March 19, 1971

Mr. Morton Berlan
E19-207

Dear Mort,

Thanks for the advance word on the Bell 113B answer-only dataset. I asked Stan Dunten to review the information you pro- vided, and he found only one potential problem, probably solvable. It appears that the 113B will not support the "Space Disconnect" feature, which is used by Multics. (Possibly also by CTSS and CP/67 -- I don't know.) If the 113B will permit the transmission of 3 seconds of space by holding "Send Data" off for that long, then it is possible for Multics to be reprogrammed appropriately. (The corresponding situation on CTSS and CP/67 should also be in- vestigated.) The full 113B technical specification, when avail- able, may tell us whether this technique will work.

The other interface specification changes from the 103E do not appear to be of any consequence for the Multics installa- tion. Thus it appears that a field test is practical, and fairly easy.

Sincerely yours,

Jerome H. Saltzer
Associate Professor of
Electrical Engineering

JHS/mw

xc: R.H. Scott
    W.J. Burner
    R.L. Conrod
    L.J. Ryan
    T.H. VanVleck