

April 1, 1970

Dear Dick Battin and Bob Millard,

I am afraid that to be constructive your supervision of 360 usage must become a little more sophisticated. For instance the news you received of the 20 hours (or whatever the figure was) of time I used last week evidently did not include the fact that this was mostly concentrated during the week-end when otherwise the machine would have been idle or (worse) shut-down. It is true that there was a backlog Monday morning but this was entirely mine and Sharon Albert's (who is helping me). Before leaving the Lab Sunday night (or rather Monday AM) I purposefully over-submitted to prevent the machine's being idle. If you had gone to look at this backlog you would have seen, among the others, a 2 hour run of mine marked in big letters "LOWEST PRIORITY".

You should also know that the time I use goes to several purposes. Besides preparing the variable servicer, for example, I am testing the a priori terrain model which I coded. So far the only tests of the terrain model coding -- to be released less than a month from now -- are those made by me on version ZERLINA, which in this area is identical to LUMINARY. Also, in the course of ZERLINA testing I have found at least half-a-dozen bugs in LUMINARY.

It may be true that people have to wait a week for long runs these days. I often do. But anyone who comes in at the right times over the weekend can get good turn-around time. I hate to be bugged for adopting this solution.

I hope these observations will moderate your zeal in complaining about my computer usage.

copies: Margaret  
Russ Larson

