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Memorandum L-79

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
Auth: *DD254*
By: *RLC*
Date: *5-15-60*

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, January 19, 1953

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: January 21, 1953

Present: Jay W. Forrester, C. W. Adams, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd,
R. K. Everett, H. Fahnestock, N. H. Taylor, C. W. Watt, and
C. H. Wieser

- Agenda:
1. Bob hunt's Resignation
 2. Correction to Minutes of January 12, 1953
 3. Visit by Army 414 Systems Group
 4. Shop Facilities

1. Bob hunt's Resignation

Bob Hunt's resignation becomes effective February 15, 1953. We are intensifying our effort to find several good mechanical designers for the laboratory. Joe Vitale should be contacted. IBM will be able to lend us some assistance. They now have three mechanical engineers assigned to our job.

2. Correction to Minutes of January 12, 1953

In Memorandum L-78, Group Leaders' meeting, January 12, 1953, delete the sentence under Item 6, IBM Activities, which reads, "Plans are being made for several computer centers and a very rough cost estimate for three centers is approximately \$18,000,000."

3. Visit by Army 414 Systems Group

On January 21 and 22, a group from various branches of the army concerned with the 414 system will be here to discuss TM-20 and Air Defense. The first day the group will meet in Cambridge and the second day the group will meet in Lexington.

Other groups, perhaps one from the Air Defense Command, may return to this laboratory for more comments on TM-20.

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4. Shop Facilities

A demonstration schedule for September, 1953, of digital air defense based upon the Cape Cod System is assuming great importance. It will be the basis for important basic decisions. Between now and sometime in June, Forrester will spend a large portion of his time on this demonstration and Everett will spend a large portion of his time on WWI activities. We must be sure that the shop will not be overloaded by a lack of coordination between these two activities. An allocation of a certain number of man hours per month for each of these activities should be made. The present schedules for the shop which cover the period from January to June, 1953, indicate approximately one-third time for WWI and Cape Cod System, one-third time to MTC and one-third time to miscellaneous activities, such as test equipment, Group 63, construction, etc. Between now and March 15, the twenty-five men available in the shop are fully scheduled, but after that date the load drops to approximately fifteen men. We should re-examine the schedules and include as much detail as possible, determine which work has the highest priority, and which work can be delayed. We should make use of outside shop facilities wherever this can be done and is necessary.

The shop schedules will be made up in consultation with Watt. Forrester will be informed by Watt, in advance, of anything which might delay this schedule, including purchased items which might be delayed. The great importance of this job will be sufficient to break through any bottlenecks, provided we have sufficient advanced warning.

Forrester pointed out that for the May 15 construction deadline, we may be able in some cases to accept shortcomings in the equipment which will permit training of personnel to start. An example of this may be in the display equipment which we may construct as duplicates of our existing equipment and refine during the summer months.

Dodd pointed out that the Drafting Room may be overloaded and that to accomplish the necessary construction some shortcuts may be necessary. Our Inspection Department must be expanded to carry out complete inspection of all units going into the system, including breadboards.

Signed

*David R. Brown*David R. Brown
Secretary

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