

Jay S. Fennel

Memorandum 1-61

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
Auth: <i>DD-254</i>
By: <i>RE</i>
Date: <i>3-15-68</i>

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, SEPTEMBER 29, 1952

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: September 30, 1952

Attending: C. W. Adams, D. R. Brown, S. B. Dodd, H. Fennestock, A. H. Taylor, C. K. Wieser, P. Youtz

- Agenda:
1. Flexwriter Equipment
 2. IBM
 3. Plug-in Units
 4. ERM Drums
 5. Relations with Lincoln
 6. Budget

1. Flexwriter Equipment

Adams stated that we are losing computer time due to inadequate Flexwriter equipment. Adams will discuss this in more detail with Dodd.

2. IBM

Taylor reported on last week's negotiations with IBM. On Monday, a group from IBM was here to discuss the contract and make an effort to get work started by October 1. On Tuesday, a group from here went to IBM. IBM has selected twelve people for the WWII job. The IBM administration, right up to Thomas J. Watson, is very interested in this job. John Coombs, formerly of BSA, is technically in charge. He has selected eight or nine engineers to work on the job including Astrahan who will head the logical group. IBM will assist us in the development of WWII where they can do the most good--perhaps in the arithmetic element and control and in packaging. We will concentrate on terminal equipment and memory. Plug-in units will probably be used with eight or nine tubes per unit. IBM expects to have twelve men on the job by January 1, will add thirty more during the first quarter of 1953, fifty or sixty more during the second quarter of 1953 and have about 270 people on the job by 1954. We must make use of their engineers as engineers or we will lose them. IBM has already purchased a three-story building including 60,000 square feet of floor space for this work. Three prototype WWII's will be constructed. The first to be finished by the end of 1954, the second in the first part of 1955 and the third at the end of 1955. The first machine is to set up at MIT, the second to go to

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

Auth: DD254By: REDate: 3-5-60SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, SEPTEMBER 29, 1952

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: September 30, 1952

Attending: U. W. Adams, D. R. Brown, S. P. Dodd, H. Fannestock, M. H. Taylor,
C. K. Wieser, P. Youtz

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the Air Force and the third to go to IBM.

Taylor commented briefly on the 701 Computer which is at the present time rather disorganized so that publicity photographs can be taken. The computer has been used as a whole on test problems and some problems have been done for the Scientific Section. A number of diagnostic routines have been run on the machine. Many tests have been run on parts of the machine but the computer has not been run on any schedule and is not used for computational purposes as WVI has been used during the last year.

Much of the information we are receiving from IBM is commercially secret. We should respect this classification.

Coombs and Burke will be here Tuesday and Wednesday of this week to discuss schedules and manpower.

3. Plug-In Units

Dodd read a memo which discussed the necessity for maintenance and inspection of standard test equipment and procedures for recording and identifying changes and for keeping standard units abreast of changes. Non-standard units must be clearly labeled. A group leader's approval should be required for any permanent change in a plug-in unit which would make it non-standard. Any change, temporary or permanent, should require inspection. The Test Equipment Committee will assist in carrying out this proposal.

4. ERA Drums

On Friday, ERA called to say that they are having trouble with the buffer drum on simultaneous "read" and "write". They will send a letter containing all the details. Wieser suggested that we get in touch with Ed Rich who probably knows some of the background material. The trouble is not new. Also, Ben Morris should be contacted.

5. Relations with Lincoln

Brown reported that many of our staff are confused by the apparent overlap of administrative facilities of the Lincoln Laboratory and the Digital Computer Laboratory. Our staff are frequently able to receive assistance from the Instrument Room in the Lincoln Laboratory.

Dodd announced that a meeting of Lincoln Laboratory Division heads and Group Leaders will be held on October 7 at 3:00 p.m. These meetings will be held periodically.

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6. Budget

Fahnestock announced the results of the recent review of extraordinary expenditures for fiscal '53. We did not spend all of our 1952 money. If we carry this over, we must ask for an additional \$300,000 for fiscal '53. This \$300,000 is equivalent to the amount required for MTC and test equipment.

Signed

David R. Brown

David R. Brown
Secretary

DRB/jk

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