STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

To: Lorraine Pratt

Date: 2/12/69

From: Elizabeth Feinler

Location: Demonstration was held in Mountain View

Subject: Xerox Microprinter Demonstration

Answering: Request for same

A brochure and a price schedule are attached.

The following are features of the Microprinter that were demonstrated or discussed during our visit to the Xerox Corp., Mountain View:

1. The Microprinter can be adapted to take either positive or negative film; however, if it is used for negative film (dark background with light print) the machine cannot also be used as a straight xerox 914 copier. If the machine is adapted for positive film, it can also be used as a 914 copier. This is done by pushing the whole film unit back and exposing the usual glass copying surface of the xerox 914.

2. The copier cannot be used for both positive and negative film simultaneously. It can be converted from one to the other by their maintenance department by changing the powder, etc.

3. The salesman claims that more and more film is coming out as positive film, especially library subscriptions. It is possible to have a 'black-box' film developer that can convert positive film to negative film and vice versa. This is done by running the film through the box and having the reverse film reproduced photographically. Calvar has a developing unit such as this, and it would be possible to convert all in house filmto one kind using such peripheral equipment. Xerox is also considering such an arrangement on their equipment sometime in the future.

4. The Microprinter produces positive prints (black on white) from either negative or positive film.

5. It was mentioned that most computers use reversal (or negative) film, and that the Microprinter was most efficient when used for positive film. The salesman says that most computers have the option of using standard or reversal film. Most use reversal film, even though it is more expensive, only because film copiers have mostly been photographic copiers to date. Reversal film is not necessary with the Xerox Microprinter.

6. The Microprinter takes microfiche or microfilm, and it is easy to change from one form to the other. The machine takes either 16 or 35 mm film. At present it is manually threaded, but by early summer the machine can be equiped with a self-threading cartridge unit with power drive that will take either 3M or Kodak 16 or 35mm cartridges. To get both film and fiche capability plus two lens the monthly rental would be raised to $140/month. (See price schedule.)

7. The Microprinter will have 4 lens available by April - 12X, 16X, 20X and 24X, and the machine can be turned 240° for positioning. Focus is overhead.

8. You do not have to wait for the last copy made to come out before you go on to the next frame of film. This saves a lot of time.

9. The machine has a counter to tally the number of copies made.

The main disadvantage of the equipment, as I see it, is the inability to take both positive or negative film in the same machine without conversion. At present the bulk of film we have is negative (I believe). However, if we were to obtain several subscriptions on positive film, we would either have to convert the film or maintain two copiers. It is quite possible that as microfilm useage picks up, whi h seems likely, there will be sufficient volume of copying to justify a positive and a negative copier.

The major advantages are the dry copy at a cheaper price and the lack of coated paper. Also the resolution seemed to be very good and the lens system fairly simple. Of prime importance is the greater speed of this machine over wet copiers that are currently available.