re SU/ACME ↓

X..

COMP Program 4/6/63.

Very rapid developments in last weeks and months.

Initiation – gradual build up since COMPSEF course last September; Systems problems of office and bibliography work; student assigned to introductory computer course; survey of computer-input typewriters: decided eventually on 026 Keypunch; Started comp programs on notography.... All this involved familiar usage of the 7090 system in Baltol.

Concurrently, realization of strategy to acquire the appropriate stuff to do it right. Via al Collins, regular services of Fran Bates as a programmer. Just interviewed & hired? Mrs. Morris as keypuncher and book keeper. Correspondence with Mrs. Wightman. Own internal preoccupation with programs OK to learn the languages, but must plan and organize, not tie down to tactical level, though this has usual merits and fascinations of laboratory work.

ddl 2/82

An important turning point arose accidentally in re Bledsoe, from Wilson Stone's recommendations. It was after interviewing them, in seeking background insight that I met McCarthy (via Forsythe) and his programs for Time-Sharing via PDP1 have dominated our thinking since then. Principally (1) Regular, ~~and~~ pervasive, quasi-online access to the computer, (2) ∴ a more vital man/computer symbiosis. Emotionally all this interacts closely with the issues of human evolution raised at the Ciba symposium. In many ways, I would admit this overrides the immediate applications.