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Memorandum L-103

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
Auth: *D12251*
By: *lls*
Date: *3-15-66*

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, June 22, 1953

To: Group Leaders

From: Harris Fahnestock

Date: 25 June 1953

Present: J. W. Forrester, S. H. Dodd, R. R. Everett, H. Fahnestock,
R. A. Nelson, J. C. Proctor, N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser

Agenda:

1. New Personnel
2. Division 3 Organization
3. Move of MTC
4. Dissemination of Group Leaders' Decisions
5. Spare Buffer Drum; IBM Drum
6. Secret Biweekly

1. New Personnel

Forrester led a discussion in which it was agreed by all that the Laboratory needs more people with a broad knowledge of our Project and its relationship to other defense efforts of the military and its contractors. The basic conclusion was that we now need to make a definite plan for training or acquiring such personnel.

Only a very few of our present staff are equipped to represent the Laboratory in discussions with outside organizations of how our program fits into the national picture. If these men spend a large amount of time on this very necessary work, the progress of our present Laboratory program is seriously impeded. Men who could acquire the necessary knowledge must be at least of the calibre of our present section chiefs. There are three possible sources of such men, and each require a large amount of training:

- a) New people from the outside

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- b) Our own section chiefs, who would be relieved of their present responsibilities, trained for this broader work and replaced by others from within or without to direct their sections.
- c) Promising men who would be removed from their present sections and trained for this broader work.

Everett and Taylor are fearful of compromising our present commitments by removing section chiefs who are just barely able to handle the presently scheduled work. Taylor would prefer training promising younger men, such as Anderson or Boyd.

Forrester raised the question of whether we are giving our present personnel sufficient opportunity to broaden themselves and how many of them would be interested in getting into this type of contact work. He doubted that it would be possible to acquire such people from the outside because the successful ones were probably satisfied where they are.

Nelson produced statistics on personnel acquired during the past year. With the exception of Research Assistants (a source which will be very limited in the future), the most successful new employees have been acquired through personal contact. Fallows, Kiomer and Wainwright are typical of these.

2. Division 3 Organization

The following changes will be effective July 1, 1953:

H. G. Weiss succeeds Prof. J. C. R. Lickliger as leader of Group 31 which will be called Radar Systems.

The Psychological Studies, formerly in Group 31, will be carried on in a new group, Group 38, under Prof. G. A. Miller.

Prof. W. McC. Siebert succeeds Prof. R. M. Fano as leader of Group 32.

A new group, Group 37 - Ferrites, will be headed by Dr. Benjamin Lax.

On August 1, 1953, Prof. J. Earl Thomas, Jr. will succeed Prof. R. B. Adler of Group 35.

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3. Moving of MTC

Plans for moving MTC are intimately tied up with the provisions for cooling the system. Forrester recommends, in order of preference, that MTC should use: 1) the main building system; 2) the WWII system; and 3) the present Whittmore system.

He will endeavor to determine the exact status of the building system. MTC does not need to be moved until the spring when the WWII system should be available.

4. Dissemination of Decisions in Group Leaders' Meetings

In order to insure that the proper information is circulated, the secretary of the meeting will be responsible for seeing that the subject is brought up in the biweekly Staff Meeting or that Proctor issues an A-Memorandum, whichever is appropriate.

5. Drums

ERA

ERA could deliver a spare buffer drum identical with the present one in nine months or a more flexible new design in eighteen months. The eighteen-month delivery would not be of use to us.

IBM

Taylor wants an IBM drum to be tied to the MTC before the WWII drum would be available. An additional five-hundred tubes would be involved. He is to ask IBM to furnish a drum as part of their Prime Contract.

6. Secret Biweekly

A Secret Biweekly was firmly voted down. The Confidential Biweekly should refer to Secret memoranda by number.

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Harris Fahnestock

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