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CORRESPONDENCE May, 1954

N. WIENER - MC 22

[ca. May, 1954]

(1)



The Commandant
Industrial College of the Armed Forces
requests the honor of the presence of
Professor Kiener
at the Graduation Exercises of the Class of 1954
to be held in the
Department of the Interior Auditorium
C Street between 18th and 19th Streets N.W.
Washington, D. C.
Wednesday, June 16th, at 10:30 a. m.

R. S. V. P.

[ans 5/20/59]

[Ca. May, 1954]

The President and Trustees
of
Tufts College
request the honor of your presence
at the Commencement Exercises
to be held on
Sunday afternoon the thirteenth of June
nineteen hundred and fifty-four
at three o'clock
on the Tufts College Campus
Medford, Massachusetts

Please direct your reply
to the Office of the Provost

[Ans 5-4-54]







[The Nation, May, 1954]

I have been asked to say a few words about the Oppenheimer affair. Frankly, I don't believe one word of the charges insofar as they go beyond the facts admitted by Mr. Oppenheimer himself. In spite of sporadic Fuchs cases, disingenuousness and indirection are acts directly opposed to the code of conduct which is a part of the interest in the truth which should be, and generally has been, the motivation of the scientist. Mr. Oppenheimer has been too closely identified with his own science for too long a period, and has been too much in the focus of public attention, for any fundamental departure of his character from decent and honorable standards not to have been noticeable for a long time.

It is my opinion that Mr. Oppenheimer has committed none of the wrongs of which he has been accused by Washington's professional informers. The charges against him are certain to backfire on the tribe of head-hunters, yet I am greatly afraid that the revulsion of public opinion which is bound to occur in his favor may lead to a false glorification of a new sort of scientist. In the first place, since the middle of the last war, the scientist has assumed the new form of the "Megabuck" scientist, who is not interested in any project in which the investment is less than a million dollars. If the life of any scientist is to be so mixed with that of the entrepreneur and the arriviste, it would not be surprising for him to change from an ascetic to a wordly man, worshipping success. Any such scientist participating in what has become a moving crap game must expect to get slugged occasionally. In fact, the amazing thing to me is that even though the scientists have been playing big business for fifteen years,

their austere decencies are not altogether extinct.

Like many scientists in his position, Mr. Oppenheimer has been playing with hell-fire. Let us hope that his services in alerting the American people to the imminent dangers of the atomic bomb has accomplished something to justify the risks of this course of conduct. Those who are now throwing stones at him have no shadow of such a moral justification. Mr. Oppenheimer, whatever his attitude to the A-bomb, has been unable to stomach the unrestricted use of the H-bomb. In doing this he has taken a considerable personal loss, in addition to exposing himself to a dangerous persecution.

The essential point of the whole dispute between Mr. Oppenheimer and his accusers is that it is taking place at a time when there is a certain amount of pressure to use the most horrible forms of atomic warfare in a preventive war. Such a proposal could not stand up for five minutes before the informed conscience of mankind, or indeed before the informed conscience of any great country. It is therefore necessary for those behind the scenes who secretly support this expedient to see to it that public opinion concerning it be ill-informed. Much has already been done towards achieving this goal, but to complete it to the last degree it is necessary to discredit those few people on the inside of atomic projects who know and care about the facts and their moral meaning.

To eliminate these people means literally to let all hell loose. Thus, whether we fully approve of everything they have done or not, whether or not we have considered

them sufficiently sensitive to have gone the limit in protesting against the first use of the atomic bomb, against the reduction of physics from a science to a conspiracy of conformists, and against their own share in many other evils of the time, we must defend them and ourselves against the utter brutality and ignorance of their accusers. Mr. Oppenheimer has spoken of the sense of guilt of the modern scientist, but I fail to see much sackcloth and ashes being worn at the present moment. I can only wish that there went with the new sense of guilt a sense of contrition and a willingness to do penance. Still, in this time of destruction, a belated revival of conscience is better than none.

Norbert Wiener

North Little Rock Arkansas
May 1st.1954

Dr.Weiner research dept.
Mass.Inst of Technology

Dear Dr.Weiner

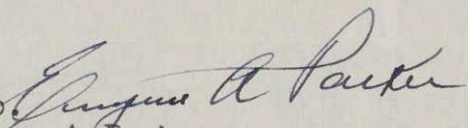
I am writing to ask you a question because I consider you to be the one man in all of the world most likely to answer it.

Do you think that with the knowledge science now has in the fields of television,Xray,radar etc. and the understanding of the brain and nervous system,that it is now possible to transmit to the brain,images that blind people may "see"?

To me,in my limited knowledge of these things,this seems in the realm of possibility. I have predicted that this will be the next "greatnews" to come from the world of science.

My only interest in this matter is my sympathy for people who can't see, some of whom are very close friends of mine.

I would appreciate having your opinion on this great question,but most of all I would like to know that you and your associates would do some research work on it.

Resp. 
Eugene A. Parker
201 $\frac{1}{2}$ Maple St.
North Little Rock Ark

[ans 6/18/54]

The University of Wisconsin



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
STERLING HALL

May 3, 1954

Madison 5

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Dept. of Mathematics
Mass. Inst. of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am glad you found my paper interesting. I sent it really as a matter of shared interests rather than as a request for advice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'Thomas D. Eliot'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas D. Eliot
Visiting Lecturer in
Sociology

TDE:las

DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC., Publishers



575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22 ~ MURRAY HILL 8-5300

May 3, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

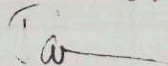
I am enclosing your check for \$500 for the book on the history and theory of invention. I am delighted that we have been able to make this agreement.

In the meantime, I am working very hard on the autobiography whenever I have a chance, and while I know that you must be anxious to hear more about it, I hope that you will bear with me until I have been able to finish it.

ok.

Incidentally, through an oversight on the part of our contract clerk, Clause 6 of the agreement dated April 8 concerning the book on invention was deleted--- the clause which relates to foreign publishing and translation rights in book or serial form. Naturally, we should like to retain these rights, and I hope you will forgive us for our error and allow us to handle these rights. If you will send me a letter to this effect, I will greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,


Jason Epstein

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

JE:nr
Enclosure

[ms 5/10/54]

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
MEDICAL SCHOOL
PORTLAND 1, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

May 3, 1954

AIRMAIL

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Although my wife and I expect to be in Boston near the first of September I am planning to visit MIT from May 17th to May 21st to look for a place to live and to make preliminary arrangements for the course work of the following year.

I would like to see you and Professor Martin sometime during this visit to discuss the course work to be taken in the fall. I hope you will be available during that period.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Tunturi

Archie R. Tunturi

ART:dmw

[ans -5 / 10 / 54]

*Prof Martin,
will be in his
office at that*

May 4, 1954

The President and Trustees of Tufts College
Office of the Provost
Tufts College
Medford, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I regret very much that I shall not be able to attend the Commencement Exercises at Tufts College on Sunday afternoon, the thirteenth of June. I shall be out of town that weekend.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

WILLOW RUN RESEARCH CENTER
ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WILLOW RUN AIRPORT
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

May 4, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

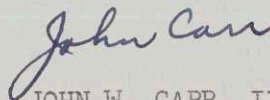
Thank you for your letter of April 14. I am sorry you will be unable to attend our June A.C.M. meeting.

I know all of us consider you an integral part of every A.C.M. meeting and feel that your absence will certainly be noted.

My wife, Esther Keenan Carr, and I have enjoyed reading your "Ex-Prodigy." It is a very entertaining and instructive book, and I think, has let all of us know a great deal more about your experiences.

Again, let me express my regrets that you will be unable to attend.

Sincerely yours,



JOHN W. CARR, III

JWC:vbs

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May 5, 1954

Mr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

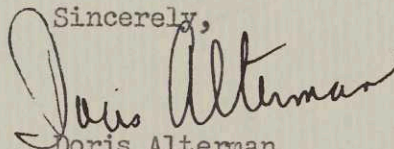
Dear Mr. Wiener:

This is to acknowledge your letter of April 27th.

At the moment Mr. Weiss is in Europe on business and is not expected to return until early in June.

Your letter requires a thorough explanation, and I know that Mr. Weiss will write you the first thing upon his return.

Sincerely,



Doris Alteman
Secretary to E. B. Weiss
Director of Merchandising



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA

2 WEST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK 36, NEW YORK

Office of the Editor

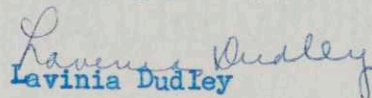
May 5, 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Your letter of April 13th arrived while I was away from the office. We shall incorporate in your article on Cybernetics the suggestion contained in this letter.

Sincerely yours,


Lavinia Dudley

LD:mb

21 E. Bergen Place
Red Bank, N.J.
May 5, 1954

Prof. N. Wiener
Department of Mathematics
M. I. T.

Dear Prof. Wiener:

I hope you are fully recovered from the indisposition you were bothered with when I saw you last.

Our mutual friend, the Senator from Bulgaria, has been bothering me with the venom spouting from the hearing. I sorely wish to join in the fray but am advised that it would be suicidal at present. To keep myself from getting ulcers I am urging people I can trust to take action. Knowing what I do of your sentiments, I think you may be interested in the following suggested action. It is, I think, rather dramatic, and nobody I can think of could carry it off as well as you could.

The press reported that when Roy Cohen declared war on the Army for not being admitted to the Signal Corps Lab. he said he had access to FBI files when he wanted - indicating top clearance I suppose. I understand he later retracted saying this was only when he was working for US attorney Saypol. There is no doubt, however, that raw FBI data has leaked to McCarthy, if not via some illicit pipeline to present FBI staff, then via Carr's ~~or~~ Surine's past connection as well as Cohen's. McC said Carr headed the subversive group (how appropriate his words) in the FBI up till the night before he joined Joe. In any case, it appears that confidential data, gathered with the understanding that it would remain so & be used for legitimate purposes of national security only, has found its way into the hands of irresponsible vicious lying opportunists stopping at nothing to advance their sordid interests. An open letter from you to J. Edgar Hoover saying you will not give any information requested from you about anyone to the FBI unless & until the leaks are plugged (or maybe not at all) etc, etc, might serve to call attention to the fact that Joe's gang is adding the FBI to the list of agencies they have sabotaged. At best FBI business is bad, but to convert it to an arm of the brain-washers & thought controllers is appalling & outrageous. Maybe the open letter is not the best way, maybe refusal to give information shouldn't even be mentioned, but the nasty implications of an FBI run for Joe should be fought some way. I hope this inspires you to one of your hardest hitting statements. Best Regards

[and 6/18/54] Jerome Rothstein

May 5, 1954

Miss Natalie Rosin
Anchor Book Department
Doubleday and Company, Inc.
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Miss Rosin:

Mrs. Cole has just finished the Index for the Anchor Edition of The Human Use of Human Beings. I enclose this Index, and it seems to me well made and within the limitations of space which you allow.

I have already send back the contract, signed and witnessed, for the new book, the Philosophy of Invention. This was at least two weeks ago, and the five hundred dollar check for the advance on my royalties, which was agreed to in the contract, is not yet at hand. Will you look into this matter, and see that it gets cleared up soon?

I am already something like a quarter of the way through with the new book on the Philosophy of Invention. By the time that I see Mr. Epstein early in the summer, I expect to have the manuscript ready for him. I think that he will be pleased with it.

I am now ready to turn my hand to the final revision of the book, I Am A Mathematician. I should like to hear further from Mr. Epstein as to what I am to do with it.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

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Brooklyn College

Bedford Avenue & Avenue H, Brooklyn 10, N. Y.

Department of Mathematics

May 6, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Mass. Institute of Tech.
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

We are delighted to have your tentative acceptance for the meeting at Hunter College on December 6th. Your suggested topic, "The History of Invention" is precisely the type of theme that the group will find most fascinating. I am confident that you will have a highly appreciative audience, for we have a good-sized group interested in the history of science. I shall write you again in late September or early October to confirm the date when you know more about your plans for the next academic year. Meanwhile we hope that you will enjoy a pleasant and rewarding summer.

Sincerely yours,

Carl B. Boyer
Carl B. Boyer, Chairman
Metropolitan New York Section
History of Science Society

FELLOWSHIP

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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ALFRED HASSLER, EDITOR
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JOHN M. SWOMLEY, JR., SECRETARY
S. F. BODEN, TREASURER

May 6, 1954

Dr. D. N. Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I was much impressed by your short article in the May 1st issue of The Nation, and wondered whether I could induce you to say something from the attitude of a scientist who has withdrawn from participation in military war, for the July issue of Fellowship that is described in the enclosed folder. Anything you would care to say about the moral issue that confronts scientists these days would be much appreciated. As you will see, A. J. Muste, Secretary Emeritus of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, is doing an article called "Mephistopheles and the Scientists," dealing with the kind of dilemma men like Oppenheimer find themselvesⁱⁿ. Something from a man of your standing would add to the effectiveness of this immensely.

We hope to be able to bring this issue to the attention of a good many people besides our regular circulation of some 11,000 or 12,000. I want to make it as effective as we can. I regret to say that our permanent financial situation is such that we are unable to pay for such contributions.

Sincerely,

AH:L
encl.

Alfred Hassler
Alfred Hassler
per A.C.

Last year it was **Children and the War**

This year it will be

...report on the bomb

As unusual as last year's study of children and the tensions of war, as timely as the latest H-bomb test, the special twice-as-big summer (July) issue of *Fellowship* magazine will be something you will not want to miss.

Nowhere else will you get this kind of insight into the colossal crisis of our times: an insight unhampered by identification with the total ideology of either side in the cold war, free of the hypnosis of violence. **REPORT ON THE BOMB** will be much more than a comment on the H-bomb; it will be a terse, readable survey of what the bomb and its complementary weapons have done to our lives, and an evaluation of the elements of hope that remain.

These are only some of the features that are scheduled for **REPORT ON THE BOMB**:

THE RACE THAT ENDS IN BANG!

A survey of the weapons that now exist or are in sight; the "deterrent" effects of the horror weapons; the outlook for the continuing arms race.

CAN'T WE SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS IT?

Is negotiation the answer? An analysis of the roots of the struggle.

THE FORTY-DOLLAR SHELTER

An evaluation of Civil Defense plans, from bomb shelters to evacuation charts.

MEPHISTOPHELES AND THE SCIENTISTS

Like Dr. Faustus, many of the atomic scientists are humane, sensitive men and women, caught in the most monstrous dilemma of history. A fascinating study by A. J. Muste, with special attention to the case of J. Robert Oppenheimer.

IT WILL BE A LONELY WORLD

A not-so-fantastic fantasy of life in a post-H-bomb world.

IN GOD WE HAVE LITTLE TRUST

Has the church anything to say about war even now? Does faith in God influence the course of national thinking or policy?

THE STRANGE WORLD OF HENRY LUCE

Life magazine since the first A-bomb explosion has alternated between impassioned pleas for the mobilization of "conscience" against the bomb, and powerful assertions of a foreign policy constructed on the bomb. An investigation of the influence of this and other powerful organs of the press.

WE HAVE THE H-BOMB JITTERS

Reactions from around the world to the American "tests."

WE COULD DO WITHOUT IT!

In a day of H-bombs and C-bombs, of nerve gases and induced diseases that have no cure, pacifism comes dangerously close to being practical politics.

REPORT ON THE BOMB is being prepared largely by the professional staff of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, drawing on the extensive files and other sources to which it has access. It will be an issue you will wish to own and save; one that you will want to give to friends and associates. To be safe, reserve your copies today by using the coupon on the last page of this folder. (Subscribers to *Fellowship* will receive **REPORT ON THE BOMB** as part of their regular subscription, of course. Extra copies should be reserved, however.)

How does it feel to be locked behind bars, in the daily companionship of bank robbers, bootleggers, murderers, rapists and white slavers? What happens to men, deprived of their freedom, denied normal relationships with women, exposed daily to the frustrations and humiliations of the "best prison in the world"?

Diary of a Self-Made Convict

By Alfred Hassler

Foreword by Harry Elmer Barnes

Published in January by the Henry Regnery Company, *Diary of a Self-Made Convict* has begun to break through the wall of silence much of the press throws up around anything relating to conscientious objectors, and is slowly winning acceptance among the general public. Criminologist Harry Elmer Barnes, co-author of the authoritative *New Horizons in Criminology*, writes: "I have written nearly a dozen books on criminology and penology, but all of them combined provide no such authoritative and firsthand impression of the realities of life in a penal institution."

For a unique reading experience, order *Diary of a Self-Made Convict* today. (Use coupon on last page of this folder.)

What the Reviewers Say

"Thoughtful and brilliantly written . . . You will be richly repaid in reading this book." —Dr. Daniel A. Poling in *Christian Herald*

" . . . one of the finest books on this subject that it has been this reviewer's privilege to read." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"One of the most impressive books of its type ever issued."—*Library Journal*

"A humanitarian document, which scores its points without recourse to the sensational." —American Library Association *Book List*

" . . . an accurate and positively-oriented book . . . The writer demonstrates a basic respect for the integrity of his readers that is unusual for literature in this field." —*The American Friend*

" . . . a convincing, authentic picture, unstained by morbidity . . . or sentimentality or cold sociological disdain." —*Friends Intelligencer*

"It is a story of humanity — its weaknesses, cruelties, sufferings, longings . . . Many will disagree with Mr. Hassler's conclusions; none with the spirit and sensitiveness with which the book is written." —*World Call* (Disciples of Christ)

" . . . a valuable and swift-paced book . . . One who reads [it] can never again feel unconcerned or hostile to those who are sent to jail to pay their 'debt' to society." —*The Lutheran*

"The number one book of CO experiences in World War II . . ." —*News Notes* (Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors)

"Must Reading." —*The Reporter* (National Service Board for Religious Objectors)

" . . . a most impressive prison document." —*Manas*

" . . . deeply moving . . ."—*The Freeman*

" . . . a true and deeply moving book. This is the American prison as it is." —Prof. Frank Tannenbaum, author of report, National Commission on Law Observance and Law Enforcement

Important New Publications —

**How to Deal
with a
DICTATOR**

By A. J. Muste

Comes to grips with the problem faced by the supporter of war: "What do we do about the terrible weapons of mass destruction we have created?" and equally with the key question pacifists must answer: "How will you resist tyranny and dictatorship if you will not fight?"

Probably the best single pamphlet on the pacifist answer to the political and moral issues of war. .25

**OUR MILITARY
GOVERNMENT**

By John M. Swomley, Jr.

The Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and director of the National Council Against Con- scription brings the record up to date on the extent to which military men and ideas have taken control in the United States. .15

"The place and the power of the Church is first and last to be Christian. The Church needs most to repent because it is the most guilty: in the light of its Gospel it knows most fully what is actually taking place. A new-born Church, freed of its guilt by repentance, can change history."

So writes theologian Nels F. S. Ferré, summarizing the challenging assertions in this book that he describes as "a great human document."

André Trocmé, French Huguenot pastor, founder of the College Cevenol, and European secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, writes of a pacifism he has tested as have few pacifists. He was a leader—nonviolent—of the Resistance during the war, and was himself imprisoned by the Nazis. \$2

**THE POLITICS
OF
REPENTANCE**

By André Trocmé

Translated by John Clark . . .

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May 6, 1954

Dr. P. R. Masani
Mathematics Department
The Institute of Science
Bombay 1, India

Dear Dr. Masani:

Many of Professor Wiener's reprints are no longer available, the supply having been used up almost as soon as it was issued.

The packet sent you several weeks ago contained all of Professor Wiener's reprints that are ~~now~~ available. I am sorry the one you most want was not among them, but we have no copies of it.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. James Cole,
Secretary to Professor Wiener

RICHARD BOLLING
5TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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SECRETARY

KANSAS CITY SERVICE OFFICE
811 GRAND AVENUE
VICTOR 4798

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

May 7, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

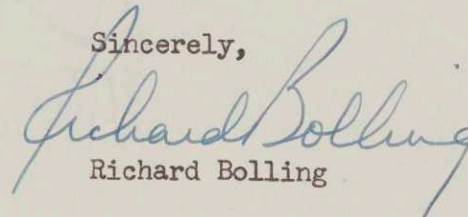
Dear Professor Wiener:

On Monday, May 3, 1954, I introduced the enclosed resolution providing for a special study of defense against atomic attack.

With regard to Civil Defense I feel certain that more energetic study, decision-making and action are essential to our national well being. My bill, I believe, would constitute a constructive step toward the objective of a better informed and better prepared nation.

I would like very much to have your comments and suggestions on this proposal.

Sincerely,


Richard Bolling

[ans 5/10/54]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 3, 1954

Mr. Bolling submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the purpose of this resolution to bring before the Congress and the American people the best judgments of scientists, lay leaders, and congressional experts on the effect of the H-bomb or its successors on existing concentrations of population and industry; the possibilities for defense measures within those areas; the degree to which industrial dispersion and urban decentralization can be expected to reduce the dangers of present-day atomic warfare; the length of time and the scale of action necessary to arrange for dispersion and relocation of population and industry now in target areas; and the ways in which the Federal Government in cooperation with State and local governments can, within our free enterprise system, contribute to such dispersal or relocation policies through its monetary, credit, and fiscal policies and through purchases and construction, aids to education, health, and welfare, the regulation of transportation, and other programs or policies affecting the pattern of the Nation's economic development.

Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established a Joint Committee on the Economics of Atomic Defense (hereinafter referred to as the "committee") to be composed of five members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and five members of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, with the five Members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and the five Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. In each instance not more than three members shall be members of the same political party, or be drawn from the same joint committee.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the committee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of the committee, and shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the original selection. The committee shall select a chairman and a vice chairman from among its members.

Sec. 3. It shall be the function of the committee --

(1) to conduct, by such means as it may deem appropriate, a series of studies to establish and examine the facts necessary to carry out the purpose of this resolution;

(2) to report to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, and to the Congress, the results of those studies by January 1, 1955; and

(3) to suggest and prepare such recommendations as it may deem desirable as a result of its studies, and to prepare appropriate legislation where required to carry out such recommendations.

Sec. 4. The committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to hold such hearings, to appoint and fix the compensation of such experts, consultants, technicians, and clerical and stenographic assistants, to procure such printing and binding, and to make such expenditures as it deems necessary and advisable. The cost of stenographic services to report hearings of the committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall not exceed 25 cents per hundred words. The committee is authorized to utilize the services, information, and facilities of the departments and establishments of the Government, and also of private research agencies.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA

2 WEST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK 36, NEW YORK

Office of the Editor

May 7, 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

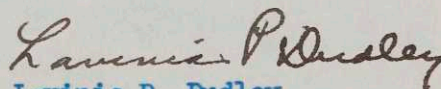
Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am sorry for the mistake in my letter of May 5th. I had been reading your article on Cybernetics and when I dictated a reply to your letter regarding your article on Law (in philosophy and science) I misspoke.

We shall see that the paragraph you suggest is incorporated in the reset of the Law article.

With thanks.

Sincerely yours,


Lavinia P. Dudley

LPD/arc

ASP

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May 7, 1954

Prof. Norbert Weiner
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston, Mass.

Dear Prof. Weiner:

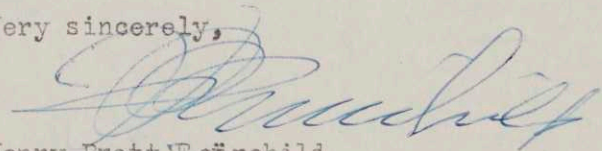
The National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions is in the initial stages of planning a meeting which we hope will be held in Carnegie Hall on June 8th, the basic theme of which will be the problem of peace as it shapes up in the Pacific area. We have not got so far as to fix upon a definite title or topic but that will come in time and will be in part dependent on speakers whom we are able to enlist.

We are most anxious that our speakers on this occasion should be thoroughly informed with reference to the facts and problems involved, and not merely enthusiastic devotees of peace. We thought of you right away and it will certainly give us the greatest gratification if you will consent to speak on this very important occasion.

It does not seem necessary at this stage to go into further elaboration as to the nature of the meeting. If we hear from you affirmatively, as we all most sincerely hope, then we can consult with you as to the details not only of your own contribution, but also as to the general set-up of the program. You may rest assured that we shall not be satisfied with any speakers who are not of a very high order and with whom you may not take satisfaction in being associated.

I am hoping that this letter will reach you promptly and that we may have the pleasure of your reply at a very early date.

Very sincerely,


Henry Pratt Fairchild
Chairman

HPF/mc

{and 6/18/54}

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
STATISTICAL LABORATORY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

May 7, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Wiener:

Many thanks for your letter of April 27. I note that you "should like very much to speak at the Berkeley Symposium next December^m", and this gives me very great pleasure. It is well understood that it is impossible, or at least unreasonable, to make very definite commitments for so far ahead, but we count on you just as much as it is possible to count on anybody.

I have just received a letter from Kac saying that he will be glad to prepare another paper to accompany yours. I am sure we shall have an excellent session.

Yours cordially,



J. Neyman

JN:so

CHARLOTTE OSANN
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
148 WEST 23RD STREET
NEW YORK
CHelsea 2-0618

May 7, 1954

Professor Norbert Weiner,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

This is a plea for help and advice on one of the greatest problems confronting humanity today. I shall be brief as possible.

The writer is a public accountant on semi-retirement basis - that is I am handling only a few clients at present, and these regularly.

My young great-niece, Dorothy Walsh, 28 years old, has always had a high scholastic record, especially in mathematics. After some business experience with Dupont Company, she went to the University of Delaware and graduated June 1952 as the only woman to receive the degree of Bachelor of Electrical Engineering. (see second page of enclosed program).

She is a charming girl and altho never very strong she took part in as many activities as possible while at college. After graduation she at once obtained, entirely by her own effort and record, a position with the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey.

She took an apartment, had one of her sisters live with her and "kept house" as well as carrying on some light social activities. This went on until recently (March) when she had what appeared to be a nervous breakdown. She has told me that the work was not difficult for her and that she had easy hours, but that advanced work required some home study.

She was and is perfectly quiet and rational altho she had a few odd ideas (which might have been suggested to her). She finally consulted a mental hygiene clinic in Summit, N.J. and they wrote to her family doctor in her home town of Pitnam, NJ, alleging that the case was serious. A neurologist prescribed shock (elec) treatments and these apparently did not help. At least, her family was concerned that the illness might become worse.

They then decided to enter her as a patient in the Trenton State Mental Hospital in the hope that she would receive proper treatment and be "cured" within a short time. When I heard this I tried to persuade my niece (her mother) not to take this drastic step but to let a good general doctor see what he could do. But her family decided to commit her (she was willing) and I went to see her the next week or so. I found her quiet and cheerful, perfectly rational and in good spirits except for being irked by the many unusual restrictions.

It so happens that due to the fact that I have known well several persons who, for one reason or another, had been placed in mental hospitals, I have been making a rather thorough study (during spare time) of the methods of such places and much of the knowledge thus obtained has proved to be truly appalling. Hence my great concern for my niece, Dorothy.

①

It is impossible here to go into details; suffice it to say that I found the most elementary human rights were violated, many of the methods used were (in my opinion) arbitrary, unscientific and inhumane. This, I believe, was not the result of deliberate policy but was primarily due to long years of wrong treatment of people in this realm of life.

It is true that I found the worst cases of abuse to be in private sanitariums and in so-called unlicensed houses; but the methods of State hospitals were also to be criticised from the point of view of advancing the best interests of their patients (and I am not now speaking of their material needs).

When I read in the Sat. Review of Literature a review of your biography and noted how you, with your wonderful intellectual equipment, had said you were interested in the subject of the so-called mentally ill and would like to be able to help them, I decided to write you some time. Now that this catastrophe has happened in my own family, I am taking the liberty of writing you at once for any help and encouragement you may be able to give - altho I know you are a very busy person. I recall how you tried to help Sidis and others.

Altho I dislike to make the statement, I know well from my research on the subject, that an "interesting case" like Dorothy's is sometimes kept in a mental hospital for an indefinite time for "study". Yet how very little has been learned during the past fifty or a hundred years about this great problem!

A humane person of great discernment and intellect who is used to the truly scientific method of "taking nothing for granted" can surely be of the utmost help in shedding light in these dark regions, if such person has even a slight opportunity of seeing behind the almost impenetrable curtain of locked doors and using his own judgment about what is happening there.

I am certain you will permit me to be frank. Would you care to write (or telephone) to the Director of the Trenton State Hospital and ask him to give you a statement on the progress of this case of Dorothy Walsh? But this is of course merely a tentative suggestion. (I would of course be responsible for any expense incurred.)

With profound gratitude for the fact that there IS a person in whom one can feel, altho a stranger, perfect confidence, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Charlotte Osann

(Miss) Charlotte Osann

Personally - and badly - typed

[and 5/10/59]

Massachusetts General Hospital

IN BOSTON
GENERAL HOSPITAL
BAKER MEMORIAL
PHILLIPS HOUSE

BURNHAM MEMORIAL FOR CHILDREN
HALL-MERCER HOSPITAL
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Boston 14

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(CONVALESCENTS)

Sent
5/10/54

notified by telephone

Dear Norbert:

B.C.

Here is the proof of the remarks
you made in the discussion at
the REC Congress last August. Would
you be good enough to correct
it?

Progress is slowly being made

on the magnetic drum at MIT
for our correlator work. Meanwhile
we have many experiments on
Tape awaiting analysis -

We hope to have something
to report to you in the not too
distant future.

Very sincerely,

Mollie Brainer

DILDAR HUSAIN, B.E., M.I.E., C.E.

'Riaz'
268 Jubilee Hill,
Hyderabad-Deccan.4.
India.
10th, May 1954.

Dear Prof. Wiener,

I trust that the enclosed group photograph taken at the Hill Fort Hyderabad on the occasion of the Indian Science Congress will not come to you as a surprise. Its sender will be found standing second from the left in the group. I may be permitted to add that this group will always remain associated with your historic visit to this part of the world on a mission for the advancement and progress of Science.

In sending my very best greetings and good wishes to you, might I perhaps ask that, if there is no objection, you may send to me, as a memento, a copy or copies of your publications on the subject of your particular line of study or research.

With very kind regards,

P.S

*we last met in Madras
at the Conmemora Hotel.
Perhaps you remember it.*

Yours sincerely

Dildar Husain

(DILDAR HUSAIN)
Past-President,
The Institution of Engineers (India).

Prof: Norbert Wiener,
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology,
Cambridge,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

[ms 7/22/54]

May 10, 1954

Congressman Richard Bolling
(Fifth District, Missouri)
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman Bolling:

I appreciate very much the letter which you have written to me concerning your resolution providing for special defense against atomic attack. It seems to me that the whole problem of such defense has been handled in a way that is not only not factual, but positively disingenuous and inimical to our continued existence as a nation. The first line of defense against atomic attack is not to lay oneself open to an atomic attack. If an atomic attack is ever to come upon us, then I assure you that it will not come as a pinprick or as a series of pinpricks. Any enemy that uses it against us, and here I do not mean only Russia, will be quite aware that the use of any atomic weapons short of the most destructive available will be followed by reprisals so vigorous and so intense as to endanger or destroy their national existence. I therefore am sure that we shall either have no atomic attack, or one of maximum intensity with the full punch of the hydrogen bomb. Under these conditions, a very large part of the measures which have been taken for civilian defense are not only ill-conceived and useless, but even dangerous to the welfare of the American people, by leading us to a false conception of what an atomic attack will constitute. We have eroded one of the islands where we have bombed, as the papers tell us, to a depth of over 160 feet. It is only realistic to expect that a similar attack upon us would do something of the same sort. Thus, within a considerable region of the focus of the bomb explosion, bombshelters are of no use at all, for instead of being evaporated on the open street, they give us no better choice than to be evaporated shelter and all. We must take it as a fact that if a bomb is to fall in the centre of one of our cities, all the people in that centre will be wiped out, and that the attempt to do anything for them will be merely a hopeless diversion of effort which cannot be spared from the partially feasible problem of doing something to protect those in peripheral areas.

Here something can be done by a protection that goes into effect at the time of the fall of the bomb, but very little. In Massachusetts, we experienced last summer the catastrophe of the Worcester tornado, and similar catastrophes are far from unknown in your state. Such a catastrophe was probably of the order of one-hundredth what would occur in the case of the fall of a single hydrogen bomb. It was not enough to cut heavily the local population known to the administration agencies of relief in Worcester itself, but it was quite enough to terrify the people and to give them a sense that they had been through a major catastrophe. Multiply the slaughter and the property damage by 100 and the very basis of social organization will be taken away from us. There will be no cadre of officials on the spot of which a large part would not be slain with the first blast. For miles around, a considerable part of the food in the warehouses would be contaminated by atomic radiation and the warehouses, if they are not burned up, would at least be blown into empty shells. The social organization needed to approach normality would have to be created on the spot, as it would be of the first importance not to increase the problems of famine by any large importation of people from the outside.

We do not, most of us, or perhaps any of us, have an adequate idea of the nature of catastrophe. For example, as to the physical effect of a bomb, most of us think that when a city is bombed, the energy which destroys it comes from outside. This is true only to a very minor extent. A great city is, physically speaking, a great explosive, with large amounts of energy stored in the elevation of steel and stone and concrete above the ground, and in the presence of large quantities of combustible materials within a small space. This is the real bomb, at least in the case of pre-atomic war bombing, and the explosives dropped from an airplane are merely the primer that releases it. The overwhelming part of the energy of destruction is there on the spot, only waiting until a sufficient shock knocks the buildings down and a sufficient heat burns the accumulated combustibles.

What is true physically is true spiritually. Let a catastrophe once reach certain proportions, and a body of people, no matter how disciplined, will resolve itself into a mob. This mob will trample itself to death, will clog the roads in an attempt to escape, and will not pay five seconds attention to those signs that say "This road will be closed in the event of an enemy attack." The people who panic out of the city will not be motivated by cowardice. They will, in fact, have no choice, because within the destroyed district, food, water, medical help, and all the necessary means of existence will be lacking.

I am not too optimistic about the best that can be done against an atomic attack, but what can be done is necessarily expensive, and can only be done early. It is a matter of engineering more than one of slogans and drills. In the first place, the people from a bombed city must have some place to flee to, where they will find food, shelter, and medical attention, and this refuge cannot be in a region which is being supplied through the devastated district itself. This means that the organization of the supply and evacuation systems of our cities must be peripheral, far enough from the city itself so that only a small part of it can be expected to be devastated by one bomb or one stick of bombs, but near enough so that it is accessible. As the expense of this will be enormous, it is foolish to expect that it will be done by a supply system entirely irrelevant to the normal system. In fact, the normal supply and institutional systems of the city must be tailored to the possibility of their use in a bomb emergency, and the everyday life of the city will have to be on the basis of a continual semi-evacuation. We shall have to build many circular highways and many circular railroads, as we are indeed doing now, and the welfare of the country as a whole will forbid us even to put as many eggs into one basket as we have done in the past by the establishment of the railroad bottlenecks of Chicago and St. Louis. An expansion of these ideas for defense was presented in "Life" magazine for December 18, 1950.

Evacuation will be difficult enough under normal conditions. It will be ten times as difficult if we wait until the bomb has fallen. Cities cannot be improvised, and an evacuation under duress demands exactly that.

The first line of defense against an atomic war is not to have it. If we have it, we must be aware of the fact that nothing can seriously mitigate what will either be a sub-total or a total catastrophe. The order of magnitude of the expense of our protection against it will be almost all that we have, but the order of magnitude of the expense of going through such a war without having spent almost all that we have on new engineering and organizational methods, will be all that we have, and ourselves as well. Under these conditions, it is completely unwise to adopt measures merely for their plausibility and their allaying of the fear of the public, rather than for what they really can do; and it is my belief that the overwhelming part of our civil defense undertaking at the present time has been, and is, worthless. It is of the same order

as doping a factory worker with barbiturates so that he will have no fear of the circular saw.

I stand ready, sir, to be of what help I can in this matter, now and in the future.

Respectfully yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

May 10, 1954

Mr. Jason Epstein
Doubleday and Company
575 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

My dear Epstein:

I have received your check for
\$500.

As to Clause 6 of our contract
dated April 8, concerning foreign
publishing and translation rights, I
agree that you should retain these
rights and have the handling of them.

I am anxiously awaiting your
comments on the autobiography.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bhc

May 10, 1954

May 10, 1954

Miss Charlotte Osann
148 West 23rd Street
New York, New York

Dear Madam:

~~With~~ all sympathy for you, I wish to tell you some of the obstacles which lie in the way of a layman, particularly one not personally connected with the problem which you mention, interjecting himself into a medical dispute of the sort that is troubling your family.

If I were to give concrete advice, on the one hand I would be asserting my competence in a field in which I am by no means sure of myself. On the other, anything I did could be interpreted as practising medicine without a licence. As things stand, this is a very serious offense, and is one the consequences of which I am not prepared to ignore. I would expect that a New Jersey institution would be even more resentful of out-of-state interference than interference from within the state, and I am quite certain that they will have methods for making their resentfulness effective.

It therefore seems to me that your best procedure is to get advice on the spot, and professional medical advice at that, so that it will have some status in this case that I do not have.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

May 10, 1954

Archie R. Tunturi
Department of Anatomy
University of Oregon
Medical School
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Mr. Tunturi:

Both Professor Wiener and Professor Martin will be available here in their offices most of the time during the week of May 17th to May 21st.

When you arrive in Boston, you might telephone for definite appointments. The MIT telephone is UNiversity 4-6900; Professor Martin's extension is 181; Professor Wiener's is 198.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. James Cole
Secretary to Professor Wiener

2011 Boudreau Drive
Urbana, Illinois
May 11, 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I was pleasantly reminded of our brief meeting in London in the summer 1947 when I read your comments on the Oppenheimer case in the NATION of last May 1st. I was impressed by your doing away with the trivia of the situation, which seem to have engrossed most of our fellow scientists in their evaluation of the Oppenheimer affair. Clearly, Oppenheimer is vulnerable because of having compromised so much, and is the target of the present attack because through him the whole body of American physicists can be frightened into acquiescence.

Even now that the "affair" is publicly discussed, it hardly brings out any revival of conscience among our colleagues. I feel that your direct statement, if widely known, may help starting several minds on new lines of thought about responsibility and opportunism in science. I am sending copies of your statement to many of my friends.

Sincerely yours,



S. E. Luria

AIR FORCE CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH CENTER
AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
224 - 230 ALBANY STREET
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

CRRB

11 May 1954

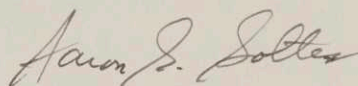
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Your well-known interest in nonlinear circuits and theory prompts me to bring the inclosed copy of a report on "A Wide-band Square-law Circuit Element" to your attention. Several years ago, we were seeking a promising approach to the problem of obtaining accurate, reproducible, square-law action at response times compatible with conventional electronic techniques. It appeared worthwhile to attempt to do this in a way that could be generalized, to the extent that the same principle might be employed to obtain other prescribed nonlinear characteristics. We envisioned the ultimate evolution of a standard series of nonlinear devices which the circuit designer might be able to pick off the shelf, as required, just as he may now do with linear circuit elements.

The beam-deflection square-law tube described in the inclosure represents a modest step in this direction. The physical realization of beam-deflection tubes with accurate arbitrary nonlinear characteristics is a more difficult undertaking than the relatively simple "special" square-law case. In all cases, however, we are still running into the common problem of obtaining the interest and support, moral and otherwise, necessary to the continued pursuit of this work. We feel that this can be overcome mainly by making the tubes and their applications known to as many potential users as possible. I would very much appreciate it if you would bring this development to the attention of any of your associates to whom it may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,



AARON S. SOLTES
Computer Laboratory
Electronics Research Directorate

Incl
E5110

[ans 6/18/54]

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

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MATHEMATICS

May 12, 1954

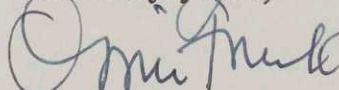
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
M. I. T.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

A student here named John J. Lewis is applying for an assistantship in the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at M.I.T. He is especially interested in Mathematics and has taken the courses for engineering students through the calculus. He hopes to be a candidate for the Ph. D. degree majoring in Econometrics and Economic Theory. He is an unusual student who, though brilliant, has not always received the highest grades.

I wonder if you happen to be acquainted with the particular people in the Economics Department to whom recommendations about Lewis should be sent?

Sincerely yours,



Orrin Frink,
Department of Mathematics

same 6/18/54

Dr. Henri Chevalier
133 Boulevard Malesherbes

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May 12th, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

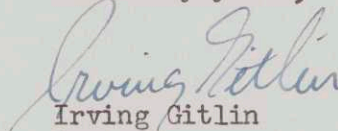
Now that THE SEARCH camera crew has left M.I.T., I would like to thank you personally for your generous efforts in our behalf. We know how much valuable time you gave up for the filming, and we are deeply grateful.

The members of the crew have all expressed their appreciation of the interest you took in this project -- and they felt that without your splendid cooperation, the job would have been a much more difficult one.

Incidentally, your scenes are first-rate; you proved to be quite photogenic. In fact, the rough-cut of the entire show thus far looks excellent and I hope that when you see the finished product you will be as happy about it as we are.

Again, many thanks and best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,



Irving Gitlin
Producer
THE SEARCH

IG/pe

THOMAS F. McDONOUGH, A. I. A.

Registered Architect

25 HUNTINGTON AVENUE

BOSTON 16, MASS.

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REGISTERED ARCHITECT
ASSOCIATE

May 12, 1954

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

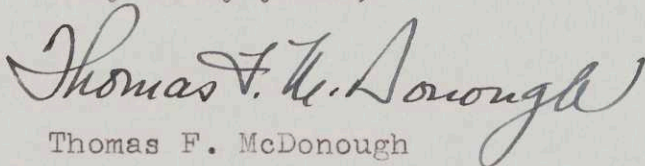
Dear Professor Wiener:

I am director in the American Society of Planning Officials, and the executive director has asked me to see if I could persuade you to make the keynote address at our convention to be held in Philadelphia, September 27, 1954.

I believe I am perhaps somewhat responsible for your name being advanced for this chore. One evening about three years, at the testimonial to Doctor Alexander Forbes, of the Harvard Medical School, given in conjunction of the convention of the electro-encephalographers, I was present and heard your comments at that time and was very much impressed. When your name was mentioned in Chicago, as a possibility for this keynote address, I was very enthusiastic and felt that the gathering would receive it very well.

Since the executive director of our society has asked me to use whatever persuasive powers I have to have you accept this assignment, I hope that you can see your way clear to do so.

Very truly yours,



Thomas F. McDonough

TFM:ee

[ans 6/18/54]

May 12, 1954

Miss Janet Corliss
Box 1124
Winter Park, Florida

Dear Janet:

Margaret and I will be up on our farm this summer, and I hope you will be available for secretarial work, for I shall have plenty for you to do, perhaps even more than last summer.

M. Robert Vallée of Paris is coming up to the country with us, and we shall be working together.

Moreover, it will not be long until Jason Epstein is up there again for a revision of the autobiography and of some subsequent work, and he will be delighted if you can help out. We shall talk over the terms of your compensation when we meet in the country.

I hope you have had a nice year, and I am quite certain that you have made a conspicuous success.

Please remember me to the family, and tell them that we can scarcely wait to see them again.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

Mathematics Department
The Institute of Science
Bombay 1, India

May 13, 1954

Mrs. James Cole
Department of Mathematics
M. I. T.
Cambridge 39, Mass.
U. S. A.

Dear Mrs. Cole :

Thank you for your letter of May 6.

What I especially wanted was not a reprint of Prof. Wiener, but memeographed notes of lectures on Multiple Time Series. Perhaps some student who has finished this course may be able to spare a copy. I will be quite satisfied with a used copy. If none is available, would you kindly mail me one as soon as a new set is rolled out.

Lectures last summer
(Ask Lee)

Sincerely yours

P. Masani

Dr. P. R. Masani
Professor of Mathematics

5/21/54

BY AIR MAIL

हवाई पत्र
AEROGRAMME
NO ENCLOSURES
ALLOWED



MRS. JAMES COLE
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
M. I. T.
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.
U. S. A.

COX - 66

↑ First fold here ↓

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:—

P. R. Masani
Mathematics Department
The Institute of Science
Bombay 1, India

↑ To open cut here ↓

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official publication of

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1319 ALLEGHENY AVENUE • PITTSBURGH 33, PA.

May 14, 1954

Address reply to:

919 Wick Court
East Lansing, Mich.

Prof. Norbert Wiener
Prof. of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

The Journal of the Instrument Society of America attempts to bring to the Society membership, technical information concerning their field of interest and also to bring them messages from outstanding leaders of American Industry, Government, Education and the Arts and Sciences. Through the medium of these messages we hope to provide our members with a better understanding of the forces which influence every individual, our technological development, and the goals and hopes which every American harbors for the future. Our members are interested in their individual relationship to industry, government, national concerns and the problems of living in an international community. Our members want to understand the background and the why of peoples, nations and sciences. I am sure that you could bring to our members a significant message either in the form of an editorial or a special article. I would like, therefore, to invite you to submit such a manuscript on whatever topic you may choose. I can assure you of a respectful, interested and appreciative audience.

Prof. Norbert Wiener -2-

May 14, 1954.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience as to whether we might expect to receive such a message from you and the possible date of receipt.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. Jeffries

Robert J. Jeffries
Editor, ISA Journal

RJJ:dh

[ans 7/18/54]

DOCTEUR HENRI CHEVALIER

ANCIEN INTERNE DES HÔPITAUX DE PARIS
EX-CHEF DE CLINIQUE CARDIOLOGIQUE A LA FACULTÉ

SUR RENDEZ-VOUS

133, BOULEVARD MALESHERBES XVII^e

WAGRAM 15-39


Paris 14 Mars 54

Bien chers Amis

A votre retour de la montagne nous avons appris
l'annonce du mariage de Margarete - nous vous
rejoignons de cette bonne nouvelle. Tous nos
compliments pour vous et nos meilleurs
vœux de bonheur pour les jeunes époux -
Sans nouvelles de vous depuis longtemps déjà,
nous nous demandions si vous étiez en bonne

Santo. Ce faire-part de mariage s'entend
sans doute me mes aly bien, ce qui nous fait
plaisir.

Ici tout est O.K... Mes amis ne jettent pas
de voyage pour cet été: fin août ou tout à fait
début septembre nous irons aux U.S. à
l'occasion du 2^e congrès annuel de Cardiologie
(Washington 12-17 septembre). Mes conférences par
Boston (2 au 10 septembre) où je reviens plusieurs
centes mois dans. Bien évidemment nous espérons
vous rencontrer alors dans votre propre ville!
Acceptez tous deux avec mes regards, nos plus
amicales pensées


Dr. H. Chernin

Zürich, den 14. V. 54.

Herrn
Professor Dr. N. Wiener
Dep. of Mathematics
Mass. Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Sehr geehrter Herr Kollege!

Nach möchte ich Ihnen herzlich
danken, dass Sie mir auf den 1. August ein
Manuskript für das Herrn Flaenherd ge-
widmete Heft der Comm. Math. Helv. versprochen
haben. Ich freue mich auf den von Ihnen
behandelten Gegenstand und es ist selbstver-
ständlich nicht nötig, dass Sie mir den Titel
Ihrer Arbeit vor dem 1. Aug. bekannt geben.

Empfangen Sie die besten Grüsse
von Ihnen

Albert Pfleger

[and 7/9/54]

148 W 23 St New York
Friday 5/14

Dear Professor Weiner

Thank you very much for
your kind letter. I shall

take the liberty of writing
a reply within a few days -
not to urge you to do anything
special, however. Sincerely yours

To Professor Herbert Weiner
Cambridge Mass

Charlotte Oram

Norbert Wiener
53 Cedar Road
Belmont, Mass.

May 15, 1954

Dear Wiener,

It was pleasant to talk with you the other day and sad that we had so little time. There are a number of things which I would like to ask you including, alas, a practical question. Let me deal with that first before I come to theoretical matters.

Since I saw you I have heard from the Rockefeller that they are discontinuing the grant to my research project because it is "peripheral to the interests of any of the Foundation's branches." Can you suggest any persons or foundations whom you think might be interested in a study of the natural history of human communication with special focus on the phenomena of play, psychotherapy, and the communication of schizophrenics? We need \$20,000 a year. We have reason to believe we are on to something good. And "we" is a team with some common understanding of what our problems are.

What we most need I think is the voice of some person who has the brains to recognize that we are on to something good and the status to tell a foundation that this is so. Are you such a person? Or do you know one?

Now to write of pleasanter matters. As I understand it, the minimum constellation necessary for type confusion is a language plus a meta-language. Now, thinking over our conversation, it appears that in play there are two such minimum constellations. We have most concerned ourselves with the paradoxes potentially present in the message "this is play." We observe that this message can be exchanged non-verbally between mammals and that when it occurs it is usually implicit in those meaningful actions which are qualified by the statement "this is play." The message "this is play" thus comes to qualify itself and something like an Epimenides paradox arises.

The second constellation is that to which you referred the other day and on which I once published a paper called "Deutero-Learning," i.e. learning to learn.

A question which I cannot clearly resolve is whether these two sets of two-typed communication are really identical or are both independently operating in such phenomena as play.

As I understand it, type confusion leads to paradox when both message and meta-message contain negatives. On this principle we can imagine the generation of paradox in the deutero-learning system

8

when an organism experiences punishment following some failure, and learns that it must not learn that punishment follows failure. This would be approximately the picture of a man who having been punished for failure later is punished for showing his expectation of punishment after failure, e.g. is punished for cringing.

Many of the organized physical games and other types of less organized play which simulate combat have exactly this characteristic -- teaching the boy to be a man by punishing his expectation of punishment. It thus seems to me that the Epimenides paradox latent in the message "this is play" becomes almost the same as the paradox generated by unlearning to unlearn. But of this last step I am unsure.

Another question which I would have liked to ask you concerns the nature of metaphor. At the animal level we observe triads of signals:

(a) Those signals which are parts of inner physiological disturbance which happen to be externally perceptible -- blushes, tears, and the like.

(b) Dramatized simulations of (a), e.g. in play, etc.

(c) Signals which indicate whether a given signal is an (a) or a (b). The message "this is play" is thus a signal of this third type.

We argue that in human verbal communication similar constellations are recognizable and sometimes made explicit. Such words as "really," "as if," "once upon a time," are signals of the third type qualifying the reality or metaphoricalness of other parts of the message. It appears then that dreams and the hallucinations of schizophrenics consist of something like proto-metaphor. To the dreamer the dream usually seems like direct experience because it lacks any signal which might qualify the reality of the message.

From this it would seem to follow that there is a stage of thought in which all the messages are proto-metaphorical; and that in addition to this type of thinking there is a corrective process whereby the third type of signal is appropriately added. This seems to me an odd way of designing a computing machine, but I don't know enough about how such machines are designed. Would something like the following make any sense? Attneave argues that the distribution of information and redundancy in the visual field is such that it is economical even for a preponderantly digital computer like the brain to create visual images, i.e. to operate in a partially analogic manner. This suggests that the use of proto-metaphor in the lower levels of the thinking machine might perhaps be economical. I don't know.

Our next task, when we get some money, is to investigate the use of the third type signal by schizophrenics and psychotherapists and to try to achieve some formal understanding of what goes on.

I hope that if you are ever on the West Coast you will visit us.

Yours sincerely,

Gregory
Gregory Bateson
Veterans Administration
Palo Alto, California

[amp 6/10/54]

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Prof. Dott. GIACOMO PIGHINI

Parma (Via Romagnosi 4) I7,V,I954

Chiaro prof. Norbert Wiener,

Sto compilando un'opera sulle basi fisiche della mente e dell'intelligenza; mi sarebbe quindi utile conoscere gli ultimi studi che ella va conducendo sull'argomento. Ho letto il suo interessantissimo libro "La cibernetica" nella traduzione italiana (ed. Bompiani, Milano), ma non conosco altri di lei recenti lavori. Ho il di lei indirizzo dal dr. Rosenblueth, che pure mi ha inviato suoi lavori. Io sono neurologo e psichiatra, e le accludo l'elenco dei miei lavori di cui potrei inviarle alcuno che la interessi.

Ringraziandola, le porgo cordiali saluti.

Dr. Giacomo Pighini

Opere di Giacomo Pighini

(Oltre circa 150 Monografie ed articoli su argomenti di indole scientifiche e vari)

- La Biochimica del cervello. Rosenberh e Sellier
Torino 1915 (esaurito).
- Viaggi ed escursioni scientifiche di Lazzaro Spalanzani. Cappelli, Bologna, 1929 (esaurito)
- Napoleone. L'Uomo e il Dominatore (opera premiata dall'Accademia d'Italia) Treves, Milano, 1939.
(esaurita)
- Le correlazioni chimico-nervose. Pozzi, Roma, 1941
- Lo spirito che vince. Bompiani, Milano. 4 edizioni
1949.
- Galileo. L'Uomo e i Tempi. Dall'Oglio, Milano, 1948.
- Venezuela Paese dell'avvenire. Valmartina, Firenze
1950
- La personalità di Giuseppe Verdi. Tip. Donati,
Faenza, 1951.
- L'Italiano del Rinascimento. Guanda, Parma, 1951
- Dove andiamo ? - Bompiani, Milano, 1952.
- Leonardo e la psicologia del genio. Pozzi, Roma,
1952

The New York Times
Times Square
New York 36

May 17, 1954

Dear Dr. Wiener:

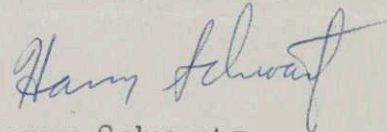
A recent issue of a Soviet popular magazine contains an article about a young Soviet mathematician, Dr. Mergalyan. In the course of this article, the assertion is made that you met this Soviet mathematician in India and congratulated him warmly on his achievements in the theory of approximations.

It occurred to me that you would be interested to know of this reference to yourself in a Soviet magazine -- a reference which indicates the Soviet mathematician is very proud to have met and to have been congratulated by you. In addition, I wondered if you could be so kind as to indicate the nature of Dr. Mergalyan's contribution and its usefulness in the theory of electronic calculators. In particular, I am interested in learning -- if possible -- whether he really is, as the Russian's claim, an extremely brilliant mathematician who adds a new major star to the already brilliant Soviet mathematical firmament.

As you will realize, of course, I am merely interested in a brief indication of his work and his importance, being quite incompetent in anything mathematical beyond the elements of the theory of functions of a complex variable.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,



Harry Schwartz
Specialist on Soviet Affairs

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

[ms 5/19/54]

le 19 mai 1954

Dr. Henri Chevalier
No. 133,^e Boulevard Malesherbes
Paris 17^e, France

Monsieur et cher ami:

Margaret et moi, nous sommes très excitées par la possibilité de vous voir encore une fois chez nous. Nous espérons à vous recevoir dans l'autre maison de campagne, mais si c'est impossible, nous serons chez nous à Belmont, et nous espérons que vous pouvez dîner chez nous encore une fois.

Quant à nous, vous savez que Peggy est mariée, et nous sommes très contentes parce que notre gendre est un jeune homme très abile et très sympathique. Les deux sont très contentes et Margaret et moi aussi.

Mon état de santé reste satisfaisant, mais je suis épuisé depuis plusieurs années de travail très dur. J'ai écrit le second volume de mon autobiographie aussi bien qu'un parti dans un livre sur la philosophie de l'invention. Pendant l'été il me faut écrire un livre nouveau sur la Cybernétique. Ce livre doit être bien plus avancé que l'autre.

Pendant l'hiver je me trouvais aux Indes. C'était un voyage charmant, et j'ai donné un vingtaine de conférences. Je passait par Paris en route, mais j'étais, malheureusement, trop occupé à téléphoner à vous. Dans l'automne de 1955, Margaret et moi, nous espérons à renouveler mes impressions des Indes, et cette fois nous devouerons plusieurs jours ou même semaines à Paris et nous établirons contact avec vous.

Meilleurs vœux à Mme. Chevalier et à M. votre père, de côté de nous deux. Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, mes sentiments les plus amicaux,

Norbert Wiener

May 19, 1954

Mr. Harry Schwartz
Specialist on Soviet Affairs
The New York Times
Times Square
New York 36, New York

My dear Mr. Schwartz:

I have been very interested to receive your letter concerning Mergalyan. You will understand that while I am delighted to orient you on the Mergalyan matter, all information that I am giving you concerning my evaluation of Mergalyan and my experiences on my trip is personal and confidential, and it not to be the basis of any statements or publicity to be made over my name. On the other hand, you are welcome to use it as a basis for statements concerning Mr. Mergalyan which are not to be attributed to any specific informant.

Mr. Mergalyan is an able young analyst working in the abstract field of approximation theory, in which Professor Walsh of Harvard is our leading representative. It belongs to one of the most abstract branches of analysis. Mergalyan's work in this is interesting and competent, but as far as I could see, was rather remote from application either in content or, what is more important, in point of view. I told Mergalyan that I felt that the Russians were doing the same thing as many Americans in encouraging an excessive separation between the pure and the applied in mathematics, and that I felt a union between the two in spirit was much to be desired.

Mergalyan is a good young scientist who has achieved a constructive career in his middle twenties. He would be one of the very good men here, but certainly not out of the class of our better men. I told him that if political conditions had made it possible, or should in the future make it possible, I should be proud to have him work with me, and I meant this, but he is not a new star of the first magnitude on the mathematical firmament, and my impression is that he has very little physical or engineering orientation. While it is conceivable that Mergalyan's work might have application

in the theory of electronic calculators, we discussed nothing related to this, and I personally have grave doubts whether he is sufficiently orientated in respect to these fields to make use of any possible connection. He is a sincere, pleasant, decent fellow, who amounts to something, and is going to amount to more, in mathematics.

Everything I discussed personally with Mergalyan was either work that had been published, some of which in fact had emanated from suggestions from Russian papers by Kolmogoroff and others, or else was of an abstract nature with no obvious bearing on industrial or military applications. Of course, in my public talks, I made a considerable amount of mention to my Indian friends both of the intellectual and to social problems of automatization of industry. As I recollect, the Russians were at none of the talks which more specifically concerned the automatization problem, but of this I am not quite sure. If they were, they were guests at these lectures like anyone else there.

I came to India as an invited guest of the Science Congress at Hyderabad. To this a number of Soviet delegates went as well. The only mathematician of the lot was Mergalyan. As we were going to be together for a week or so, and as we were going to be lodged in the same guest house, I came to the conclusion that the only decent way to live together with my Russian colleagues and to avoid giving a bad impression to our Indian hosts was to come to the point at the very beginning concerning our relations for the time we should be in contact. I said this--that I should be definitely off any discussion of politics or of engineering, but that as far as pure science went, without any engineering applications, I should be glad to talk with them. I needled them a bit--for example, I told one or two of the group that I had heard that Pravda had referred to me not only as a slave of the capitalist war mongers, but as a cigar-smoking slave of the capitalist war mongers, and I followed up this statement immediately by offering a cigar. They took the joke in very good part, and the real scientists as the meeting were friendly to me without being offensively and dangerously inquisitive. They were being watched by a much less savory crew of political agents from the consulates and embassy, and these people often gave an impression of heavy brutality. The scientists who were sent were competent and pleasant men, and did not appear to be particularly active in politics.

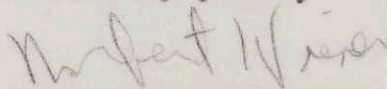
I also needled the group on the continued surveillance they were receiving, and the way that they stuck together so as to minimize their free contacts with their Indian hosts. I contrasted this with my own free position and the advantages that it gave me in seeing Indians as individuals. Also when we met certain Chinese I talked with them in Chinese, and suggested ~~that~~ the lack of knowledge of Chinese on the part of the Russian delegates represented a defect in modern Soviet education.

On one occasion, when we were all guests at the Hill Fort at Hyderabad, a disused palace of one of the sons of the Nizam, and when we found that the Russians stuck closely to one end of the table and left us the other, another American guest suggested that the English, the Americans, the Norwegians, and the Japanese delegate come down early to dinner and sit in alternate seats, and so force the Soviet delegates to divide themselves about. These things were done in a goodnatured way, and were not accompanied by our giving away any information of which any use could be made.

I gave a full report of my Indian trip and contacts with the Russians both to the United States Consulate at Bombay and to the United States Embassy at Delhi. To have carried a personally hostile attitude into an international science congress would have done great damage to the United States' good name in India, and I believe that the United States officials with whom I talked were of one mind with me in this matter.

I should be delighted if you could put at my disposal a copy, translation, or summary of Mergalyan's article. I stand ready to help you in any further matters that may arise out of my letter.

Sincerely yours,



Norbert Wiener

NW:bbe

The New York Times
Times Square
New York 36

May 20, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 19 and the very interesting information contained therein. Please be assured that I shall keep the material confidential, as you request. I had, of course, no question about your discretion or loyalty in approaching you on this matter.

The article in question appeared in the magazine "Ogonyek" for March 21, 1954. This magazine contains a full page picture of Mr. Mergelyan and a full page article about him. The article concludes -- after a long description of his life and some indication of his contribution to mathematics -- with the following section involving yourself:

"In India, in the formal park of Osman University, there came to Mergelyan, after his report, a gray-bearded man in a light gray suit. He introduced himself, 'I am Norbert Wiener. I know your work colleague. Excellent, very excellent. I congratulate Soviet mathematicians from my heart'.

"Between the young Soviet scholar and the American, who is reckoned to be among the greatest mathematicians in the world, there took place an unforced conversation.

"Serge Nekitovitch (i.e. Mergelyan, H.S.) remembers this conversation with Wiener when he meets with the young Communists of Erevan and shares with them his impressions of his trip to India."

You may be interested to know that some fuss was made about Mergelyan last month at the Young Communist League national convention in Moscow, which he apparently attended as a delegate. It is rather interesting that he is publicly proud to have met you and that he has somewhat altered the tale in the Soviet telling.

Advocate Board



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

News Service

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

May 20, 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Room 2-155
M.I.T.

Dear Norbert:

Here are four photographs made for CBS publicity purposes during the filming of "The Search." Michael J. Foster, Director of Press Information at CBS Television, asked us to send these to you--and to explain that since they may be released to the press in the fall these photographs should be for personal use only at this time.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John I. Mattill".

John I. Mattill
Assistant Director

JIM/rdg

Enclosures

$$x_1 + \epsilon x_2$$

$$1 \quad -\lambda \epsilon H$$

$$i \epsilon H \quad 1$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} e^{i\alpha} & -e^{-\lambda(\beta+\alpha)} i \epsilon H \\ e^{i(\alpha+\beta)} i \epsilon H & e^{-i\beta} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\left| \frac{U_{11}x_1 + U_{12}x_2}{U_{11}a_1 + U_{12}b_2} \right| = \left| \frac{U_{21}x_1 + U_{22}x_2}{U_{21}a_1 + U_{22}b_1} \right|$$

$$\frac{|U_{11}|^2 |x_1|^2 + 2|U_{11}U_{12}| \cos \gamma + |U_{12}|^2}{|A_1|^2}$$

$$= |U_{21}|^2 |x_1|^2 + 2|U_{21}U_{22}| \cos \gamma$$

May 20, 1954

General L. J. Greeley, Deputy Commandant
Industrial College of the Armed Forces
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Greeley:

I am highly honored to receive
your request for my presence at the
Graduation Exercises of the Class of
1954 of the Industrial College of the
Armed Forces.

I would like very much to be
there, but I find that I already have
engagements that call me elsewhere at
that time.

Will you express my regrets and
good wishes to my friends at the
Industrial College of the Armed Forces?

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:nnc

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
KNOXVILLE

May 21, 1954

Professor N. Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Experience has shown that a periodical reprint collection can be a very valuable supplement to library facilities. With the generous help of our department, I am now maintaining my collection in such a way as to be available freely to any interested person in this vicinity.

The collection is still quite modest, however, and I am writing to request a place on the distribution list for your publications, and copies of any past publications of which you may still have an adequate supply. Any help that you may kindly be able to give will be most gratefully appreciated.

Yours very truly,

F. A. Ficken

F. A. Ficken

FAF/bs

5/25/54

Prof. Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
C a m b r i d g e 39 , Mass. , U S A

Sehr verehrter Herr Wiener!

Ich gehe von der Annahme aus, dass Sie zu dem Internationalen Mathematikerkongress nach Amsterdam kommen. In diesem Falle habe ich den Auftrag, im Namen des Ministerpräsidenten von Nordrhein-Westfalen (dem grössten deutschen Bundesland) zu fragen, ob Sie bereit wären, in der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Forschung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (einer Art Akademie der Wissenschaften) am Mittwoch, den 15. September, in Düsseldorf zu sprechen. Herr von Neumann hat als weiterer Redner zugesagt.

Diese Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Forschung unseres Landes ist ein Gremium von etwa 50 Personen, die sich zur Hälfte aus Vertretern der Naturwissenschaften und Medizin der drei Universitäten Bonn, Köln und Münster sowie der Technischen Hochschule in Aachen zusammensetzen und zum anderen Teil aus Leitern der Forschungsinstitute und der grossen Industrieunternehmen. Dies Gremium hat die Instanzen des Landes in bezug auf die Ausgaben für Forschungszwecke zu beraten. Als Mathematiker sind nur Herr Kollege Sperner in Bonn und ich Mitglieder.

Jeden Monat findet eine Sitzung in Düsseldorf statt, die vom Ministerpräsidenten oder seinem Stellvertreter geleitet wird. Der Hauptteil der Sitzungen ist rein wissenschaftlicher Art. Es wird dort über die neuen Fortschritte in den Wissenschaften gesprochen. Im April sprach zum Beispiel Herr Professor E.C. Cherry vom Imperial College in London über Kybernetik. Nun wurde von mehreren Herren der Wunsch ausgesprochen, Sie selbst einmal vortragen zu hören, denn es zeigte sich, dass gerade für dieses Gebiet auch unter den Physikern und Technikern ein besonderes Interesse herrscht.

Während Ihres Aufenthaltes in Düsseldorf würden Sie Gast der Landesregierung sein und dementsprechend mit Ihrer Begleitung untergebracht werden. Als Honorar hat der Herr Ministerpräsident an 1000 DM gedacht.

Wenn Sie dafür Interesse haben, würde es leicht sein, Ihnen die Besichtigung eines der grossen Industrieunternehmen des Ruhrgebietes zu ermöglichen.

Wenn Sie zusagten, so würden wir für Ihren Vortrag einen grösseren Kreis von Gästen einladen, so die Professoren der Mathematik, Physik und Elektrotechnik aller Hochschulen unseres Landes. Auch würde an Vertreter der grossen technischen Werke gedacht werden.

Der Herr Ministerpräsident würde Ihnen, falls Sie zusagen, noch persönlich schreiben.

In der Hoffnung auf eine positive Antwort verbleibe ich mit

dem Ausdruck meiner grössten Hochachtung und freundlichen
Grüssen

Ihr sehr ergebener

Behrke.

[anz 6/18759]

Detroit, May 22-1954

(address over)

Prof. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dear Sir:

I am a reader of "Sarvodaya", a ^{magazine} ~~(magazine)~~ of the non-violent reconstruction movement in India. I go a long way of to find literature that discusses life in our present conditions in the world at the present time, and presents it on the folk level, which to my notion is that the family, taken as such, is the only organization that could ever pass through and survive in a cataclysmal conflict. This being only a logical deduction. ✱

I work in a factory but my interests are not centered on movie stars, baseball or football, horse races, murders, comic books, sex, money, motor cars or any other possessions; yet I do not feel anti-social for not showing gregariousness about those things. What interests me is life and backgrounds, not many people like to talk about life and how to develop this most precious possession to a very worthy end. I feel outside of society but don't feel wrong for not taking part.

In the March Issue of "Sarvodaya" there is an article "Unemployment and the Machine" by J. C. Kumarappa, its mostly about you. I'd like to know more about science and its human implication in the social field. From the very sketchy details obtained from the article, there is an awful lot to learn in this direction. I consider it very important to obtain a true bearing on the world realities, so as not to be swayed into the position of a traitor to humanity if it should ever come to pass.

Hoping that you will be kind enough to furnish me with some literature about the subject underlined. I would be very grateful to you.

(8)

yours truly,
Julius A. Dionne [ans 6/16/54]

Julius A. Dionne
18916 Oakland Ave.
Detroit 3, Mich.

LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

24 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 6



May 24, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener:

Under separate cover, we are sending you a copy of Willy Johns' *THE FABULOUS JOURNEY OF HIERONYMOUS MEEKER*, which will be published on May 26th.

THE FABULOUS JOURNEY is something unusual for 1954. A comparison to "Gulliver's Travels" is inevitable, and accurate, for Willy Johns (a pseudonym) uses the technique of science fiction just as Jonathan Swift used the technique of travel-histories of his time -- to satirize, to amuse, to shock, and to entertain. This "Satiric Fable of the Future" describes the fantastic adventures of Professor Meeker on the planet of Thalia, where people who are almost-human practice very-human rites and rituals.

We hope you will like the book -- and we would appreciate hearing from you about it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Milton L. Rusk'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Milton' being particularly prominent.

Milton L. Rusk
Publicity Department

[ans 6/18/54]



WINDHAM FINITE MACHINE COMPANY

AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCED INFORMATION TRANSFORMING DEVICES

P. O. BOX 8

WINDHAM DEPOT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

DERRY 749-M11

May 24, 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

You may recall the visit Tom Etter and I paid to you at your country place two summers ago, during which we discussed "Fabric," our idea for constructing computer components and wiring in a canonical form. In the intervening time, we have just about shot our remaining resources in supporting ourselves while sharpening the concepts, and performing a modest amount of component research in the laboratory.

At the present time we are faced with a dilemma of the circular type: In order to pursue further development, we must interest a research establishment or industrial firm in the idea. To launch a research project within such a context would require a considerable financial outlay, which no company we have approached is willing to make on the basis of our paper work, enthusiastic as they have been in theory. To produce the requisite models however, requires funds of a magnitude which only such an establishment can produce. Etcetera.

The only way that I can conceive of breaking this dilemma is through the use of authority, or the testimonial, and it is to this point that this letter is directed. If you are willing, provisionally, to stick your neck out to a greater or lesser extent on our behalf, or even to consider the possibility, I would like to make an appointment to see you, to lay before you what we have accomplished to date, and to discuss the material, possibly to provide a basis for such action.

Sincerely,

Roland Silver

Roland Silver

[over 5/26/54]

School of Electrical Engineering,
N.S.W. University of Technology,
BROADWAY, N.S.W., Australia.

24th May, 1954.

Professor Norbert Wiener,
Department of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
CAMBRIDGE 39, Massachusetts,
United States of America.

Dear Professor Wiener,

I have given much thought recently to the problem of what I call "complex Fourier analysis". This means to resolving a damped oscillation into a series of exponentially damped sine or cosine waves to the form -

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=0}^m A_n e^{-\lambda_n t} \sin \omega_n t.$$

The real problem, of course, is to determine the values of amplitude A_n , damping coefficients λ_n , frequencies ω_n , such that there is a minimum number of terms in the solution. We know of some methods of determining series having all values of exponential damping identical but these do not give the minimum number of terms in order to achieve a certain degree of approximation.

We have been investigating some of the servo mechanism techniques using attenuation/lag frequency plots and these will give very simply a number of non-oscillatory exponential terms. The really difficult part of the problem is to obtain a good degree of approximation to the transient with a minimum number of terms in the series.

We would be glad to hear your thoughts on this problem at an early date.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

R. E. Vowels

R. E. VOWELS,
Professor of Electrical Engineering.

(6)

[oms 6/16/54]

To open cut at top

BY AIR MAIL

AEROGRAMME



Professor Norbert Wiener,
Department of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
CAMBRIDGE 39, Massachusetts,
United States of America.

Sender: Professor R.E. Vowels,
School of Electrical Engineering,
N.S.W. University of Technology,
BROADWAY, N.S.W., Australia

If anything is enclosed, letter will be sent by ordinary mail.

First fold here

Second fold here

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE SECRETARY TO THE UNIVERSITY

MASSACHUSETTS HALL
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

May 25, 1954

Dear Professor Wiener,

The enclosed biographical sketches on Messrs. Goebels and Krause arrived this afternoon after the two gentlemen had visited you. You may, however, like to have this material for your files.

You were very kind to be willing to see these guests without more advance notice. They were delighted to have an opportunity of meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Alice M. Belcher
Alice M. Belcher

Professor Norbert Wiener

COMMITTEE ON THE LEADERS PROGRAM
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

1785 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON: PETER J.A. GOEBELS

Participant in the Foreign Leader Program of the
International Educational Exchange Service of the Department of State

Visiting the United States May 5 - July 2, 1954

Place and date of birth: Godesberg, Germany ; July 26, 1907

Nationality: German Marital Status: Married

Home Address: Bonner Talweg 159, Bonn, Germany

Academic Training: 1913 - 1921 Grammar School
Vocational Training for Hand Crafts (Tailor and Baker)
for six years
Three years of private study in preparation for University study
University of Cologne - economics and social sciences
Vocational Educational Institute (Cologne) - education and
preparation for instruction in the textile industry
State examination for Vocational Teaching

Positions Held: 1932 - 1951: educational and organizational experience as
vocational instructor; department head in a Vocational School
1947 - 1952: member of the directing committee of the Association
for German Teachers for Vocational Education. He was President
of the organization for three years.

Present Position: Vocational Specialist in the National Economic Ministry. (This
Ministry has complete responsibility for all vocational training
in factories and work-shops, as well as responsible for
coordination of vocational training programs involved in other
economic ministries and for similar coordination with respect
to the vocational training programs of the states.)

Knowledge of English: None

Interests: Vocational training (both vocational training schools and in-
service training); training in citizenship. He is especially
interested in the training for the highly technical and
automatically operated industries.

COMMITTEE ON THE LEADERS PROGRAM
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON: DR. ERWIN K. H. KRAUSE

Participant in the Foreign Leader Program of the
International Educational Exchange Service of the Department of State

Visiting the United States May 5 - July 2, 1954

Place and date of birth: Neufährdorf, Germany; April 7, 1908

Nationality: German Marital status: Married

Home Address: Haydnstr. 6, Bonn, Germany

Academic Training: 1926 - 32: Technical University of Berlin; Diplom. -- Engineer
1934: Graduated as Doctor of Engineering

Positions Held: He has been concerned with the organization, methods and development of systems for vocational education in German industry, trades, etc. except handcrafts. He has also been concerned with professional organization, plans and training materials.

Present Position: Director, Institute for Vocational Education (Bonn)
Director, Association for Research and Promotion of Vocational Education

Travels Abroad: Short trips to other European countries

Knowledge of English: Fair

Interests: Vocational training (particularly in-service training); training in citizenship. He is especially interested in the training for the highly technical and automatically operated industries.

May 25, 1954

W. T. Martin, Chairman
Department of Mathematics
Room 2-255

Dear Ted:

Mr. Tunturi came into my office the other day, and it is quite clear that:

- a) He is not prepared to work under me; and
- b) That he does not want to work under me.

I have found him a heavy lump of dull resistance. He is only prepared to take undergraduate courses or tutoring, and it is not worth my while to try to impart to him any of the refinements of my work even through contact with Rosenblith and the laboratory.

When he wrote to me wishing to work under me, I assumed he had some interest in what I was doing. This is false.

We should confine ourselves strictly to giving him the undergraduate courses or perhaps tutoring that he wants. As far as I am concerned, he is a mistake, and he will not have admission to my office.

I am tired of these people who see my name somewhere, think my work is important, want to get the best in their field, and then show themselves as completely unable to make use of it. It makes me think of the old story of the industrialist who went to Brashear to get a flat piece of glass. Brashear asked him how flat he wanted it. The man said, "Perfectly flat." Brashear explained that he could not do that, but that he would make it as flat as he could for \$10,000, or perhaps it was a million dollars. On further questioning, Brashear found that the man wanted a piece of glass flat to

one part in one-hundredth of an inch, which was worth perhaps five dollars.

I think that Brashear had a legitimate peeve at the stupidity of the industrialist, and I have exactly the same peeve at Mr. Tunturi.

You are welcome to show him this letter if he asks to see it, but, at any rate, he must keep out of my office.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc

May 25, 1954

Professor W. T. Martin
Room 2-255

Dear Ted:

I have just talked with Molly Brazier about Tunturi. Molly thinks that since Tunturi has already gone back to Portland and will be there for the whole of the summer, the appropriate thing to do is to inform him quite clearly that at the level at which he wishes mathematical training, it is available in Portland, and that there would be no particular significance for him to come to work with us.

This allows him ~~about~~ plenty of time to transfer his fellowship and allegiance. I do not want to encourage a man to come ~~across~~ the country and to work with me under circumstances as unpromising as those that I have found. I feel like a heel about this, but it seems that definiteness is kinder to everybody than to let an impossible situation hang.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

P.S. Let me know whether you get in touch with him or not.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
FOREIGN STUDENT SUMMER PROJECT
N. S. A. COMMITTEE
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.

CABLE ADDRESS: MITFSSP

TEL. TROWBRIDGE 6-3326

May 26, 1954

Dear Professor Weiner:

Mr. Robert Vallee will arrive June 2 '54 at 8:15a.m. on Air France Flight 077. One of our committee members will meet him in New York and he should be in Boston during the first weekend in June (4-6).

We will have him contact you just as soon as he arrives.

Sincerely

Mary Walsh

Mary Walsh
Secretary for the Committee

May 26, 1954

Mr. Roland Silver
Windham Finite Machine Company
Windham Depot, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Silver:

Under no circumstances will I give a man a testimonial for commercial work. It is not my policy to mix up in recommendations for commercial firms.

Any opinion that I have expressed is personal, and under no circumstances is to be used in any promotion or money-collecting campaign.

Not only do I not approve of any use of my name, but I explicitly forbid it, and I shall take legal action if my injunctions are disregarded.

Yours very truly,

Norbert Wiener

NW:bbc



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P. O. BOX 8

WINDHAM DEPOT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

DERRY 749-M11

May 27, 1954

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you for your prompt and definitive reply to my inquiry.

I have not attempted to use your name to our advantage in the past, nor would I consider doing so at any time without your explicit permission, whether or not the threat of legal action were present.

Very truly yours,

Roland Silver
Roland Silver

May 27, 1954

N. V. Braceland, Manager
Houston Hall Store
3417 Spruce Street
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

In reference to your order No. H -
9556, the lecture by Norbert Wiener entitled
"Automatic Control Techniques in Industry"
is the property of the Industrial College of
the Armed Forces, Washington, D. C., and its
use is restricted to this institution.

Any request for the pamphlet must be
directed to them.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Cole
Mrs. James Cole,
Secretary to Professor Wiener

from: Mrs. Felia Burmester
943 1/2 N. La Jolla Av.
Hollywood 46, Cal.

5-30-54

To Professor
Dr. Norbert Wiener,
Massachusetts

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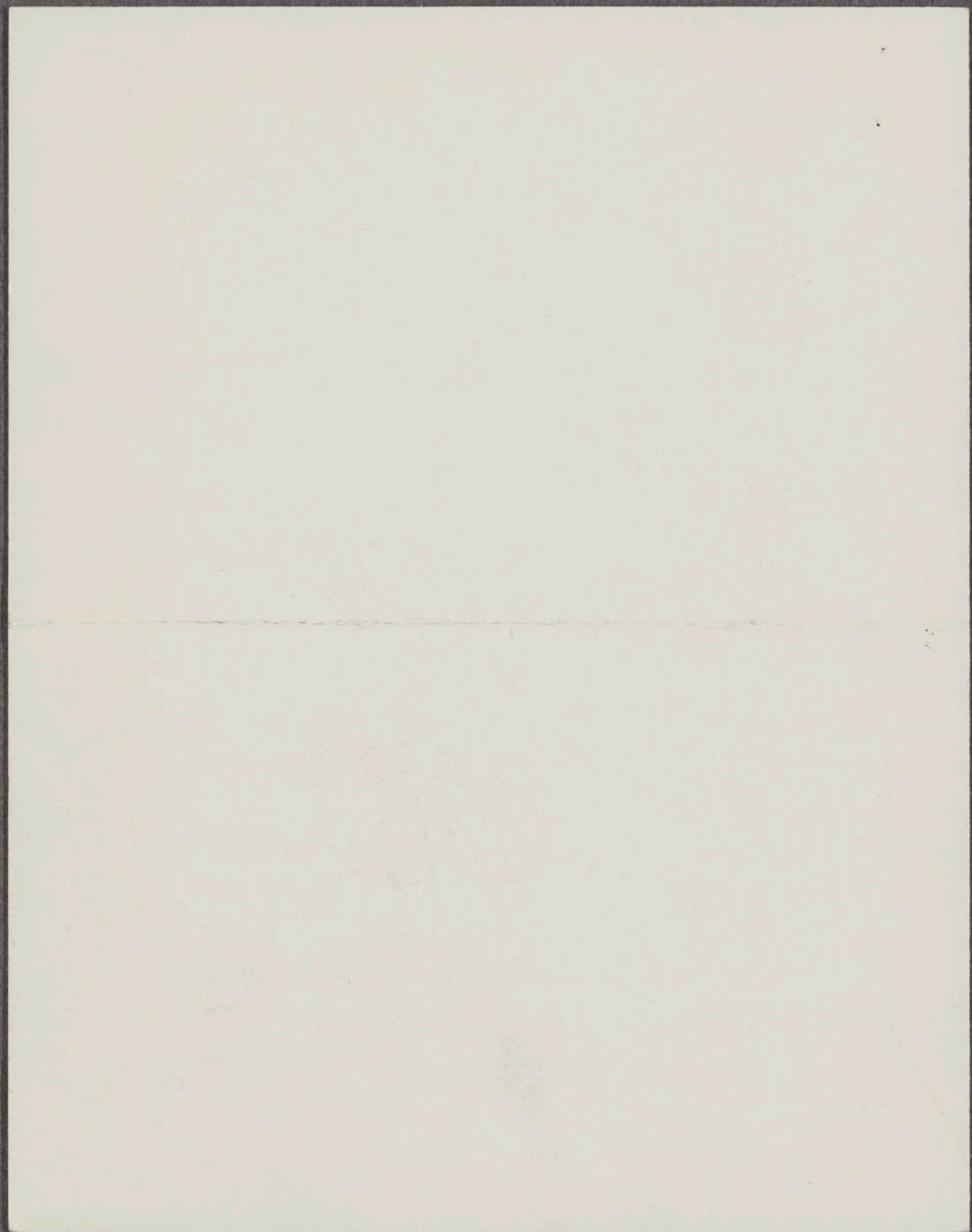
Dear Sir,

Would you, please, let me know,
if I can write you a letter
in German, as my English -
is very poor?

A "glance" in your book, -
"The human use of human
beings" - gave me the impetus
to write you a letter. I would
appreciate your answer and your
permission to write you
Sincerely yours
F. Burmester

[and 6/16/54]





Zürich, den 31. März 1954

Herrn Professor Norbert Wiener
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge (Mass.).

Sehr geehrter Herr Kollege!

Professor M. Plancherel feiert am 16. 1. 1954⁵
seinen 70. Geburtstag. Es wird beabsichtigt,
ihm einige Arbeiten aus seinem engeren
Fach- und Freundeskreis im 1. Heft der
Comm. Math. Helv., das 1954⁵ erscheint, widmen
zu lassen. Wir denken an Arbeiten von
ca. 12 Seiten. Sicherlich würde es Herrn
Plancherel ganz besonders freuen, von Ihnen
eine Arbeit gewidmet zu erhalten. Könnte
bis zum 1. Mai auf Ihre Zusage warten und
bis zum 1. August auf Ihr Manuskript?

Für Ihre Bemerkungen recht herzlich
dankend grüßt Sie mit vorzüglicher
Hochachtung

Albert Pfluger

8-18

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BRUXELLES, LE
 TÉL. 12.88.65

As from : 22, chemin Krieg
 Geneva, 31st May, 1954

TO ALL MEMBERS OF U.R.S.I. SUB-COMMITTEE VI A (Information Theory)

Dear Colleague,

I take pleasure in informing you that, as a result of my circular letter of February 4th, 1954, I have received a paper : "General Report on Communication Theory and Cybernetics", by Dr. D. GABOR (United Kingdom), of which I send you a copy herewith.

I propose that we take this paper as an initial basis for our discussions during the URSI meeting in August this year at The Hague.

Further, I have received a suggestion from Dr. F.L. STUMPERS (Netherlands) (who is, as you will remember, the author of one of the most complete bibliographies on Information Theory), that the advisability be discussed at The Hague of having supplements compiled by separate experts for the different chapters into which the - indeed very wide - field of Information Theory can be subdivided. I would appreciate it very much if you would consider this possibility, which would certainly help in drawing up as complete a bibliography as possible.

It will not, of course, be easy to have the whole field treated homogeneously. In particular, the "No-man's land" between chapters may cause some difficulties.

I shall be abroad until shortly before the opening of the Hague meeting, so that I do not think that I will be able to send you any further communications prior to the Meeting. Hoping to hear from you on the above suggestions, and with my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(9)

Balth. van der Pol
 Prof. Dr. Balth. van der Pol,
 Chairman, URSI Sub-Committee VI A,
 (Information Theory)

[ans 6/10/54]

Encl:-