

[From: *Los Angeles Times* Saturday January 9, 1954]

## **Electronic brain may be near as translator Specimen has vocabulary of only 250 words but could do the job with improvements.**

New York, Jan.8 (AP)

A new mechanical translator ultimately may hurdle the language barrier in the twinkling of an electronic eye.

Introduced publicly for the first time by the International Business Machines Corp., the 12-machine collective "brain" has a vocabulary of 250 words. But with improvements to come, the device could run the gammut of all language dictionaries.

Given the "brain" a sentence... lights flash, there is a subdued clinking and clanking, and in 10 seconds you've got the translation.

In addition to its language work, the machines take seconds to do an equation whoch might take years of mental caculation.

The "literary" part of the system is credited mostly to Dr.Leon Dostert, chairman of Georgetown University's Institute of Languages and Linguistics, and Dr.Cuthbert C.Hurd, director of IBM's applied science division.

For instance they gave the brain this sentence in Russian: "Myezhdunarodnoye ponyimaniyiye yavlyayetsya vazhnim faktorom v ryeshyenyiyi polyitichyeshkyix voprosov."

In English, according to the translator, it means: "International understanding constitutes an important factor in decision of political questions."

[Above article is photograph of a punched card with the caption]:

**Translation card.** This is specimen punch card used in electronic brain which translates Russian into English and can be adapted to other languages. At present it has a vocabulary only of 250 words but with improvements this can be increased.

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