

September 3rd, 1982

Memo to: Computing Affairs Staff

From: M. Stuart Lynn, Director

Subject: CDC 6400 Departure



The CDC 6400 is no more.

Most of you directly or indirectly have played a role contributing to the extremely successful conversion from the CDC 6400 - one of the most complex and yet most successful conversions I have witnessed in almost 25 years of association with the computing field. Most of you have been participants, supporters, doers, and/or patient users. For many of you, it has meant many months of strain, long hours, and dedicated effort.

I think you have performed magnificently and I am proud of each of you and your contributions. I can think of no team of professionals who could possibly have done better. There have obviously been rough spots, but given the complexity and the tremendous amount that had to be accomplished it is surprising there were not many more.

I do believe the campus community is appreciative in spite of the burdens the conversion imposed upon all of our users. I find it interesting that no one called me to ask for a postponement - which is one small indicator of the degree of acceptance.

The CDC 6400 has played a vital role in computing on this campus over 17 years - half of the modern computing age. Enormous changes have taken place in computing over those years, and yet the 6400 continued to perform extremely well until the end, considering its vintage. One can only speculate on how many students have benefitted, how much important research has been accomplished, and how many administrative tasks completed as a result of its presence.

I will be writing a suitable eulogy in a forthcoming issue of the Computing Services Newsletter. In the meantime, I hope you will accept the enclosed piece of the 6400's technology as a small memento and as an inadequate, but sincere, token of thanks for a job well done.