

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 26, 1935

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Research and Development Division  
(THRU: War Plans & Training Division)

1. In connection with the tabulating machinery now employed by the Signal Intelligence Section, the undersigned have invented a new and useful device which may be attached to the electrical counting sorter and which will be of importance in future employment of this machine in code compilation and in other work not related thereto, of a purely commercial character.
2. The principal object of the invention is to transform the electrical sorter into a device of exactly opposite function, viz., to "unsort", "scramble", or disarrange in a wholly random sequence a set of punched cards originally arranged in a definite or regular sequence. Another object is to provide a means and device for obtaining a wholly random, small sample from a large set of punched cards.
3. In view of the fact that such a device will be very useful in code production, it is desirable that patent application be made in order to protect the government's interests.
4. At the same time, in view of the usefulness of the device for certain commercial tabulating installations in which random selections of punched cards must occasionally be made, permission is requested to enter into negotiations with the International Business Machines Corporation or other companies, with a view to possible sale of commercial rights to this invention.
5. Attached hereto is a sketch and description of the invention, in the form of a preliminary draft of specifications.

*Original copy  
in file  
OCs  
J*

*William F. Friedman  
Frank B Rowlett*

**Attached:  
Sketch  
Description.**