

WW Diary

DEC 28 1955

John McCarthy

April 4, 1955

Dr. John McCarthy.

M is a young mathematician who took his degree in differential equation theory at Princeton under Lefschetz, following a Master's degree at CIT. In the summer of 1952 he worked at the Bell Telephone Laboratories with Shannon on communication theory. He and Shannon are editing a volume which is going to be printed by the Princeton University Press, on the general subject of automata, brain models, computing devices, and communication theory. McCarthy hopes that The Rockefeller Foundation might finance a six-week summer working session, in 1956, presumably at Dartmouth (where he is now a member of the mathematics faculty) at which a group of interested individuals would work together on the general subject of automata and brain models. He is confident that Shannon would attend such a session, and that his salary would continue to be paid by the Bell Telephone Laboratories. He thinks that Nat Rochester of the IBM Company would attend on the same basis. He would like very much to have Martin Minsky, one of the junior fellows at Harvard. He would hope that there would be something less than ten individuals at this working session, and perhaps one to three graduate students. He would like to have individuals like von Neumann and Polya come to their group for at least two or three days. WW tells McCarthy that we will think this matter over, and he is going to get in touch with us a little later.