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Memorandum 1-59

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
Auth: DD237
By: RRE
Date: 9-15-66

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, September 8, 1952

To: Group leaders

From: David K. Brown

Attending: D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, R. R. Everett, W. H. Taylor,
C. R. Wieser, F. Youtz and H. Fahnestock

- Agenda:
1. Third Shift
 2. Meeting of Scientific Advisory Board
 3. IBM
 4. Space
 5. Magnetic Cores
 6. Visitors

1. Third Shift

Wieser reported that those who work nights feel that no one cares about them. A good automatic coffee maker is needed.

2. Meeting of Scientific Advisory Board

Dodd reported that the In-Out System has been checked. The conversion programs have been checked. At the present time, storage is the largest uncertainty. Maintenance of storage has been neglected during the shut down period. Last week was spent on storage maintenance. Dodd feels the Computer has a 50-50 chance of doing a demonstration for the Scientific Advisory Board. Wieser stated that the interception program has been checked. The demonstration for the Scientific Advisory Board will be difficult to arrange because three separate groups are to visit the Barta Building. We will plan on having a demonstration and do the best we can.

3. IBM

Everett reported that a group from IBM visiting the laboratory last week included senior staff from IBM laboratories. Another group will visit the laboratory this week. Contract negotiations are underway and a letter of intent is expected by October 1. A description and general specification of the WWII Computer may be prepared before the end of the year to assist in getting the program underway.

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4. Space

Brown reported that a Ceramics and Chemistry Laboratory is being planned for the east end of the third floor of Whittensore Building 3. This space may be unsuitable for the Ceramics Laboratory because of the potential fire hazard or because of the limited floor loading permitted. One solution would be to put the Ceramics Laboratory in the engine room which is now occupied by an old Corliss engine. Clearing the engine room will cost several thousand dollars, but the location appears to be an ideal one for a Ceramics Laboratory. If the Ceramics Laboratory were put there, it would still be necessary to have a Chemistry Laboratory on the third floor.

The best location for MTC appears to be the present location of the library. The library might be moved to the present location of the racks for MTC or it might be moved to the fourth floor. Wieser pointed out that a move to the fourth floor would put the library in a classified area. This is an important consideration. The library will move on the third floor as soon as possible rather than moving to the fourth floor.

5. Magnetic Cores

Brown reported that he will be on vacation the week of September 15 and that McCusker has been put in charge of magnetic-core pulse tests and can answer any questions which arise.

Brown briefly summarized the present core situation. Magnetics, Inc. has begun production of 500 cores per day. Brown and Jenney will visit Magnetics, Inc. on September 11 and 12 to test the first few batches. Tests on the recent batch of 300 cores from Magnetics, Inc. indicate that their cores are unsatisfactory. We very likely will have difficulty with future cores from Magnetics, Inc. A batch of 100 satisfactory cores has been received from Magnetic Metals in Camden, New Jersey. An additional order for molybdenum Permalloy cores will be placed with Magnetic Metals and it appears quite possible that Magnetic Metals will be able to supply cores for MTC before Magnetics, Inc. It is also possible that ferrite cores will be improved and reduced in size to the point where they may be used in MTC. If a new core 0.060 in. in diameter can be made to the required uniformity, it would require only twice as much driving current as our present Mo Permalloy cores.

6. Visitors

Dodd announced that the Systems Group is now spending considerable time in showing WWI to visitors who come to the Laboratory without prior arrangement or come to the laboratory for some specific reason and incidentally desire to see the Computer. Several schemes for alleviating this were discussed. One is to have engineers from other groups, who may be the visitors hosts, show

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WVI to the visitor. Another suggestion is to have a secretary trained to act as guide. No definite solution was obtained.

Signed David R. Brown
David R. Brown
Secretary

DHB/jk

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