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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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TO: Gordon Bell
Bob Puffer

DATE: October 17, 1973

FROM: Ken Olsen

DEPT: Administration

EXT : 2300

SUBJ: LONG RANGE PDP-11 PLANS

If the Board of Directors, by some stroke of genius or stroke of stupidity, said by edict that we could only make two PDP-11's two or three years from now, which two machines would we build?

If we then concentrated all our resources on those two machines, like a PDP-11 and 11/45, how cheap and how fast could we make them? How much would we LSI; how much would we concentrate on making inexpensive power supplies? After all these resources are concentrated on these two machines, with this grand, massive effort and all the details from packaging power supplies to LSIing parts of it and to a better inter-connection system, would there then be any need for a cheaper machine, a machine between the two, or a machine somewhat more powerful than the biggest one? Might the concentration of engineering and the high production quantity make these so low priced that no one could afford any other machine?

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attachment