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SUBJECT: Specification of Request for a Listing File  
and of External Macro-definitions in the Fap  
Command

The new fap command (with MacroFap) will have the for  
form

fap  $\alpha$  (list)

where (list) may be omitted. If (list) is present, a  
BCD file called  $\alpha$ ,bcd will be created, consisting of  
the assembly listing. All fatal errors will cause  
the pertinent card image to be typed on the console. The  
listing file, if requested, will be written as variable-  
length lines.

These features will be implemented in the forthcoming  
version of the fap command.

The following is proposed as a future modification  
to the fap command.

When symbolic programs originate in the form of  
punched cards, the inconvenience of having to repeat  
standard macro-definitions in each subprogram that uses them  
is minimized by the fact that standard definitions may  
be reproduced from a master deck and inserted in each  
subprogram. A similar procedure with console input would  
require one or more combin commands to make up a Fap  
program. In order to do this efficiently, each definition  
would probably be kept in a separate file, which would be  
uneconomical.

It is proposed that the fap command have the form

fap  $\alpha$  (list)  $\beta_1$   $\beta_2$  ...  $\beta_n$

where files  $\beta_i$ , fap are sets of symbolic macro-definitions.  
The argument (list) could be omitted, since it would not  
be confused with a file name.

A new pseudo-operation would be defined, EXTMAC, used to  
specify externally defined macros. The format would be

EXTMAC MAC1, MAC2, ..., MACn

where MAC1 are macro-names which are defined in the  $\beta$  files.  
When the EXTMAC pseudo-op is encountered, the specified  
files will be searched in order for the macro-definitions  
named in the variable field. In case of duplicate names  
the first macro-definition encountered will have priority.  
If the variable field is blank, all the macro-definitions  
in the  $\beta$  files will be read into the macro-table in order.