

J. W. F.

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Memorandum L-73

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Auth: DDJ/ST
By: RLE
Date: 5-15-60

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, December 15, 1952
To: Group Leaders
From: Harris Fahnestock
Date: 15 December 1952
Present: R. R. Everett, C. W. Adams, S. H. Dodd, H. Fahnestock,
N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser, P. Youtz
Agenda: Five-digit Multiplier
ARDC Conference in Baltimore, December 10, 1952
AIEE-IRE-ACM Computer Conference
Budget
Magnetic Drums

1. Five-digit Multiplier

It has been proposed that we discontinue operation of the five-digit multiplier. Dodd has consulted with Frost, O'Brien, Paine, Watt and Rich. All of these, plus those present at today's meeting, agree to discontinue operation, but Taylor raised the question of possibly getting more information on the life of the tubes. Fahnestock will try to sell the complete multiplier and accessories to Verzuh for educational purposes. We will see if it is possible for Verzuh to continue to get tube information.

2. ARDC Conference

Forrester, Everett, Wieser, Valley, Boehmer, Harrington, Schneider and Marchetti attended the meeting in Baltimore to get the comments of ARDC on Report TM-20. They had prepared excellent comments which were brought back to be incorporated in a second draft of the Report to be submitted to ARDC in January 1953. Wimer seems to be the key technical man

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of the group and expects to remain with them as a civilian after his tour of active duty terminates in January.

3. AIEE-IRE-ACM Computer Conference

Taylor reported that the Conference, which was held from December 10th through December 12th, was attended by 1100 people. All seventeen exhibits were pertinent to the subject of in-put out-put. There were very few good papers; most were below par. IBM gave the best presentation of current problems.

We should find out the exact results of the DYRO Committee's recommendations to the Bureau of Standards.

RCA is definitely committed to a ferrite development program, and they will bring a sample to us this week.

Harry Davis reported to Jack Arnow that a "digital radar" is being developed at Rome.

Perry Crawford has joined IBM and is located at world Headquarters.

4. Budget

Fahnestock outlined the way FY'55 was presented to Cusick, including the differences in the number of personnel from what our Group Leaders submitted.

5. Magnetic Drums

ERA will have a man here to help unpack and install our drum. Dodd and Taylor both report that ERA is very interested in seeing that the drums work well. Apparently, Forrester's statement about the evaluation of the 1103, based on the operation of the drums, has had a great effect on ERA. Dodd expects that there will be considerable pressure on the working group at ERA to expedite the buffer drum. We should soon make efforts to get ERA people to help us with the auxiliary drum, though the particular people must not be such as to delay the buffer drum.

Signed: 

Harris Fahnestock

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