

Memorandum For: Executive Director, NPIC

Subject: Comments on "The Information Needs of the Executive Director, NPIC, and the NPIC Management Information System"

1. It is very heartening to find that another independent study has uncovered the fact ~~that~~ (as we have so often stated) that if the MIS were discontinued the Center would see a proliferation of numerous management information systems emerge.
2. This ~~study~~ fact comes through loud and clear when ^{the subject paper makes} reference ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~depths~~ ^{depths} of numerous ~~systems~~ information systems now existing within the center.
3. What the paper does ~~not~~ not show but should be stated is that over the past several years substantial sums of money were spent to develop and maintain separate information systems only to see many of them fall into disuse because of the same ~~reasons~~ ^{arguments} ~~given~~ ^{given}.

as reasons
 for the discontinuance of the MIS, mainly
 its costly (it takes too many people to operate)
 its not timely, its inaccurate etc.

4. As an example of ~~the~~ some of these
 systems we have in mind are the various
 production display boards which were
 in vogue a few years ago which
 required several full time clerks to
 maintain. We also have in ~~mind~~
 mind the numerous attempts by
 the ^{former} Production Management Board to develop
 numerous semi-automated production status lists,
 and we have in mind systems
~~suggested by former Production Management~~
~~Board members which would again make~~
~~use of MIS data~~
 to keep ~~track~~ and accounting of actual
 projects. ~~In fact~~ if -

5. In fact if one would survey the
 situation one would find many systems
 in use which could be replaced or
 supplemented by the MIS, if the MIS were
~~accurately~~ accurate and timely.

6. This is the crux of the problem of Management Information Needs.
7. We agree the MIS is not as accurate as could be nor is it as fast as some would wish it to be.
8. But lets look at the facts. Currently only one individual ~~is~~ is assigned to operate the MIS where previously four to six individuals were assigned.
9. We maintain one is sufficient if certain ^{PPBS} proposals are approved at the cost of 9 man months.
10. In effect we are trading 9 man months of effort now for permanently saving the 5 slots dropped from the MIS operating staff.

11. It is paradoxical that any one can develop his own information system.
11. ~~Further~~ Further, as the paper states that most people do not use the MIS is because it is not accurate and timely ~~and~~ implies would use the MIS if these two deficiencies could be remedied.
12. It seems then that what ought to be done is to correct these ~~of~~ deficiencies. Let's not pour enormous resources into the development of various information systems when for much less money the MIS can be made accurate & timely and be useful to all center personnel.
13. We are the last to say that no other systems will be needed. Granted, there will always be questions for which no system has the answers.

but it is impossible to define every management need.

14. What we can provide to management is the basic data of this organization.
15. The MIS does this well.
 - a) An easily retrieved records it contains all requirements levied on the center since 1964 showing the requestor, the nature of the request, the type of activities required to accomplish the request and the man hours charged to the request.
 - b. The MIS insures an orderly method of categorizing projects ~~by a given number and order~~ assigning the work to specific components.
 - c. The MIS provides the data by which to compare ^a previous years effort as stated in Para 5 in subject paper. In fact the MIS

is the only system that have sufficient data to accomplish this task for the center as a whole.

16. It seems paradoxical that the center has the resources to develop and maintain various and sundry information systems but does not have the resources to improve the one system that would render many of the center information systems redundant at a great savings in resources.
17. PPBS recommends the approval of their proposal of Feb-1970.