

POUGHKEEPSIE

August 14, 1957

MEMO TO: Mr. J. C. Gibson

SUBJECT: Tapes for Communication with other Systems

REFERENCE: a. Your file memo of 7/26/7 on same subject.  
b. Mr. C. B. Poland's file memo of 8/2/7 on same subject.

The solution to the problem of preparing tapes on the 7000 series machine for tape to card or print operation can be achieved by proper programming. If the characters used to fill out a full word are chosen properly, the extra characters beyond the capacity of the card equipment will be lost with no resulting error. However, if there are other applications which require an exact record length not in multiples of full words, other methods must be used.

A final word byte count in the Exchange would solve the problem. However, the present control word format does not have any positions left in which to put the byte count. An alternate solution would be to switch out the byte converter (under program control or a manual switch) and transmit the data to tape with two unused bits in each byte. The last byte of a record would be programmed to contain a flag in one of the unused positions and the tape control would recognize this as a disconnect signal. This same method can be used for printers or any other devices using a six bit code. The added hardware per control unit to accomplish this is small but would be repeated in every control unit. Your comments will be appreciated.

*J. D. Calvert*  
J. D. Calvert

JDC:ps

Mr. J. C. Gibson

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August 14, 1957

cc: Mr. G. A. Blaauw  
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