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Comment on Trip Report Dated 8 Sept. 1952

Mr. W.E. May,  
AFSA-351Technical Director,  
Machine Division26 Sept. '52  
Lawless/395/rqg

Thru

Chief, Machine Division  
Technical Director, Office of Operation

1. The last paragraph of the attached trip report indicates a misunderstanding. In the course of the week of detailed introduction to the EDPM, a very major piece of equipment, concern was expressed freely within our AFSA group (as is quite appropriate, I believe) about a number of points, including the scheduled date of delivery (at that time August, 1953), the rental cost, programming complications due to the lack of analytic orders, and our ability to recruit and train an adequate number of programmers for the EDPM and other major equipments due to be delivered to AFSA in the near future. However, taking full account of these points of concern, it was and is my firm conviction that AFSA should proceed with its current arrangements in the procuring of IBM Electronic Data Processing Machines.

2. Since the time of our trip, the National Production Authority has determined that AFSA should receive EDPM # 4, which moves our delivery date up to March, 1953, according to the present production schedule. Also, programming routines for the EDPM which are much less complicated and much faster than was anticipated have now been written for many of the operations that are accomplished by the analytic orders in our computers.

3. The Office of Operations has a vast amount of urgent work which can only be carried out feasibly on high speed equipment such as electronic computers. The AFSA Machine Development Program will not catch up with our needs for some time to come, and certainly not with the advent of ATLAS II serial 1. The EDPM equipment is an "interim" solution until the urgent needs of the Office of Operations have been more nearly met-not until any specific equipment has been delivered. As long as an urgent need exists that cannot otherwise be fulfilled, I believe that AFSA must take advantage of the availability of the EDPM equipment.

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WILLIAM J. LAWLESS, JR.  
Technical Director,  
Machine Division

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