

LP

UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

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Theoretical Physics Division,

ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT,

HARWELL.

DIDCOT, BERKS.

16th March, 1961

OUR REFERENCE:

YOUR REFERENCE:

Dr. J. Howlett,
Bldg. 8.9.

Dear Jack,

I have studied your paper with care and I disagree with almost all of it! Without going into detail I would say that under your proposals the computing services to A.E.R.E. will suffer because Harwell does not have direct control of its own people. Also you have proposed to concentrate a most unhealthy amount of power in your Laboratory Head, and you have placed him in such a position that for most decisions he cannot delegate his powers. May I ask you to think out the following situation. Let us suppose the Laboratory Head is say Fox or Walkinshaw, and you as Head of the Harwell Computing Group are responsible for proposing the organisation and ensuring that the computing services to Harwell is preserved and enhanced. If you were to imagine yourself in this situation I do not think you would present the organisation as you have in your paper.

Yours sincerely,

Walter

W. Marshall