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Minneapolis -- William C. Norris, Chairman of the Board and President of Control Data Corporation, and Seymour R. Cray, Senior Vice President of the Company's Chippewa Laboratories, jointly announced today that Mr. Cray will be phasing out of a full-time position with Control Data over the next year.

Mr. Cray, who has been with Control Data from its early days, and has been the leading designer of super-scale computers in the industry, will continue to assist the company on its 8000 computer series. Beyond that he will serve on a consulting basis.

In making the announcement, Cray issued the following statement:

"I would not be making this change if I did not believe that Control Data's technical strengths in super-computers are firmly established on which to build for the future. Therefore, I cannot foresee any better time than the present for me to phase out my full time responsibilities at Control Data. Although Bill Norris and the Company have given me unusual support and freedom, I have long believed that the things I want to do and feel most comfortable in doing can best be done outside the environment of a large company. I am contemplating the establishment of a very small basic computer research laboratory funded by myself and perhaps a few personal friends. As a matter of fact, I have discussed this possibility with Bill Norris and Control Data will in some manner make an investment in it."

For over ten years Seymour Cray has carried on his work at the company's Chippewa Laboratory which is located in a heavily wooded area overlooking the Chippewa River in Wisconsin.

"We are naturally very happy that we can continue to benefit from Seymour's services on a consulting basis in the future," Norris said. "Although we are sorry to alter an arrangement which has been so highly productive, we understand Seymour's desires to pursue his personal interests and we also must recognize the need for change."

"The unchallenged position of Control Data for the past ten years as the supplier of the world's most powerful computers has many of its roots in Chippewa. It is remarkable that the concept of the Chippewa Laboratory worked so well, unchanged, for over a decade, even while great change was taking place in the market. One significant aspect today which has to be reckoned with is that Control Data's super-computers have such enormous power as to require increasing emphasis on their effective use by our customers. In other words, the emphasis today shifts to applying very large computers as opposed to development of more power. This is not to say that further development will not continue -- the Chippewa Laboratory will continue with its present program and will be under the direction of James E. Thornton."

Mr. Thornton is the developer of the CDC STAR super computer and is also the Vice President of Control Data's Advanced Computer Laboratory at Arden Hills.

Mr. Thornton was associated with Seymour Cray as Chief Engineer of the Chippewa Laboratory during the development of Control Data's first super-scale computer, the CDC 6600. He has devoted his entire professional career of 22 years to computer development.