EUROMICRO NEWSLETTER
The international journal of microprocessing and microprogramming

Scope
The main purpose of the Newsletter is to facilitate the international flow of information in the field of micro-processing and micro-programming. The Newsletter contains, in addition to reports on recent research and technological progress, comprehensive surveys, state-of-the-art reports, short communications and announcements pertinent to the micro field.

The journal includes in particular:
theory, design, research, languages, simulation, emulation, teaching aids and evaluation/diagnostic methods

relating to:
micro-programming, micro-processing, micro-processor systems and networks, distributed computing, MSI/LSI components, computer structures, modular systems, integrated hardware/software design, micro-architecture of computer systems.

The EUROMICRO NEWSLETTER is the forum of the European Association for Micro-processing and Micro-programming (EUROMICRO). It commenced publication in October 1974 on a quarterly basis. From January 1976, the EUROMICRO NEWSLETTER will be published and distributed by North-Holland Publishing Company, both for the EUROMICRO membership, which includes a personal subscription and the regular subscribers. Information about the Association is available from EUROMICRO, P.B. 233, 60206 Compiègne, France.

EUROMICRO
The membership to EUROMICRO is open to all persons active in the field. For 1976, the personal membership fee amounts to FF 55, payable to EUROMICRO, B.P. 233, 60206 Compiègne, France. Apart from a reduced fee at conferences, the membership includes a personal subscription to the EUROMICRO NEWSLETTER.

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EUROMICRO's policies are set by its Board of Directors which also acts as the Board of Editors for the Newsletter. It includes National Correspondents for the countries active in the Association, with a balance between university and industry representatives.

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January 1976
after the Carterfone decision (which allowed the connection of customer-provided equipment) in 1968. The common carriers have argued that such arrangements are necessary to protect the network against potential harms, such as those identified by a 1970 National Academy of Sciences study: hazardous voltages, excessive signal power levels, excessive longitudinal imbalances, and improper network control signaling. Opponents maintain, however, that the telephone companies have insisted on carrier-supplied access arrangements to protect their own revenues.

Registration program. The FCC will allow interconnection only if it is done through either protective circuitry registered with the FCC, or directly through equipment which is itself registered. The commission has also required that carrier-supplied terminal equipment be registered (a requirement not generally imposed on common carriers) in order to enhance network protection, to ensure competitive equality (between carriers and non-carriers) in the manufacture of such equipment, and to provide a benchmark against which to judge non-carrier applications.

Possible appeal. AT&T is expected to appeal the FCC ruling, which may delay its effective date. Further, the ruling applies only to the technical aspects of interconnection; a separate proceeding (Docket 20003) is underway to examine the potential economic harm from competition in this area. A reversal of the technical ruling would appear unlikely on economic grounds, since data communications devices account for only the small portion of AT&T revenues.

OTP Report on Social Issues in EFTS

The White House Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP) has released a study on the non-economic implications of EFTS, entitled "Value Choices in Electronic Funds Transfer Policy." In transmitting the study to the Vice President, OTP acting director John Eger said, "Both because of our particular mandate to evolve policy relating to the interconnection of computers with telecommunications, an interconnection which is the necessary foundation of any EFT system, and because of our concern for informed and effective formulation of policy in the executive branch, OTP has begun to scrutinize closely the increasing range of Federal government activity in this area. . . . While many of the most significant economic questions have been raised, critical non-economic issues have not been addressed—such as the desirability of unfettered government access to personal records either as a user or an operator of any EFT system."

A primary significance of the report is the indication that OTP is squarely concerned with the social impact of EFTS. This subject is presently considered (or planned to be considered) only peripherally by groups such as the Privacy Commission, the EFTS Commission, or the Federal Communications Commission.

White House Science Advisor Bill Passes House

A new bill to establish a presidential science advisor, H.R. 10230, has been passed (362-28) in the House of Representatives. The legislation, drafted cooperatively by the Ford Administration and House science leaders, is a revision of H.R. 9058.

In its present form, the bill (1) establishes a national policy for science and technology, (2) establishes an Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) in the White House, and (3) establishes a Federal Science & Technology Survey Committee (the Survey Committee) in the White House. The Survey Committee will have two years to analyze federal science and technology efforts and report its findings to the President, who must subsequently review and transmit the report to Congress with his recommendations. The director of OSTP will serve as the President's Science Adviser, and as chairman of the Survey Committee.

Despite the likelihood of this bill becoming law, there remains serious concern in the science community (e.g., William Carey's editorial in the November 21 issue of Science) that science budgets may suffer substantial cutbacks in President Ford's program to reduce federal expenditures by $28 million.

New NSF Advisory Groups

President Ford has created two new science advisory groups within the National Science Foundation to advise him on planning for the proposed Office of Science & Technology Policy (see above summary of H.R. 10230). These are, respectively, the Anticipated Advances in Science & Technology Advisory Group, and the Contributions of Technology to Economic Strength Advisory Group. The former group, headed by Dr. William O. Baker (president, Bell Labs) will advise the President on national policy implications of developments in science and engineering. The latter group, headed by Dr. Simon Ramo (board vice chairman, TRW) will advise on improving the utilization of technology to foster economic strength.

In addition to the advisory group chairmen, other members related to the computing field include Lew Branscomb (vice president and chief scientist, IBM), Joseph Charyk (president, Comsat), and Patrick Haggerty (board chairman, Texas Instruments).

Privacy Commission Activities

The commission is presently investigating eight topical areas. It has thus far produced staff reports in four of these: "The Use of Mailing Lists in the Private Sector," "The Use of the Social Security Number in the Private Sector," "Disclosure of Federal Income Tax Returns to
Third Parties,” and “Credit Card Record-Keeping: The Informational Privacy Issues,” and it has immediate plans to look into the remaining areas: consumer credit reporting, employment records, social services, and statistical research.

Letters to the Editor

NSF Open Letter

The Computer Science Section of the National Science Foundation wishes to express its appreciation to all those persons who assisted them in the evaluation of proposals submitted to that section during the past year. This arduous and time-consuming task which has few rewards is very important to the work of the National Science Foundation. We value the assistance you have given us and consider it a unique and important contribution to science.

Thank you for your past effort and we hope that we can continue to call upon you in the future.

Bruce H. Barnes
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Thomas A. Keenan
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