed, forty-digit parallel machine using electrostatic storage yet occupies a very small space. It is about ten feet long, six feet high and several feet wide. The forty Williams storage tubes are placed at the base of the machine--twenty on each side. The circuitry is arranged in a sort of plastic chimney with all the tubes sticking inwards with bare wiring carrying power and video. The construction appears to be extremely compact--perhaps carried to the point of making maintenance very difficult. Operation seems to be satisfactory. On the day Brown was there, the computer had been running ten hours without serious error. The read-around ratio on the Williams storage is low enough so that the programmers must take this into account to avoid difficulty. The minimum read-around ratio is evidently about 25.

4. Memory Development

Wieser stated that Jack Harrington has a selectron memory that looks very nice. Its capacity is about 5,000 binary digits.

Brown reported on his visit to Magnetics, Inc. to pave the way for an order for 20,000 cores. Magnetics, Inc. believe they can deliver the cores within three months and that the price will be less than 50 cents each.

Taylor reported that the Armed Forces Security Agency has placed a contract with ERA for a magnetic-ribbon memory to be patterned after the MIT design. ERA will ask to send men here to learn our techniques.

Signed

David R. Brown

David R. Brown
Secretary

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