

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**CONFIDENTIAL**

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TO : [REDACTED], A&M

FROM : [REDACTED] Map Branch, ORE

SUBJECT: Proof Press Facilities in the Reproduction Plant

DATE: 19 November 1948

1. The Map Branch, ORE has recommended that the U. S. GPO-S provide proof press facilities as soon as possible. The following points will illustrate the need for proof press facilities and form a basis for justifying the purchase of such equipment.

a. The Map Branch is responsible for the production of all the base maps required by the NIS program. In order to accomplish the coordination of map production by the several contributors to the NIS program it is necessary to provide each of the contributors with numerous printings on transparent plastic. The plastic prints consist of both black and non-photographic blue in various plate combinations; individual base plates, combinations of selected base plates and complete assembly of all base plates. In addition to the plastic prints, the Map Branch is responsible for providing similar combinations on paper in both true and non-photographic colors.

b. The above requirements cause a serious and complex situation in the Reproduction Plant. In order to only partially fulfill these requirements the Reproduction Plant is forced to print on plastic with make-shift adjustments on an automatic offset press. This procedure results in several serious complications:

1. Loss of time in adjusting the automatic offset press for paper and plastic printing.

2. Intolerable waste of plastics. Loss through damage to plastics runs as high as 50% when this type of printing is attempted on an automatic offset press. Considering the high cost of plastics, the resultant waste is very serious in both the cost factor and availability of the plastic products.

3. The automatic offset press is thereby not available for the production of other high priority work for both the NIS program and other CIA requirements. This is particularly serious since there is a demand for the "regular" reproduction and it consists of a type for which the automatic offset press is specifically constructed.

c. The installation of a proof press at the U. S. GPO-S will provide the necessary equipment to fulfill the requirements described above. The Reproduction Plant has assured the Map Branch that a proof press is the proper type of equipment for printing on plastic. (Verified by AMS, HO, USC & GS, etc.). The loss through breakage will

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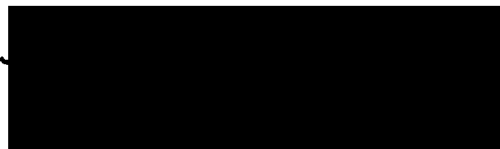
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be materially reduced to what is considered normal, the man-hours required for a unit of work will be greatly reduced and the automatic offset presses will be available for full time production of standard printing on paper.

d. If proof press facilities are made available the following additional requirements will automatically be satisfied:

1. Production of multi-colored, complex, highly classified maps for which relatively few prints are desired or allowed. Such production can best be accomplished with a proof press.
2. Press proof copies of a limited number of maps. A certain percentage of the maps produced by the Map Branch require press proof copies instead of color proof. This requirement is not being met at the present time and would be satisfied if proof press facilities were available in the U. S. GPO-S.
3. Limited press facilities for image sizes larger than 26" X 38", the maximum size of the present automatic presses. (The proposed proof press has a 40" X 52" capacity.)
4. The proof press is a most efficient method of providing "reproduction proof" of textual and simple graphic material. At present this function is accomplished on a letter press, a far less efficient machine for this type of work. The demand for "reproduction proof" of textual material for the NIS program will be particularly heavy.

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