

MEMO

CONTROL DATA
CORPORATION

DATE: March 3, 1972

TO: W. C. Norris

LOCATION:

FROM: N. R. Berg

LOCATION:

EXT:

SUBJECT:

Bill, as you know, when you left this afternoon I was talking to Seymour. This memo will be a quick dump of our discussion--unedited and rough:

I told Seymour that you had to leave and that Hall wasn't here and that we would like to have Hall get together with Thornton next week and have a chance to talk to him and then maybe after that Seymour could come in and we could all get together to look at where we were going.

I told him that I had been scratching out some ideas on what we would communicate to the outside world and to the Control Data employees and it became obvious that it would help his own people, the rest of the people in the company, and the company itself substantially if we could say that Seymour was going to continue on in a consulting capacity of some type for whatever period would be agreeable with him. Seymour said that he would be happy to consult. He said, "as a matter of fact, I would be happy to continue on for another six months working on those 8,000 circuit problems that I have unresolved at this time if Bill wanted me to--maybe even longer--but I just don't want to get involved in another five year program with Control Data". He said, "do you think Bill would want me to do that?" I said I didn't know but that I felt you weren't anxious to have him get out the door and that sort of surprised him for some reason. He said, "well, that would be just fine--I am in no hurry to get out of here once having made the decision to go". I said, "well, what about consulting beyond that--would you be available for people to bounce ideas off of and help us when we needed help?" He said, "I certainly would--any way you would like to work it out". He said, "let me tell you what my plans are". "I am thinking on my feet as I tell you this, Norb, but I will probably build a little 10,000 sq. ft. building next to my house and start playing around with circuits for the next four or five years and then start making something with them--probably computers because that is what I know how to make best". "Then I will sell them to whoever wants to buy them--Control Data might even be interested in buying what I am making and that would be fine--I am just going to do this with my own money, as my own boss and my own people".

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Concerning his people, Les Davis has already said that he wants to go with him and he said, "I am sure there will be others depending upon how much money I get from my retired friends it could be most of the lab". He said, "it will be fun starting out with stock options for these people again, seeing them make some money". He said, "I know there will be some morale problems from the remaining people in the lab who want to join us and I am sure you, Norb, understand that better than I do, but do you think that is going to make Bill upset that I will be building some computers?" I said, "well, I am sure that he expects you may be doing that".

Then I went into a little discussion that you felt strongly that Seymour had paid his dues to Control Data many times over and there was no residual obligation. He felt genuinely pleased that you felt that way. He almost seems concerned that you were upset with him and unhappy with him or mad at him although he didn't use any of those words.

He and Thornton are both awaiting to hear what your ideas and plans are about continuing the Chippewa Lab. I told him I didn't know what your plans were and really couldn't until Thornton and Hall talked.

He said, "gee, if this is not going to happen right away--this announcement--I better call Thornton and reiterate that it should be kept quiet so there isn't a leak at Arden Hills". He then called Thornton.

In conclusion, Bill, Seymour is very flexible and very eager to work things out pleasantly. He just thought you would want him to leave right away rather than be a lame duck and was pleasantly surprised when I told him I didn't think that was the case at all.

See you Monday.

-- N. R. Berg

NRB/js