

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1974
J. H. SALTZER

from the office of

The Director, Information Processing Center

TO: D. D. Clark cc: R. Daley J. Sandison
 FROM: W. J. Burner K. Pogran R. Scott
 L. Ryan J. Steinberg
 J. Saltzer ✓ J. Ward

DATE: February 8, 1974

SUBJECT: "FRED ABSI"

Although Honeywell has not officially confirmed the price on the equivalent of our ARPA-Net interface board, a phone call by the salesman quoted \$162,800. This purchase-only price includes:

- 1 -- Asynchronous Bit Serial Interface
- 1 -- Spare
- 1 -- Set of Off-Line Board Tester T&D's
- 1 -- Program to Do a Bounce Test to the IMP

Delivery is quoted as 12 months "after receipt of order" and from what I could gather the Phoenix Operation also requires the guarantee of an IMP on site at the Camelback facility before they would even commit to building the beast. If I also recall correctly, no support is stated or to be implied regarding the NCP and CISL does not have it in their statement of work for the coming year.

It must be obvious to you by now that I don't plan on spending \$162,800 for a "Fred" if I can help it. My problem is we really need help from you and Ken to do it ourselves. John Ward says he needs much more data to be able to even start on the project and I think he should start as soon as possible.

If you can think of any alternatives, please let me know. If not, can you please maintain a communication link with John so that whatever in-house design effort is best gets started. I assume Jim Sandison will be moving the existing "Fred" to a freestanding frame as soon as he can acquire the correct power supply.

/jm