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Memorandum 6L-221

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Division 6 - Lincoln Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Lexington 73, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

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SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING - September 26, 1955

To: Group Leaders and Associate Group Leaders

From: C. W. Farr

Date: September 29, 1955

Present: J. W. Forrester, R. R. Everett, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, C. W. Farr,  
B. E. Morriss, Jr., J. A. O'Brien, W. N. Papian, J. C. Proctor,  
N. H. Taylor, P. Youtz; part time, J. F. Jacobs

- Agenda:
1. Visit to IBM Research Laboratory
  2. Building 10 Program
  3. Preliminary Meeting of Lincoln Committee A
  4. M Notes
  5. Space - Murphy Hospital
  6. IBM Space
  7. Group 61 Programmers
  8. Display Tubes
  9. Proposal for SAGE Training Film

1. Visit to IBM Research Laboratory

Brown reported on the recent bimonthly meeting with IBM on ferrite research stating that the IBM program was well run and that one promising development was discussed. It related to coincident flux memory (also called one microsecond memory). The cores used have three holes instead of one and require a larger energizing current to obtain the shorter time cycle. Brown said that IBM regards this development as proprietary, particularly during the period of exploration and patent application. Another development, which IBM discussed with Brown, relates to a diodeless shifting register. Resistors may or may not be used; the cores are wound up to a maximum of ten turns. Enthusiasm was also expressed concerning the work on the drift or graded-base transistor.

Forrester reported that IBM is apparently working on a 10 Mc. computer for NSA; M. G. Holloway was so advised by J. E. Zollinger last week. Everett will arrange for several people to visit IBM to discuss this development.

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## 2. Building 10 Program

Brown reported on the DIC project involving Research Assistants in Building 10 under the supervision of Professor W. K. Linvill. Brown reported that the problem is going well and the quality of Research Assistants is good; the Research Assistants worked on transistor circuitry at Lincoln Laboratory during the summer and became well integrated into the Lincoln program. Brown reported that Professor Linvill finds difficulty in supervising the program, as the Research Assistants get into the components and circuitry, particularly at the thesis stage.

Discussion ensued concerning the problems of Lincoln staff supervision; originally Brown or Meisling were to spend part time at Cambridge. This program was abandoned and at present the Research Assistants spend three to five afternoons per week at Lincoln. Brown said that it has been more satisfactory for the Research Assistants to have access to more than one person, hence the arrangements for Lincoln visits. Brown agreed to reconsider the value of Cambridge visits with the object of fostering closer relationships with the EE department at Cambridge.

Forrester and Brown recorded favorable reactions from Professor K. L. Wildes and Professor M. F. Gardner to the Building 10 program at the time of their visit to Lincoln September 6. Thesis supervision is likely to become an acute problem. Forrester suggested that Brown, Meisling, and Goodenough assist Professor Linvill in the supervision of theses; Forrester asked Brown to check the acceptability of this plan to Professor Linvill, pointing out that considerable attention is now focused on this thesis supervision problem and every satisfactory example of a workable solution will help to form a general workable policy.

Brown and Everett are planning to lunch with Professor Linvill soon to explore this problem.

## 3. Preliminary Meeting of Lincoln Committee A

Papian reported on a meeting in the Director's Office last week at which he represented Division 6 on a committee to study non-staff personnel problems at Lincoln. The committee included Mrs. E. S. Simmons as Chairman, two other Personnel Office representatives, and representatives of each of the Technical and Service Division together with M. G. Holloway, G. E. Valley, W. F. Fitzpatrick, R. C. MacLaurin, A. F. Sise, and possibly others.

The committee wrestled with the definition of its scope, aimed generally at the improvement of non-staff relations, and advisory responsibility to the Director's Office on unusual non-staff personnel problems.

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4. M Notes

Proctor discussed the procedural problem arising from the issue of several M notes signed by BTL rather than Lincoln personnel.

Although BTL personnel working closely with Lincoln have been permitted this privilege, on certain occasions awkwardness has arisen. Temporarily, Proctor has arranged for Division 6 Reproduction Room to release such papers only when signed by Lincoln supervision; this BTL activity will soon be handled from Division 2. Forrester appointed Proctor, Dodd, and Farr to review procedures and distribution lists to be sure that they are reasonable and defensible. The committee was requested to investigate the possibility of distributing the abstracts only (not the detailed report) where it would suffice.

Forrester pointed out that the abstract should contain the meat of the report and that maintaining the high quality of abstracts is a responsibility of the Report Editor.

5. Space - Murphy Hospital

Morriss reported a telephone call from D. P. Wilkes of AIES last week concerning Murphy Hospital space. IBM who has a Facilities Contract had been asked to provide phones and such facilities, CRC has been requested to provide guards. Failing to obtain satisfactory action, Mr. Wilkes indicated that Lincoln might be asked again to assist; Morriss discouraged him. Apparently furniture, at least for initial requirements, is expected to be forthcoming from IBM and CRC.

Forrester again requested that Lincoln staff do all possible to encourage all contracting people to move to Murphy in order to lend weight to the urgency of providing needed service facilities at Murphy. He requested Morriss to discourage ideas such as sending of all mail to Lincoln to be re-routed to Murphy except on the most temporary basis.

6. IBM Space

Morriss said that the Project Office is wrestling with the problem of space for IBM. Forrester pointed out the need for unified handling of the space problem by Division 6 staff to insure that temporary space allocation is made only in accordance with floor plans prepared by Proctor in which temporary occupancy is understood and properly labeled.

Discussion of the ADC space problem at Lincoln ensued; Forrester said ADC will occupy the end of the Mapper Room and will probably have to vacate space now occupied in C basement.

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7. Group 61 Programming

Forrester reported on current effort for an all-out recruiting campaign for programmers for the peak load of Group 61 work. Since the peak requirement for programmers amounts to approximately twice the amount of Lincoln's continuing requirements, but approximately equals Rand's continuing requirements, agreement has been reached with Rand that the approximately sixty programmers currently required, will be recruited for and employed by Rand.

We are struggling with the implementation of this program. A center for recruiting operation has been established in Building D basement with desks and phones. Forrester solicited suggestions concerning the recruiting program.

Forrester also commented that no ceiling has yet been placed on Lincoln personnel quantities, however, such a ceiling can be expected since the Lincoln space is filled and the Lincoln budget is currently overextended.

8. Display Tubes

Taylor reported on the display tube situation at Convair stating that it was currently in good shape. Current yields of tubes are eighty to eighty-five per cent. The switch of responsibility from Convair to its subsidiary, Stromberg Carlson, has resulted in the appointment of Leonard Mautner, Assistant Vice President, in charge of West Coast operations. Mr. Mautner is reported working to get experienced people on the job, in order to be technically independent of Lincoln and others. Relationships with Lincoln are good. The improvement in production record precedes the arrival of Mautner and is credited to the cooperative effort of Convair with Youtz and Corderman. All tubes for XD-1 have been delivered and Lincoln will fade out of the picture. The IBM representative following production has had approximately one and one-half years experience with Youtz and Corderman, and has become competent.

Taylor reported that the visit to Hughes was highlighted by the demonstration of a laboratory model bright display tube producing characters of good readability for about four seconds and somewhat fuzzy for one second. A development contract is in process but steps are already being taken to implement a production process to produce such tubes. Taylor said Dr. Heiff, Vice President, is personally urging this work and that sample tubes could be expected soon.

9. Proposal for SAGE Training Film

Jacobs discussed the possibility of producing a training film based on the SAGE Familiarization Course at an estimated cost of \$5,000-\$10,000 (for camera, etc.), exclusive of staff time.

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*C. W. Farr*  
C. W. Farr  
Secretary

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