

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SEYMOUR CRAY AND NORBERT BERG  
MARCH 2, 1972:

NRB: Hi, Seymour

SC: Norb.

NRB: Listen, I tried to grab you once before you got out of here yesterday but we missed each other. When we talked briefly I told you that I was very confident that Bill Norris was not aware that your current budget situation was such that you would have to get rid of some of the people, you know? And I did get a chance to talk to him for just a minute. He left and he's gone today, but that's right, he thought the people thing was done and was not aware that your budget as it existed or as it exists today would put you in a position that you would have to get rid of some additional people so I can tell you categorically that he does not want to do that and that he wants to get your budget changed in any way that is necessary so you don't have to do that.

SC: Norb, that really doesn't matter, you know.

NRB: It does to me though and I think it does to you too.

SC: No, it doesn't, Norb, because I have made up my mind. I left Bill a secret seven word message today for him in the morning and the secret word message is what I am quoting from him yesterday and it says, "what the hell, you only live once". I've quite made up my own mind now. I'm going to start a little company of my own.

NRB: I'm just really sorry to hear that.

SC: Well, you only live once.

NRB: What the hell, you only live once. That's the seven word message, huh?

SC: I'm going up tomorrow with Les Davis from here and we are going to talk to Jim Thornton and my mission now is to make the transition as best and as friendly as possible and my question tomorrow is what does Jim think he wants to do about Chippewa--the laboratory and the people. Now maybe Bill has some definite idea but I thought I should get Jim's feeling anyway--he's one of the, I presume, sort of the technical man and I can talk to Bill further about it.

NRB: Then you are going to talk to Jim and then come and talk to Bill tomorrow is that it?

SC: I hadn't planned on coming down to talk to Bill tomorrow. I am quite willing to talk but I think I understand him and I think he understands me that little details like money aren't really going to change anything.

NRB: Well, you know, we weren't talking about the money I guess. I was talking about the overall budget situation. I knew that when these technical discussions got settled that they intended to go back and look at the overall budget to see that whatever you needed to support that which was going to be done and I know that you were surprised to hear that your budget as it exists would have caused you to terminate some people and that was what we were talking about, you know. So I wanted to get back to you on that right away.

SC: Well, I appreciate that. The general situation as I see it from Control Data's standpoint as well as my own there is no cleaner time than the near future because the work that I have been doing for ten years is at quite a nice plateau now. Two systems compatible type are dominant and handed over so it's a nice clean opportunity in terms of timing to make where I won't feel at all guilty about leaving.

NRB: Well, will you be staying in Chippewa you think?

SC: I think so but I really don't have any plans strange as that may seem. I'm just going to start off into the wilderness and look for something.

NRB: Have you communicated this decision to your people?

SC: No, I've talked only to Les Davis because of our trip tomorrow.

NRB: You are going to discuss it in that light with Thornton?

SC: Right. Typically what does he want to do.

NRB: Well, I think you should--you say you left a message for Bill?

SC: Yes.

NRB: I suppose ---you will be up with Jim tomorrow so if he wants to call you there he could talk to you there?

SC: Yes, I left that message also.

NRB: Okay, good. Well, I'll be talking to you.

SC: Right.

NRB: See you. Bye.

SC: Bye.