Bill Foster

Bill Foster of Hewlett-Packard's General Systems Division was the first
company representative to address the group. The topic of his presentation was
"The Future Directions of HP3000 Software." This includes the research and develop-
ment of 2000 and 3000 software trends and to some extent the hardware trends. At
the beginning of his talk he mentioned that the user requests for improvement,
correction and development would be seriously considered by HP (he was talking about
the results of the Users Group questionnaire). Specifically, HP would consider the
top 20 items on the list, but would also consider the rest of the list from an
"ease of triplementation" point of view.

Getting back to the topic, Bill stated that MPE was HP's greatest accomplishment.
He said that HP would continue to enhance and improve it. Some of these improve-
ments would be in the from of new commands. Another area of improvement would be
the implementation of firmware or micro-code instead of software for some of the
commands. He used the HP3000 Series II as an example of some of these ideas.

A major part of Bill Foster's time was spent talking about the Series II. He
discussed some of the differences between the Series I and the Series II and the
reasons for these differences. Some of these differences are: a larger memory, a
semi-conductor memory, a larger virtual stack area and the expansion of the number
of processes allowed to run at any one time. These improvements increased the
speed and reliability of the Series II machine.

The Series II has the capacity to expand the memory to a full 512K, and it is
made of semi-conductors which allows the memory to be self error-correcting. A
log is kept of all memory errors and isused to point out problems before they become
major. The largest memory reduces the time spent swapping and thus increases the
overall effectiveness of the computer. The memory management system (uses of CPU
time) also add to the performance.

Finally, Bill stated HP's objectives as being: to decrease the price of its
products, increase the performance of these products, increase their reliability

(both hardware and software), increase the abilities of MPE amd IMAGE, and to build interfaces to other machines besides IBM.

NOTE: Tim Robbs attended the HP meeting as a recorder. The above is a summary of Bill Foster's speech by Mr. Robbs.