TO: USERS OF THE 360/44 SYSTEM

FROM: J. GOLINI, SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER

RE: LABELLED TAPES.

On January 2, 1974 the Tech Computing Center will become a "LABELLED TAPE SHOP". This means that a set of labels is written internally on each tape, to identify it to the system. The implementation is completely transparent to all problem programs. Unlabelled tapes will still be supported on a read-only, low-priority, special-request basis.

At the same time as the conversion to labelled tapes takes place, we are going to "WEED OUT" the TCC tape-library vault. ANY TAPE WHICH HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO A USER WHICH IS NOT EXPLICITLY CLAIMED, WILL BE INITIALIZED AND ENTERED INTO OUR EMPTY TAPE POOL.

The procedure to be used for the conversion (i.e. initialization/copying of tapes) varies according to the type of tape (determined by the first two letters of the tape-volume identification). In general, all vault tapes will be labelled during the conversion period (Dec. 28-Jan. 2), all external tapes should be labelled at the convenience of the owner. The computing center will supply the necessary computer time and supervision for the labelling/copying processes.

1. CV TAPES

All Computing-Center-owned, vault tapes will be initialized with the proper labels, by the Computing Center Staff during the conversion period, and entered into the free-tape pool (any data
existing on the tape being destroyed). Any user wishing to retain
his assignment of the tape and/or his data on the tape should fill
in a "Tape Labelling Request Form" (available from the Computing
Center Secretary) before 5:00 P.M. on Dec. 28, 1973.

2. UV TAPES

All User-owned, Vault tapes will be either initialized with
the proper labels or removed from the vault. The same procedure
as for CV tapes will be followed except that unclaimed reels will
be returned to the owner instead of being initialized.

3. CX TAPES

Anyone having a Computing-Center-owned, External tape should
see the Systems Programmer personally to arrange for the labelling
of this tape.

4. UX TAPES

User-owned, External tapes may be initialized at the owner's
convenience, however, unlabelled tapes will be supported on a read-
only basis only, and will be given low-priority by the operations
staff. It is strongly suggested that you have the tape labelled
as soon as possible after Jan. 2, 1974, by submitting a "Tape
Labelling Request Form" with each reel to be labelled.

We will greatly appreciate your cooperation in aiding us in
performing this conversion. The labelled-tape system will prove
to be to the advantage of all involved. Since each tape volume is
uniquely self-identifying to the operating system the possibility
of a tape-mounting error is eliminated, and the process of locating
and mounting a tape is greatly facilitated.