

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED

2

Memorandum L-34

Page 1 of 2

Digital Computer Laboratory  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADER'S MEETING, March 26, 1952  
 To: Group Leaders  
 From: H. Fahnestock  
 Date: March 27, 1952

CLASSIFICATION REQUIRED TO:
Approved: <u>DD254</u>
By: <u>llk</u>
Date: <u>3-15-60</u>

1. The first group leader's meeting was held on March 26, 1952. Those attending were Forrester, Everett, Fahnestock, Wieser, Taylor, Dodd, Youtz, and Adams - Brown was out of town. It was decided to have a weekly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays starting March 31. Since Brown was absent from the first meeting he was unanimously chosen for Secretary of the meetings and will prepare minutes each week.
2. Forrester announced the formation of Group 64 and 65 of Division 6 which had the prior agreement of Dodd and Youtz who respectively had the Whirlwind I and Storage Tube groups.
3. Forrester pointed out that the Division 6 Lincoln Progress Report is due on May 15. It is important that each section of this report clearly show the appropriate security classification. Fahnestock will check with the Lincoln editorial office to find out the form in which they will accept copy.
4. Forrester discussed the security classification of Whirlwind II. It appears to be fairly common knowledge that Whirlwind II is under design and we can admit this in personnel interviews but should use discretion on what appears in public. So far, the magnetic material work is unclassified. The characteristic and intended use of Whirlwind II are classified and we should avoid discussing any definition or specification of the machine.
5. The rest of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of time schedules and manpower for Whirlwind II.

Taylor stated that training new personnel was taking a very appreciable part of the scheduled time, particularly because he lacked a sufficient number of people from the old organization to do the training. For this reason the January 1, 1955 target seems unrealistic. He stated that of the twenty-three people on Whirlwind II, excluding himself and Brown, only four had had previous experience and only one of these had Whirlwind I design experience. With this small group basic design decisions must be made by summer or early fall. Taylor would like to get one or two men from the Whirlwind I group.

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Memorandum L-34

Page 2 of 2

Dodd stated that with present manpower, the contemplated additions to Whirlwind I which will practically double its size, cannot possibly be completed in April, 1953. The Whirlwind I design group under O'Brien includes only McVicar with Whirlwind I experience. Dodd has considered that Whirlwind I is a training ground for Whirlwind II, but the requirements of Whirlwind I have been increasing faster than the training so that there is no surplus for Whirlwind II.

Forrester proposed two particular questions for consideration:

1. What would we gain in Whirlwind II time by adding a particular number of people?
2. Is our effort properly balanced between Cape Cod, the prototype for Whirlwind II, and Whirlwind II so that we are heading most efficiently toward a working air defence system?

Taylor estimated that if we took all effort off Whirlwind I, a product model of an entirely new Whirlwind II might be ready by January 1, 1956; by using the Whirlwind I people this would be January 1, 1958. Dodd pointed out that diluting the effort on Whirlwind I and Cape Cod might easily push Whirlwind I out to the original time estimates for Whirlwind II.

Youtz questioned whether training was adequate and Taylor stated that he was doing as much as he could with the people available. He pointed out that it had taken Jacobs, a very superior man, six months to appreciate what is needed of a transistor in a computer. Dodd stated that it took Roberts, another superior man, six months to learn the Whirlwind I computer.

Forrester asked Dodd and Wieser to investigate the possibility and implications of transferring manpower to Whirlwind II. Dodd hopes to have some schedules available by April 7.

Signed

  
Harris Fahnestock  
Secretary pro tem

HF/rb

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED