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Memorandum L-90

Page 1 of 2

Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
Auth: DDJ
By: RLE
Date: 3-15-60

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, March 30, 1953

To: Group Leaders

From: David M. Brown

Date: April 1, 1953

Present: Jay W. Forrester, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, R. H. Everett,
H. Fahnstock, M. H. Taylor, C. H. Wiesser, P. Youtz

- Agenda:
1. Correction to Minutes
 2. Computer Demonstrations
 3. Trip to Endicott to Evaluate Magnetic Drums
 4. Draft Status of H. M. Anderson
 5. E. M. Department Staff Policies
 6. Possible Revision of the Biweekly Report

1. Correction to Minutes

The minutes of the Group Leaders' Meeting of March 23, 1953, issued in Memorandum L-89, should be corrected. In Section 3, Status of the Cape Cod System, delete the sentences which read "Responsibility for the equipment to be placed at the receiving end of the telephone lines has been transferred to Division 6. There is some uncertainty concerning the budgetary arrangements for this transfer."

2. Computer Demonstrations

Modification and installation of new equipment for the Cape Cod System will make computer demonstrations difficult to arrange between now and July 1. The computer will not be completely shut down for a long period of time as it was last summer, but reliable demonstrations will probably be out of the question during May and June. During this period, installation of the second bank of storage tubes, introduction of new programs, and other modifications will make demonstrations undependable. The machine will be operable during a good deal of the period, however, and demonstrations can be arranged if sufficient advanced warning is obtained and it is understood beforehand that some uncertainties in the operation of the system will exist. The technical program will come first but unnecessary shut downs will be avoided. A visit by Thomas J. Watson, Jr. and a visit by a technical advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force sometime during the next few months will probably call for computer demonstrations.

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Memorandum L-90

Page 2 of 2

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3. Trip to Endicott to evaluate Magnetic Drums

A trip to Endicott to evaluate the IBM magnetic drums has been arranged for April 16 and 17. The first day will be spent in Poughkeepsie and the second day at Endicott. Those making the trip will include Forrester, Rich, O'Brien, Olsen, Everett, Taylor and possibly McVicar.

4. Draft Status of H. E. Anderson

H. E. Anderson has proven to be an extraordinarily good engineer and his draft status has recently become 1-A by unanimous vote of the Appeal Board. Anderson is applying for an Air Force commission and will ask for assignment to this laboratory. We should make sure that the Cambridge Research Center takes the action necessary for the assignment here.

5. E. E. Department Staff Policies

At the present time, the E. E. Department takes the position that no E. E. Department faculty members should work at the Lexington laboratories, and that faculty members should have no more than one-year leaves of absence. This policy may be modified at a later date, but in any case does not affect E. E. Department faculty members, such as Charlie Adams, who will remain in Cambridge.

6. Possible Revision of the Biweekly Report

Some revision of our present biweekly report appears necessary to bring together the scattered entries on WWII development. The trend is toward separate group biweekly reports which would include summary reports by Group Leaders and Section Chiefs. The biweekly reports might be arranged according to the laboratory organization or according to subject. We will adhere to the present system until a satisfactory proposal for reorganization of the biweekly report has been accepted.

Signed David R. Brown
David R. Brown
Secretary

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