

Memorandum L-52

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING July 7, 1952

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: July 8, 1952

Attending: Jay W. Forrester, C. W. Adams, D. R. Brown, R. R. Everett,
H. Fahnestock, N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser, P. Yutz

- Agenda:
1. Lincoln Liaison
 2. Staff Organization
 3. Travel
 4. Classification of WWIA
 5. Visitors
 6. Night Work
 7. Vacuum Tube Failures

1. Lincoln Liaison

Brown asked for information on our liaison with Project Lincoln. Forrester replied that Divisions 2 and 6 meet on Thursday mornings to discuss Cape Cod. These meetings are also attended by some outside agencies, such as the Instrumentation Laboratory and the Air Force Cambridge Research Center. Other meetings with Division 2 held on Tuesdays have been attended by Dodd, Wieser and Taylor for more technical discussion. The discussion has included the time schedule for Cape Cod and applications of the completed Cape Cod system.

2. Staff Organization

Fahnestock asked if an organization chart were desired. An organization chart would be helpful and should be prepared. It would have to be revised from time to time. The chart may merely show organization blocks with personnel on a separate list. Sections can be indicated but in some cases section leaders will not be designated. No section leaders will be named until the program has advanced to the point where the assignment of section leaders can be considered definite.

3. Travel

Project Lincoln has made some travel reservations for members of Division 6. This has usually been in a case of a group trip where

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Division 6 staff were traveling with a group from the Lincoln Laboratory. Two difficulties have appeared: one, in charging the proper account; two, in delivering the tickets. Fahnestock will arrange for the proper charge in the case where the Lincoln Laboratory makes the reservations and will see if the confusion in delivery of tickets can be eliminated.

4. Classification of WWIA

The classification of WWIA is closely related to the subject of visitors and outside distribution of technical material. It is difficult to draw the line in between techniques, components, and parts of the system such as the memory and the whole system. The WWIA system should be classified confidential. Some of the techniques and components can remain unclassified. We must use discretion. The subject of classification will be discussed at the Lincoln Steering Committee Meeting.

5. Visitors

How much technical assistance should we give to organizations such as Raytheon, AFSA, and ERA? All technical visitors should arrange their visits in advance and each visit should be approved by a Group Leader. In the case of any extended liaison, such as that involving six men for a half a day, Forrester's approval will be required. Taylor pointed out that we should wait until we have a memory in operation before we release any more publicity on our memory.

6. Night Work

Some suggestions have been presented to make night work for staff less disagreeable. These suggestions include the permission to make coffee, to have taxi fare home, to be allowed supper money, and to accumulate overtime. The permission to make coffee has been granted and Fahnestock has arranged with the DIC Office to approve some taxi fares. Time off should not be accumulated over a long period of time. The time should be taken off when it will do the most good, right before or after the overtime. The average over any period of one or two weeks should have no overtime.

7. Vacuum Tube Failures

Forrester announced that he has been working with Dodd and Frost to find out how to improve the performance of vacuum tubes. What can be done about intermittent failures? Can some techniques like marginal checking be developed to decrease the number of intermittent failures which are now beyond our control? Vibration and short tests will be investigated. An effort will be made to determine the quality of a vacuum tube by test. These discussions will continue after Dodd returns. Taylor asked that effort be made to correlate reliability with cathode-to-grid spacing.

Signed

*David R. Brown*David R. Brown
Secretary

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