

Forrester  
1

Memorandum L-80

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Digital Computer Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, January 26, 1953

To: Group Leaders  
From: David H. Brown  
Date: January 27, 1953

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

- Agenda: 1. Correction to Minutes  
2. Account Numbers  
3. IBM  
4. Schedules for the Cape Cod System

1. Correction to Minutes

In the minutes of the Group Leaders' Meeting, January 19, 1953, Memorandum L-79, the sentence under Item 3, Visit by Army 414 Systems Group, which read, "On January 21 and 22, a group from various branches of the army concerned with the 414 system will be here to discuss T4-20 and Air Defense" should be changed to read, "On January 20 and 29, a group from various branches of the army concerned with the 414 system will be here to discuss T4-20 and Air Defense."

2. Account Numbers

Fahnestock announced that the account number DIC-5983, used for entertainment is the wrong number to use for entertainment connected with the Lincoln laboratory. The proper number for Lincoln Laboratory entertainment is DIC-1-6994.

3. IBM

Taylor announced that ten IBM memoranda are now available. One of these, IM-11, discusses an output display system. Circuit performance specifications are contained in IM-9. Memorandum IM-10 discusses the Joint IBM-MIT Tube Trip. In this memorandum, seven tube types are proposed as standard tube types for computer development.

Taylor also announced that the study of the arithmetic element which has been going on for the past six to eight months should result in a decision in favor of one particular system in approximately two or three weeks and the work will then be turned over to IBM. At the present

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time, a modified Whirlwind type of arithmetic element appears to be most suitable. The decision to have one or two accumulators probably will be made this week. The prototype WWII will probably have a 4,000-word memory, 32 digits if the machine has two accumulators, 24 if a single accumulator is used.

Forrester announced that the first discussion of the prime contract was held in New York last week, attended by administrators from MIT, IBM, and AFRC. IBM submitted a month-by-month budget for the period beginning April 1 and ending next January. IBM will submit a formal proposal along the lines of the proposal discussed at the New York meeting.

4. Schedules for Cape Cod System

Dodd announced that a detail schedule for the Cape Cod system is now being made which will include check points to indicate when the schedule is not being met. It will also include sufficient leeway for tests after completion of construction. Two or three detailed schedules have now been prepared. One of these covers two phases of the MIT work, another schedule covers part of the display system, including that part which is closest to the computer. At the end of this week, more definite schedules will be available.

The delay necessary for obtaining painted and silk-screened panels will probably necessitate the inclusion of some unpainted panels in the computer room or Room 156. We should, however, examine the possibility of doing our own painting or using an alternative process, such as sand-blasting, wire-brushing, or anodizing.

Signed

*David R. Brown*

David R. Brown  
Secretary

DHB/jk

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