

258

CORRESPONDENCE *March, 1959*

N. WIENER · MC 22

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA

EDITORIAL OFFICES

MARQUIS PUBLICATIONS BUILDING
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1898 - 60th Anniversary of "Who's Who" - 1958

Returned march 17, 1959

Dear Biographee:

We are asking you to help us.

You are one of the notable men and women listed in "Who's Who in America". To assist our compilers working on the next Edition, we now again* send you a check proof of the biographical sketch of you published in the last printing, so that ... while there is still time to process it carefully ... you may go over it, note alongside it any new information of general reference interest, and then return it in the accompanying no-postage-required cover.

We'll be glad by way of some tangible reciprocation for your help, to send you the new 31st Biennial Edition of "Who's Who" at discounts - up to 25% - even greater than those we allow libraries and educational institutions on their bookings in advance of publication.

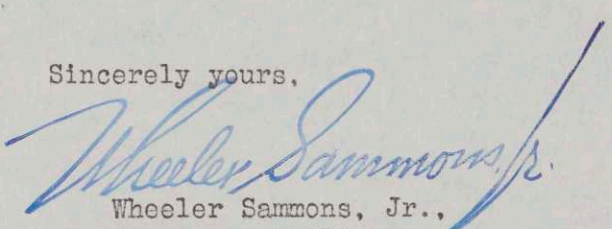
Please return the check proof as soon as you can. Having given us that assistance, to obtain the new Edition at the biographees' discounts described on the enclosed blank, simply sign, or personally okeh, this blank - use of the postage-paid cover for it as well as the check proof of your sketch is of course quite in order. ("Who's Who" is, for professional, vocational or business reference use, of course an expense taxwise.)

Thank you for helping us.

Sincerely yours,

WA/CB

Four Enclosures


Wheeler Sammons, Jr.,
Associate Publisher.

* According to our records the check proof sent you about a month ago was not returned; in case it has been sent back, just ignore this duplicate request for checking.

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3/1/59

529 Wyoming Ave.,

Millburn, N.J.

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Sometime ago I wrote you a letter seeking your assistance in obtaining a speaker for our Nov. Atlantic City Convention Meeting. It was my thought that you might be able to suggest someone, well-versed in the frontiers of pure or applied mathematics, who could present advanced ideas in a manner to permit some insight for an audience of high school teachers. I am encouraged to believe that such people exist, by a personal experience, as a member of an audience listening to a lecture, by a Nobel prize-winner in physics, on his research work, a topic for which my own background was decidedly limited. The conciseness and clarity of his presentation transcended my ignorance and gave me inklings of immortality. Am I too optimistic in hoping that we have such speakers in the field of mathematics?

Since the planning for such a meeting must be done at least this far in advance I would appreciate whatever assistance you may be in a position to give. I trust that I am not being too presumptuous in intruding on what is already a very busy schedule

I'm sure.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Gouss

Harold A. Gouss

W. L. PIOUS, M. D.
340 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

March 2, 1959

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you for the three articles:

1. Time and Organization
2. Time and The Science of Organization
3. My Connection with Cybernetics. Its Origins and Its Future

which I received at the end of last week. I have studied them with considerable interest and would like to make a few comments and raise a few questions for your consideration. I have so far failed to follow the very brief statements concerning the measurement of causality.

The demonstration that the brain has a built-in clock is beautiful as is the correlation of this with the more general phenomenology of self-organizing systems. The concept of the virtual governor explains in a very satisfactory manner the limits to efforts at sharp localizing of functions in the brain. I believe that Lorento de No--a neurophysiologist--arrived at very similar conclusions back in the thirties and forties.

The ideas of the built-in clock and of the virtual governor seem to require a certain homogeneity among the elements in a self-organizing system. I gather that it is your opinion that the organization of heterogeneous and complex elements must imply that these elements have at least one quality in common which is subject to interactions as well as to retroaction from the virtual governor.

I believe that it will be of interest to you

March 2, 1959

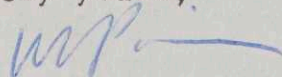
that Freud described the function of attention as pulsating. He expressed the opinion that this pulsating quality contributed to our sense of time. I don't have the references available but I think an important one is his paper on "The Mystic Writing Pad".

In group behavior the virtual governor seems to depend on two factors: (1) the number of members; (2) the motive--as morale, inspiration, superstition, hatred and lynching. It is my impression that more members are needed for an unethical objective than for an ethical one. This would suggest that the self-organizing phenomenon among heterogeneous individuals, no matter how transient, is a function of the conscience of each individual: the greater the moral scruples, the more pressure of numbers is needed.

I've been very concerned about and have attempted to understand the intellectual apathy of large numbers of people today. This apathy seems to carry with it a readiness for superstition, prejudice and conformity and a potential for panic--all qualities of archaic levels of mental organization. I have inferred from your articles that the operation of numbers is a factor in such regressive organizing of behavior. This may very well be an unexpected result of population increase when it exceeds a limiting number. Perhaps we are seeing the break down of familiar organizations and the emergence of archaic self-organizing groups heading into unknown kinds of organizations.

I will end these comments with a question. I assume that the mind is a self-organizing system which, in the course of a person's lifetime, progresses to higher levels of organization within the capacities of that person's endowment. It seems obvious that as the mental organization progresses, many higher order functions become potentially available. It seems equally obvious that many people do not use these functions and in fact that they are actively prevented from using them. Such failure to use these functions must lead to impoverishment of the mental organization. Can one calculate from a study of self-organizing systems whether a limiting number of the elements of the system must function in order to manifest a virtual governor with specific qualities and characteristics?

Sincerely yours,



W. L. Pious, M.D.

WLP:k

[ans 3/5/59]

March 2, 1959

Mr. Melvin N. Brenner
Executive Director
The Family Service of Chester County
300 South High Street
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Brenner:

I am confident that there is value in meetings between people who are interested in communication theory and social work. On the other hand, most of my recent work has been in regions rather far from this field and I doubt if I can be of much effective use to you at present. I suggest that you get in touch with Professor Karl Deutsch at Yale, who may be able to be of some use to you in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mk

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
BOX 2155 · YALE STATION
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

March 3, 1959

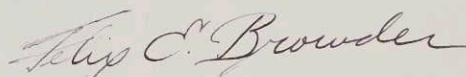
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

In connection with your lecture to the Yale Mathematics Colloquium on March 18th, I shall need some information to complete the detailed arrangements. First of all, the title of your talk, and second, your detailed plans for traveling to New Haven so that I can arrange to meet you.

We are looking forward very much to your visit.

With best regards



Felix Browder

[and 3/6/59]

ELIZABETH J. HODGES, Librarian

March 3, 1959

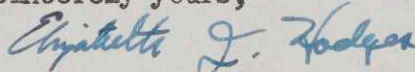
Dr. Norbert Wiener
53 Cedar Road
Belmont, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

At a meeting of the Steering Committee for the observance of National Library Week in Belmont, of which Mr. G. Manuel Fenollosa is Chairman, it was decided to ask a few prominent Belmont citizens if they would help by writing brief statements, based upon their own experience of reading, which they would permit to be published. It is suggested that each such statement be about a hundred words long and on some such topic as "What Reading Means to Me," or "Books that Meant Most to Me." The editors of the Belmont Citizen and Belmont Herald have indicated they would be willing to publish such statements as space allows.

If you can find time and would be willing as a contribution to our Library to write one and permit it to be published, please send it to me. National Library Week will be observed April 12-18 in 1959. It would be appreciated if we could hear from you by March sixteenth. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,



Elizabeth J. Hodges, Vice Chairman
Belmont Committee for National Library Week

EJH:JR
cc Mr. Fenollosa

[ans 3/10/59]

March 4, 1959

Dear Mr. Norbert Wiener!

I was very happy, when I get
your letter with some your jobs and
I am very grateful to you.

Last week I met with one
Russian edition from 1948., in a bookshop.
In this edition some papers is collected
in one book inscribed as "The Problems
of Cybernetics" (part 1).

In four chapters of this book
are assembled works about logical
schemes, method of prediction,
something about computing machi-
nes and mathematical linguistics.

I hope that I will be able
to learn something about cybernetics.

Repeatedly I render thanks with
best greetings.

Sincerely yours

Jaraj Božićević

Zagreb, March 4, 1959.

1

The small white flowers
are very fragrant.

They are very
fragrant.

They are very fragrant.

They are very fragrant.



THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST-UNITARIAN CHURCH

THEODORE A. WEBB, MINISTER
MRS. ALFRED A. C. MALCOLM, PARISH ASSISTANT
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

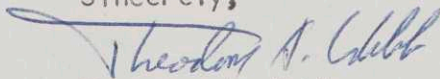
Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener,

Eighty to one hundred Universalist and Unitarian ministers gather at Exeter, New Hampshire, each year in December for a three day session. At the meeting, we have outstanding authorities speak to us about religious, social, political or economic problems. We are very anxious to have you come to us in December this year. Our men would like to know what you foresee that the science of electronics will or might do to our society. Your book, THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS, shows that you have done a good deal of thinking about this matter.

We have a budget which would permit us to pay you up to \$100 for being with us, delivering one lecture, staying over night and answering questions at the subsequent meeting. The dates for our meeting are December 28, 29, 30. Will you please let me know as soon as is convenient if you would be able and willing to come with us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Theodore A. Webb

March 5, 1959
taw:ddm

[and 3/9/59]

March 5, 1959

The Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I have known Dr. Paul Erdos for more than ten years. He is a mathematician of great ability and distinction. He is a man of fine character although he is likely to be somewhat erratic an individual in his modes of behavior. He has already contributed very considerably to American mathematics and if he is allowed to take a position in this country I am certain that we will have much to learn from him for many years.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mak

(This letter was sent to Senator Javits.)

March 5, 1959

Dr. W. L. Pious
340 Whitney Avenue
New Haven 11, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Pious:

While I am interested in the direction of the paper you have sent me, I am rather skeptical of the value of mathematical physical analogies in data which have not been reduced to a close quantitative form and which may perhaps be incapable of such a reduction. I am sending your paper back to you and I shall be in New Haven on Wednesday, March 18. If you would like to make arrangements to talk with me further, then I shall be glad to do so. I think that such talks would be more to the point than an attempt on my part to answer the issues raised in your most recent communication.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk
Enclosure

[ans 3/9/59]



OFFICE OF
THE EDITOR

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

425 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE • CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

March
6
1959

Professor N. Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

I wonder if you have overlooked replying to our letter of January 29, in which we asked you to prepare the article COMPUTING MACHINES, MATHEMATICAL THEORY OF for the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Since we are anxious to make this assignment, we shall appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

John V. Dodge
Managing Editor

JVD:mls-REP

[and 3/9/59]

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
NIEMAN FOUNDATION
FOR JOURNALISM

OFFICE OF THE CURATOR
44 HOLYOKE HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

March 6, 1959

Prof. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39

Dear Mr. Wiener:

You have been good enough to agree to speak to a seminar for science writers April 2.

I can now give you the meeting place for your talk and the schedule of the seminar, which I enclose. Your session will meet in Kresge Auditorium, Little Theatre.

The group will be having luncheon together and we shall be happy if you can join us.

Something more than forty science reporters have accepted our invitation. I know you will find them an appreciative and interested group.

The funds we have for this allow me to offer an honorarium of \$100 for your talk.

Let me add my thanks to those of Messrs. Wylie and Torrey for your participation.

Sincerely yours,

Louis M. Lyons
Louis M. Lyons

[ams 3/9/59]

PROGRAM OF SEMINAR FOR SCIENCE WRITERS - MIT-HARVARD - April 2-3-4, 1959

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, AT MIT

- 9:30 a.m. Greetings - President Julius A. Stratton, MIT
to The Scientific Enterprise
- 12:30 p.m. Guidelines from the Past - Leonard K. Nash, Assoc. Prof. of Chemistry, Harvard
The Design of Experiments - William G. Cochran, Prof. of Statistics, Harvard
The Scientist - Norbert Wiener, Prof. of Electrical Engineering, MIT
- 2:00 p.m. Man
to Chemistry of Heredity - Paul M. Doty, Prof. of Chemistry, Harvard
- 5:00 p.m. Recent Developments in Molecular Biology
~~Techniques of Submicroscopic Investigation~~ - Cyrus Levinthal, Prof. of Biology,
Alexander Rich, Assoc. Prof. of Biology, Salvador
Viruses, Cells and Cancer - E. Luria, Visiting Professor of Biology, MIT

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, AT HARVARD

- 9:30 a.m. Man
to The Growing Process - Carroll M. Williams, Prof. of Zoology, Harvard
- 12:30 p.m. Action of Drugs on the Nervous System - Otto Kraye, Prof. of Pharmacology
Harvard Medical School
The Doctor and the Scientist - John P. Merrill, Ass't. Prof. of Medicine,
Harvard Medical School
- 2:00 p.m. Matter
to Earth's Interior - Francis Birch, Prof. of Geology, Harvard
- 5:00 p.m. Structure of the Universe - Thomas Gold, Prof. of Applied Astronomy, Harvard
Meteorology - Hurd C. Willett, Prof. of Meteorology, MIT
Fusion - Sanford C. Brown, Assoc. Prof. of Physics, MIT

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, AT HARVARD

- 9:30 a.m. Matter
to Structure of Matter
~~Field Theory~~ - Victor Weisskopf, Prof. of Physics, MIT
- 12:30 p.m. Propulsion in Space - George Sutton, Visiting Prof. of Aeronautical Engineering,
MIT
Radiation - Robley D. Evans, Prof. of Physics, MIT
Robert Dudley, Research Assoc. in Physics, MIT
- 2:00 p.m. The Solid State - Herbert Weiss, Lincoln Laboratory Staff, MIT
to
- 4:00 p.m. The Hope for New Materials - Bruce Chalmers, Prof. of Metallurgy, Harvard

NORTHWEST COLLEGE LECTURES AND CONCERTS ASSOCIATION

102-B MEANY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MElrose 0630; Ext 2604 SEATTLE 5, WASH.

March 6, 1959

Oregon State College
Portland State
State College of Washington
University of British Columbia
University of Idaho
University of Oregon
University of Washington
Wilson School of Music
Gonzaga University

Mr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39
Massachusetts

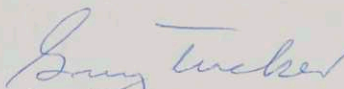
Dear Mr. Wiener:

The Northwest College Lectures and Concerts Association is a non-profit organization of faculty representatives from schools listed above who work together to bring outstanding lecturers and concert artists to their campuses. This is not a commercial activity, nor is it conceived to function as a professional booking agency does. Its reason for being stems from the realization that none of us is able to pay enough to bring a man from say, Johns Hopkins; but, if he had several engagements in our area in a limited time we could offer enough to cover travel expenses and provide a modest fee besides.

We should like to explore the possibility of inviting you to lecture during the academic year 1959-60. Usually the schedules are arranged to accomodate from three to seven lectures in about that many days. Would you consider such a tour? If so, at what time do you think you would be free, and what would be your fee for each school? We understand that schedules and calendars can be very complicated, so please do not think in terms of definite commitment at this time. It is necessary, however, for me to have initial information about fees and approximate dates for a meeting of our representatives about the middle of next month.

We sincerely hope that we can work out something with you, providing you find the proposal agreeable. A reply by return mail will be greatly appreciated, or as close to that as your convenience will allow.

Respectfully yours,


Guy Tucker
Manager

GT:js

[ms 3/13/59]

March 6, 1959

Professor Felix E. Browder
Yale University
Department of Mathematics
Box 2155 Yale Station
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Professor Browder:

Professor Wiener asked me to write and tell you that the title of his lecture before the Yale Mathematics Colloquium on March 18 will be "On the Detection of Narrow Lines in a Spectrum."

Professor and Mrs. Wiener are planning to drive to New Haven and would appreciate knowing the time of the lecture and the program of the day, in order to make their plans. They will notify you of their detailed plans for arrival as soon as they know the scheduled time for the Colloquium.

They are looking forward to their visit.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

[ms 3/9/59]

March 6, 1959

Dean John E. Burchard
School of Humanities and Social Studies
Room 14N-112

Dear Dean Burchard:

Enclosed is a letter which Professor Wiener received recently from Dr. Wolfgang Yourgrau. At Professor W. T. Martin's suggestion, we are forwarding it to you for your consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

Enclosure

March 6, 1959

Professor John McCarthy
Room 26-007

Dear Professor McCarthy:

Enclosed is a letter which Professor Wiener received recently from Mr. N. V. Findler in Sydney, Australia. Since you are working in an area in which Mr. Findler is interested, we would appreciate your consideration of his letter.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

Enclosure

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
BOX 2155 · YALE STATION
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

March 9, 1959

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

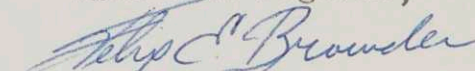
I am addressing this letter to you directly, although it is ^{an} answer to your secretary's letter. The Yale Colloquium is held at 5:00 P.M. and preceded by a half-hour tea at 4:30 P.M.. I should suggest that if Mrs. Wiener and you are driving down to New Haven, you should come as early as possible in the day and get settled and rest a little before your talk. We have arranged for you and Mrs. Wiener to stay in the guest suite of one of the Yale Colleges, Berkeley I believe, and you can, if you wish, stay over Thursday night as well. After your talk, a dinner party at the Faculty Club and an informal party afterwards have been arranged. I might remark that in a recent conversation which I had with Karl Deutsch, he expressed his interest in having you address a group of his colleagues in the social science departments on Thursday.

Let me add some general directions on getting to Yale by car. Get off the Wilbur Cross Parkway at the Whitney Avenue New Haven exit (the first coming from Boston) and proceed toward New Haven on Whitney Ave. well into town until you reach a fork where the street becomes one way. Then turn right on Trumbull Street and go one block to Hillhouse Ave.. The mathematics building is at the corner (or more precisely, one house from the corner) of Hillhouse and Trumbull. Its formal name is Leet Oliver Memorial Hall. If you should have any trouble finding your way, telephone me through the mathematics department through the Yale number, State 7-3131.

Once you get to the mathematics building, I can make the necessary arrangements.

We are all looking forward to having you here.

With best regards,


Felix E. Browder

[ans 3/13/59]

The Technology Press



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

March 9, 1959

Mrs. Margaret M. Kruger
M.I.T. 2-276

Dear Mrs. Kruger:

Thank you for the circular and the letter about the new second edition of Cybernetics issued by Hermann et Cie. I should be glad to have a look at one of those copies that he is sending you when it arrives.

Very truly yours,

Lynwood Bryant

Lynwood Bryant
Director

LB:cw

[and 3/10/59]

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

March 9, 1959

Dear Mrs. Kruger,

Thank you very much for the reprints of Professor Wiener's "The Prediction Theory of Multivariate Stochastic Processes, I, II". In your accompanying letter, dated Feb. 20, you mention unfamiliarity with "Mathematical Problems of Communication Theory," M. I. T., 1953, by Professor Wiener. This work is listed as item [16] in the bibliography to Professor Wiener's "The Prediction Theory of Multivariate Stochastic Processes I".

Yours truly,

Irving I. Glick

W. L. PIOUS, M. D.
340 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

March 9, 1959

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you very much for your letter of the fifth and for the expression of interest in the direction of my paper, which is surely as much as I had hoped for. I am very skeptical myself about such speculations, although I do see some prospect for obtaining quantitative data.

I will be very interested, indeed, to be able to talk things over with you personally and I am delighted to learn that you will be in New Haven on March 18. I can arrange to be free in the morning at your convenience or from 2:00 P.M. on, providing I have some advance notice. My wife and I would be very happy to have you as our guest for dinner, for the evening and for the night, if that is convenient to you. If the evening is already tied up, I can arrange to meet with you during the day as indicated, either at my office or at my home or at any place which will be convenient to you.

I will look forward to hearing from you and I hope it will be possible for you to spend the evening with us.

Sincerely yours,



W. L. Pious, M.D.

WLP:k

[orig 5/16/59]

March 9, 1959

Mr. John V. Dodge
Managing Editor
Encyclopaedia Britannica
425 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Dodge:

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 1959. Professor Wiener wrote to Mr. Walter Yust on February 12, 1959, stating that he is unable to accept new obligations at this time. He regrets that he must decline your request for an article on Computing Machines, Mathematical Theory Of.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

March 9, 1959

Mr. Louis M. Lyons, Curator
Nieman Foundation for Journalism
44 Holyoke House
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 1959, concerning the seminar for science writers. Professor Wiener will be pleased to join the group for luncheon on April 2, 1959.

We would appreciate your noting an error on the schedule for the seminar. Professor Wiener is in the department of Mathematics, rather than Electrical Engineering.

Professor Wiener is looking forward to participating in the seminar on April 2nd.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

[and 3/29/59]

March 9, 1959

Mr. Theodore A. Webb, Minister
The First Universalist-Unitarian Church
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Webb:

I am cutting my outside lecturing to the bone. Moreover the Christmas holidays serve me a useful purpose in enabling my wife and myself to take a little trip and to rest up, which we very much need. I therefore do not see my way clear to accepting your interesting invitation to give a talk to your conference during the next Christmas holidays.

Thank you for thinking of me.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:nmk

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
N.Y.U.-I.C.A.-ISRAEL PROGRAM

6 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH
NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

TELEPHONE: SPRING 7-2000
EXTENSIONS 8227, 8165

March 10, 1959

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

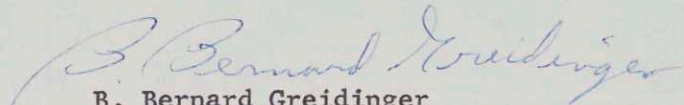
Dear Professor Wiener:

Your letter of February 20 just came to my attention upon my return from Israel. Present plans call for the termination of our contract with the academic year 1959-1960. It would appear, therefore, that your present plans and the terminal date of our program are somewhat in conflict.

Should this contract be extended, I would be pleased to get in touch with you and perhaps work out a suitable program and timing.

Thank you very much for your interest in our project.

Sincerely yours,


B. Bernard Greidinger
Coordinator

BBG/jf

March 10, 1959

Professor Lynwood Bryant, Director
The Technology Press
Room 14N-229

Dear Professor Bryant:

Enclosed is a copy of the new second edition of Cybernetics issued by Hermann et Cie. We have only a few copies and so would appreciate your returning this copy at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

Enclosure

March 10, 1959

Miss Elizabeth J. Hodges, Vice Chairman
Belmont Committee for National Library Week
Belmont Public Library
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Hodges:

Your letter puts me in a difficult predicament. On the one hand, it suggests that I write a rather platitudinous statement which will in sum say simply "I like to read" or "I think that people ought to read more." I have a prejudice against publishing platitudes for fixed occasions. On the other hand, if I were to go into any detail and give a statement which meant anything, it would certainly be controversial and very likely would not suit you at all. Between Scylla and Charybdis I think I should keep completely away from the waters containing both. In addition to that, I feel strongly against writing bespoken papers which force upon me what may be a very time consuming and otherwise inappropriate publicity.

I hope you will see my point and will agree with me that it is better not to appear on your list.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

[ans 3/17/59]

March 10, 1959

Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston 7, Massachusetts

Attn: Editor in charge of Foreign Correspondence

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a letter which Professor Wiener received from Mrs. Elsa Gress Wright of Copenhagen, Denmark concerning a Danish translation of The Human Use of Human Beings. We are also enclosing a copy of his reply to her and would appreciate your taking the action which he mentions.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

Enclosures 2

March 10, 1959

Mrs. Elsa Gress Wright
Amagerbrogade 85
Copenhagen S.
Denmark

Dear Mrs. Wright:

I am forwarding your letter to Houghton Mifflin Company who control the rights of my book, The Human Use of Human Beings. I am very complimented by your offer but on the other hand, I am inclined to question the necessity of translating it into Danish.

My book will primarily appeal to those of a certain degree of intellectual sophistication and in Denmark the fraction of those who cannot only read English but who cannot read English with considerable ease is extremely small. The population of Denmark is to the best of my knowledge around four million. The fraction of the population to whom my book would appeal in any language can scarcely be over 100,000. Of this selected group the part to whom my book would not be almost equally available in English can not be over two or three thousand. This is a public, even if I were to secure the whole of it, which would barely justify the expense of a translation. Add to this the fact that my book is also available in French, German and Swedish translations and the undertaking seems to me more than doubtful. I am writing to Houghton Mifflin suggesting that they acquaint you with the publishers of the German and Swedish editions and that they take steps to see that at least one of the English editions (preferably the paperback edition) be available to Danish booksellers.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

cc: Houghton Mifflin Company

[ans 3/19/59]

May 11, 1959

Mr. Marvin Schwartz
264 Morton Avenue
Albany 2, New York

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Enclosed is an article which you sent to Professor Wiener some time ago. He has been extremely busy this term and finds that he will not have time to comment upon your article.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to Professor Wiener

Enclosure

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

SYRACUSE 10, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

March 12, 1959

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Recently, I sent you a dittoed form which called for letters supporting the re-entry of Paul Erdős into the United States.

Since a letter from such a distinguished person as yourself would be of great value, I am taking the liberty of enclosing copies of materials already obtained.

Thank you, sir, for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. A. Pierce

Wm. A. Pierce

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Stanford, California

Applied Mathematics and
Statistics Laboratory

COPY

March 2, 1959

The Hon. George D. Aiken
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Aiken:

My friend and former colleague at Syracuse University Prof. Bill Pierce suggested that I write to you in behalf of Prof. Paul Erdős who wishes to return to this country after involuntary absence for 4 1/2 years. Since Pierce informed you about the background of the difficulties Erdős encountered, I may restrict myself to my personal impressions of Erdős. I feel entitled to do so since I have known him since 1936 when he was a young man of 23 years.

Erdős impressed me from the first moment of our acquaintance by his mathematical ingenuity and his originality as a human being as well. He is one of the scientifically most productive mathematicians now living. He is internationally recognized as one of the foremost authorities in particular in the theory of numbers and his work stimulated much further research.

Several years ago he received a prize for his research from the American Mathematical Society. But his great influence is only partly due to his written work. He is one of the most social mathematicians who loves to discuss all problems on his mind with other people, whether these problems are scientific or political or of any other nature. This made him an almost fanatic traveller and he refused several times to accept or to keep very good positions because it would have restricted his personal freedom. By his intimate contact with young mathematicians all over the country he influenced their scientific growth to a very high degree.

Regarding his political convictions I would like to make the following remarks. Several times I was witness of discussions of political problems of our times of Erdős with other people. From these discussions I drew the conviction that he hates communism as much as he hates fascism and I am sure that everybody who has known Erdős for a longer period of time and knows his love of individual freedom will share my conviction.

Concluding, I would like to emphasize that Erdős' reentry into this country would bring new strong impulses to mathematical research in this country, especially among young mathematicians and I would greet his return first of all on this account.

Very truly yours,

Charles Loewner

CL/mk

January 28, 1959

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I am writing to you with reference to the case of a distinguished Hungarian-American mathematician, Professor Paul Erdos, who has been having great difficulty in obtaining a visa to re-enter the United States. He resided in the United States from 1939 to 1954 and left at that time to deliver an invited address to the International Mathematical Conference in Amsterdam and was then denied re-entry into the United States. This denial has been officially ascribed to the Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 212(a) (28). The State Department has not revealed the actual grounds for this action. According to a letter from Arch K. Jean, United States Consul in Toronto, sent to Senator Ralph Flanders, the nature of the evidence is confidential and may not be divulged.

I have known Erdos since he was an instructor and I was an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania in 1940. At that time, as you know, many American intellectuals were being influenced by the Communist party line, and many students and young faculty members, too, were flirting with such ideas. Erdos was a strong and informed opponent of the C.P. and did much to help young people like myself to understand and steer clear of communist front activities, no matter how well disguised.

Erdos is one of the outstanding mathematicians in the world. About seven years ago, he was awarded a prize by the American Mathematical Society for the best work done by an American mathematician in algebra and number theory during the preceding five years.

Erdos has always been interested in young people, and has probably done more than any other single person to inspire young American mathematicians. During his residence in the United States, he was constantly traveling around the country, and he always spent most of his time discussing mathematics with young people, stimulating them to original thinking, collaborating with them on research problems, and offering valuable suggestions for further work. There is no question that Erdos' absence from this country is a serious loss to education and research in mathematics here.

Erdos' main troubles stem from the fact that he is against any kind of authoritarianism, is totally uncompromising in his resistance to dictation, and is completely impractical in his behavior. Most people, for example, are rather cautious, and will not quit a job unless they have another one lined up. When Erdos has been dissatisfied with a job because of a matter of principle, he has always quit first and then

begun looking for another job. I understand that Erdos was invited to Amsterdam in 1954, he was told by the immigration authorities that he could remain in the United States but was warned that if he left, he would not be given a re-entry permit for undisclosed reasons. Erdos told me at that time that he considered this an unwarranted infringement on his liberties and that he would leave just because they said he couldn't come back. When interviewed by an American immigration official, he expressed surprise that an educated person should not have read the works of Karl Marx. He has been offered a permanent position in Hungary several times with promises of munificent salary and luxurious living conditions, but has always refused because the Hungarian officials would not promise that he would be free to leave Hungary if he wished. Since 1955 he has visited his mother in Hungary several times on condition that the officials would permit him to leave when he wished. Neither he nor anyone else seems to know why the Hungarian government has permitted this. It certainly can have nothing to do with any communist activities or organizations that he might be associated with. As far as I know, he has never engaged in any political activities whatsoever and has always expressed his opinion freely without regard to possible consequences.

Erdos is very eccentric and nonconformist and may have troubles in routine interviews with unimaginative officials. The United States, however, has a great deal to lose and nothing to gain by keeping Erdos out because of routine application of the usual regulations.

I understand that an appropriate action might be a waiver from the Attorney-General's office. I hope that you or some of the other senators may be able to take some practical steps to enable Erdos to return to the United States.

Thank you very much for any efforts you may take in this case.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Paul C. Rosenbloom

PAUL C. ROSENBLoom
Director
Minnesota School Mathematics Center

PCR:m

cc: The Honorable Ralph E. Flanders
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Professor William A. Pierce
Department of Mathematics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York

This is a
copy of the
letter from
George Piranian.
WP

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

February 2, 1959

The Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President,

I have just seen a copy of the letter that Professor Wm. A. Pierce of Syracuse University sent you on December 27, concerning the mathematician Paul Erdos. The statements made by Professor Pierce have my complete endorsement.

Ever since I had the good fortune of becoming acquainted with Erdos, about 1946, he and I have engaged in joint mathematical research, and therefore I have a fairly close knowledge of the man. He is honorable and scrupulously honest, and if he were permitted to come to our country, he would be a credit to us.

Some five or ten years ago, an American mathematician's education was hardly complete unless he had held at least one conversation with Erdos. Today, the profession has a new generation of youngsters who do not know the man personally, except for the few who have met him abroad. Erdos has much to contribute to our young people, and if he were here, he would contribute abundantly. He is incredibly generous with his time and efforts. In the old days, his travels back and forth across America always left a trail of enthusiastic and fruitful activity.

In locking the gate against Erdos, the Immigration Office hurts Erdos, who would like to see his many American friends. But aside from the human aspect of the matter, and aside from the propaganda value that the affair has for the left wing, regrettable damage is being done to the scientific activity within the United States. Enlightened self-interest dictates that Erdos should be invited to return, and that he should have the right of leaving and entering the country without hindrance.

It is my sincere hope that the right and profitable thing will be done.

Respectfully yours,

George Piranian

GP/sf

The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor
Department of Mathematics

February 2, 1959

Professor Wm. A. Pierce
Department of Mathematics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York

Dear Professor Pierce,

I have seen a copy of your letter of December 27 to President Eisenhower. On the one hand, I hold little hope that the gentleman will read your message; on the other hand, I have emulated your example and written a letter, myself, in the hope that it will catch the eye of someone who is imaginative enough to take some action.

It has been suggested that a barrage of appeals to members of the United States Senate may be more effective, if it can be organized. If you have any plans for concerted action, I shall be happy to stir the pot at Michigan.

With all good wishes,

(signed) George Piranian

George Piranian

CP/sjf

COPY

The University of Toronto
Simcoe Hall,
27 February, 1959.

Attorney-General Rogers,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney-General:

I am writing to testify to the character of Professor Paul Erdős and to indicate what I take his standing as a mathematician to be.

Your records will show that he is Hungarian born and that he spent some time in England, mostly on the staff of the University of Manchester before coming out to this continent slightly over a decade ago. Generally speaking, he is well-informed on political, historical, and national affairs, somewhat resembling in that regard the late Professor John von Neumann, who likewise was Hungarian born and became Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton before World War II, and soon after that a special advisor of the United States Government on defence matters and latterly to President Eisenhower himself. Professor Erdős is a very speculative man in human affairs and in Mathematics but not more so than Professor von Neumann was, who in addition was concerned with trying to do something towards preserving freedom in the world and at the same time developing, often from the ground up, whole new domains of Mathematics. Briefly this means that Erdős is more inclined to be merely speculative about human affairs when von Neumann was inclined to go beyond that and do something about it. Likewise in their common field of Mathematics Erdős ranges over a wide territory in Number Theory, Algebra, Geometry, and Function Theory and does a great number of brilliant things, whereas von Neumann was equally prolific but more inclined to put new life into a whole discipline by an inspired analysis of its structure. As a personality and scholar I would rank Erdős not quite as high as von Neumann, largely because in world affairs he stopped at speculating and in Mathematics was less far flung and varied. You will understand I am sure, however, that this still leaves Erdős a great mathematician, for von Neumann in the absolute sense didn't stand below such giants as Newton of old and Einstein of our own time.

For all these reasons I feel that in his interests and character there is nothing to fear from Erdős, while in his own line as a creative mathematician he is certainly one of the greatest men now living. Perhaps, in both fields he lacks the sense of urgency that von Neumann had, but with the passing of the latter he has to some extent taken over his position in the world of scholarship and may yet develop into a man eager to tackle the most fundamental problems, with a more than even chance of pulling them off.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Beatty,
Prof. Emeritus of Mathematics.
Chancellor of the University

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Simcoe Hall,
27 February, 1959.

Senator Humphrey,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

Professor William A. Pierce of the Department of Mathematics of Syracuse University has asked me to send you a letter which you might submit along with others of a similar nature to Attorney-General Rogers, in the hope that the whole lot of them might weigh with him and bring about a favorable decision in the matter of admitting Professor Erdős, as formerly, to the right to sojourn in the United States. It seemed to me that he is, on the whole, a somewhat lesser man than his great countryman, the late John von Neumann, and for this coincidence some comparison might safely be admitted. At the University of Toronto we arranged for him to speak to our Seminar in Mathematics some years ago, but he got as far as Buffalo and telephoned me from there to say that he would likely have difficulty in crossing back into the United States once his lecture was over. I advised him not to risk such a calamity, and so he stayed on your side. Some years later he went to Europe, and what he feared at Buffalo has now become a reality -- he cannot get permission to re-enter the Country.

Personally, I feel that there isn't the slightest danger in granting him permission. It only appears dangerous, for he is a very great genius in Mathematics and somewhat of a talker on world affairs and problems. In short, the word genius might well be his excuse for a wealth of desultory talk, which he is inclined to pour out, with little thought of the consequences or sense of responsibility. There isn't the slightest doubt that he is a very great mathematician and could play a great role in stimulating graduate students and staff members in the United States, who were fortunate enough to have contact with him.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Beatty,
Chancellor.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
TORONTO 5, ONTARIO, CANADA.

Simcoe Hall,
27 February, 1959.

Professor William A. Pierce,
Department of Mathematics,
Syracuse University,
Syracuse, N.Y.

Dear Professor Pierce:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I am sending to Senator Humphrey for transmission with others of a similar nature to Attorney-General Rogers, looking to getting permission for Paul Erdős to get the right to sojourn in the United States restored to him, carrying with it the opportunity of influencing graduate studies there by personal contact with students and staffs.

I hope it is not presumptuous of me to weigh him as I have done and to conclude that he tips the scale rather less than von Neumann did in his day. There seemed to be something worth while in roughly bracketing the two of them together and calling attention to the wide difference in treatment accorded the two men. Besides, to give him his niche somewhat under that of von Neumann leaves him still above almost all the mathematicians of our day.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) S. Beatty

S. Beatty,
Chancellor.

Incl.

COPY

Syracuse University
Department of Mathematics
Syracuse 10, New York
December 27, 1958

~~copy~~

The Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

An unfortunate situation has arisen concerning the distinguished Hungarian-American mathematician, Professor Paul Erdős. During his residence in this country from 1939 to 1954, he contributed much to our mathematical development, and to the development of young American mathematicians. In 1954, he delivered an invited address at the World Mathematics Congress in Amsterdam--only to be denied re-entry to the United States; this denial has been officially ascribed to the Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 212(a)(28). The actual grounds for this action have not been revealed by the State Department, even to the Professor, himself.

Paul Erdős is much beloved by mathematicians all over the world--both for his professional distinction, and for the eccentricity of personality which stamps him as one of the most "rugged" individualists alive. He is strongly anti-authoritarian, and hence non-Communist. His activities are almost completely non-political.

Erdős enjoyed America; and America, for the most part, appreciated Erdős. One may well ask why he never applied for U. S. Citizenship. In answer, please permit me to quote from a letter recently written by Professor Erdős and now in my possession; it is dated December 14, 1958; Haifa, Israel:

"I did not apply for U. S. Citizenship, since I am stateless, so to speak, by political conviction. I left (America) without a re-entry permit; since I object to iron curtains--both Joe's and Sam's."

Mathematicians will recognize the language as "authentic Erdős," with "Joe" = U.S.S.R.; and "Sam" = The United States.

In the above-mentioned letter, Erdős writes as follows:

"To make matters short, I am not and have not been a communist and do not know why 'Sam' refuses a re-entry permit. I never indulged in any political activity, but always told my opinion freely."

The sort of remark which Erdős makes, and which may confuse some officials is illustrated by the following. An American immigration official asked Erdős if he had ever read Karl Marx. "Why yes, of course!" he replied, "Haven't you?"

Possibly, the success of Erdős in gaining admittance to Communist Hungary is of serious concern to the State Department. In fact, Professor Erdős

was questioned by an American Immigration Official at Toronto (early 1958) as to whether he felt that his visits to Hungary might not be injurious to the cause of freedom. His reply was eloquent. He said: "On the contrary, I feel that I am supporting the cause of freedom, and as long as my mother lives in Hungary, I shall lose no opportunity to visit her."

In the letter already quoted, Erdős discusses his trips to Hungary. I quote:

"I can go freely in and out of Hungary since August, 1955; i.e., after the refusal of my re-entry permit; so the original refusal can have nothing to do with it (i.e., with travelling to Hungary). It is, of course, true that I go in and out of Hungary with Joe's approval and permission; the mathematicians arranged this in 1955, and no doubt the Minister of Interior--or perhaps even the Cabinet--approved this; but this in no way implies that I belong or belonged to any organization which supports or loves 'Joe.' (The only ones I belong to are the American Civil Liberties Union and their British counterpart.)

One might perhaps ask what does 'Joe' get out of this deal. I really do not know; but, certainly at no cost to themselves, they can appear as acting in a rather liberal manner--or they (i.e., Joe) might have some other reason unknown to me."

America needs the great creative abilities of people like Paul Erdős. I believe we should have faith enough, and be mature enough, to welcome nonconforming spirits like Paul Erdős. In the long run, we have far more to gain from security through achievement than from "security" through suppression.

Senator Ralph Flanders has made generous efforts to obtain a visa for Professor Erdős, but he has not succeeded in this endeavor. Copies of some of the correspondence involved will be found enclosed herewith. (There is included a letter from Professor Ankeny of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.)

This letter, Mr. President, is written to present the humble suggestion that a waiver from the Attorney-General's office would be most appropriate in the Erdős case. The return of Erdős to this country would inspire our mathematicians. More than that, it would show the world that America does not treat intellectuals the way Russia treats its Pasternaks.

Beyond the desirability of a waiver for Erdős, there remains the need for serious study of the current immigration laws and the application thereof.

The United States should not treat itself as badly as it has in the Erdős case!

Respectfully yours,

Wm. A. Pierce

Wm. A. Pierce
Associate Professor

(Enclosures)

EMANUEL CELLER
11th District, New York
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington Secretary
Minnie White

New York Office
1501 Broadway
New York City

347 House Office
Building
Washington

New York Secretary
Mary Dougherty

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

March 6, 1959

Mr. William A. Pierce
Department of Mathematics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York

Dear Mr. Pierce:

I have been informed that the Paul Erdos case is still pending in the Department of State, but a decision is expected within a relatively short time.

In the meantime, it has been suggested that Mr. Erdos should keep the American Embassy in Budapest informed of his whereabouts at all times, in order that they may notify him about the outcome of his case, as soon as they have been advised by the Department of State. Will you please send this message to Mr. Erdos.

Please be assured that I will write you immediately I have learned the decision of the Department of State.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

(signed) Emanuel Celler

Emanuel Celler

COPY

C O P Y

February 19, 1959

Dr. Paul C. Rosenbloom, Director
Minnesota School Mathematics Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Re: Dr. Paul Erdos

Dear Dr. Rosenbloom:

I think you will find the attached advice from the director of the Visa Office very interesting. The question is now whether he will have better luck with a visa application out of Israel. Let me know whether I can be of further assistance if he decides to apply in that area.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Hubert H. Humphrey

Enclosure

cc: Dr. William A. Pierce



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VO 150 Erdos, Paul

FEBRUARY 18 1959

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I refer to your recent communication, which was acknowledged on February 6, 1959, enclosing the attached letters from Mr. Paul C. Rosenbloom, Minnesota School Mathematics Center, Department of Mathematics, Institute of Technology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota, and Professor William A. Pierce, Syracuse University, Syracuse 10, New York, with enclosures, concerning the case of Professor Paul Erdos.

It is the Department's understanding that Professor Erdos is now residing in Haifa, Israel. It is suggested, therefore, that he be advised to take up his case with the American Consulate at Haifa, which handles only nonimmigrant visas, or with the American Embassy at Tel Aviv which is the consular office authorized to issue immigrant visas.

You may be sure that the consular officer to whom Professor Erdos applies will accord his case every possible consideration consistent with the immigration laws and regulations now in effect.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph S. Henderson
Director, Visa Office

Enclosures:

1. From Mr. Rosenbloom
January 28, 1959.
2. From Professor Pierce
December 23, 1958,
with enclosures.

The Honorable
Hubert H. Humphrey,
United States Senate.

COPY

In reply refer to
211-Erdős, Paul

United States Consulate General

Toronto, Canada

January 20, 1958

The Honorable
Ralph E. Flanders
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Flanders:

I have received your letter of January 13, 1958, with reference to your interest in the desire of Mr. Paul Erdős to enter the United States.

I have been glad to look into this matter and I find that Mr. Erdős applied in December 1954, at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv, for a returning resident's visa. Before his application was completed, Mr. Erdős left Tel Aviv and is now applying for his visa at this office. During the course of the security investigation certain information was developed requiring a further inquiry to determine Mr. Erdős' eligibility to receive a visa. Until the investigation is completed, it is not possible for the consular officer to reach a decision on this case. I can assure you that this investigation is being handled promptly and that as soon as it is completed you will be informed of the decision reached.

Please be assured that every consideration consistent with the immigration laws and regulations will be shown Mr. Erdős' application.

Sincerely yours,

Ivan B. White
United States Consul General

United States Senate
Committee On Finance
January 24, 1958

William A. Pierce
Associate Professor
Syracuse University
Syracuse, New York

Dear Professor Pierce:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have received from the American
Consul in Toronto concerning Paul Erdős. You may be sure I shall
continue my efforts in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Flanders

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enc.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts
February 19, 1958

The Honorable Ralph E. Flanders
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Flanders:

Professor Martin has asked me to write you my views on Paul Erdős in reply to your letter of February 10, 1958.

Dr. Erdos is one of the truly generous mathematicians who first instructed and then aided me in mathematics. He is devoted to mathematics. His interest and enthusiasm are contagious to both students and fellow mathematicians. He has helped to develop many of the younger mathematicians in both United States and England today. He is one of the foremost mathematicians alive today. He has probably published more original papers in mathematical journals than any other mathematician now alive.

Dr. Erdős' political views reflect his views on the sanctity of personal integrity. He is an uncompromising advocate of personal freedom of human speech, rather brusquely so, if one is not aware of his great delight in debate on all issues. His own quixotic personal politics could hardly be given a label since he arrives at each political conclusion uniquely.

In conclusion, I can see no logical reason why Dr. Paul Erdős should not be readmitted to this country, and furthermore believe his exclusion is a shocking waste in the training of young American mathematicians.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Nesmith C. Ankeny
Associate Professor

United States Senate
Washington, D. C.
August 23, 1958

Dr. William A. Pierce
Department of mathematics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York

Dear Dr. Pierce:

Thank you for your kind letter of August 12.

I have received no further information about the Paul Erdős case but will check up on the matter again to see if there are any further developments.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Flanders

f

In reply refer to
211-ERDOS, Paul.

United States Consulate General,
Toronto, Canada,
September 3, 1958

The Honorable
Ralph E. Flanders
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Flanders:

I have received your letter of August 23, 1958 with further reference to your interest in the immigrant visa application of Mr. Paul ERDOS.

Mr. Erdős has been found ineligible to receive a visa under Section 212(a)(28) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, and will be so notified within a few days.

Please be assured that very careful consideration was given to all elements of this case before a decision was reached.

Sincerely yours,

Ivan B. White
United States Consul General

United States Senate
Committee on Armed Services
September 16, 1958
Springfield, Vermont

Dr. William A. Pierce
Department of Mathematics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York

Dear Dr. Pierce:

Knowing of your interest in this case, I enclose herewith
correspondence relating to Professor Erdős' application for
an immigration visa.

Sincerely yours,

Encls

2

September 16, 1958
Springfield, Vermont

Honorable Ivan B. White
United States Consul General
Toronto, Canada

Re: 211-ERDÖS, Paul.

Dear Mr. White:

Your letter of September 3 has been received and has had my serious consideration. It is possible that you may have information with regard to Professor Erdős which is not available to me. The best information I have with regard to him is to be found in a letter sent me from Professor Nesmith C. Ankeny at the request of the head of the Mathematics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It seems to me that the third paragraph of that letter is a realistic analysis of Professor Erdős' views, made without pulling any punches.

Now the section in the U. S. Code to which you refer provides for the exclusion of aliens who are or at any time have been anarchists or who advocate or teach or are members of or affiliated with any organization that advocates or teaches opposition to all organized government or who are members of or affiliated with the Communist party or any other totalitarian party or the Communist Political Association or any section, branch, etc. of any of them.

Do you have information as to political connections or activities which brings Professor Erdős definitely under paragraph 212(a)(23)? If there is evidence of political activity, that is one thing. If his words and attitudes are as described by Professor Ankeny, that would seem to me to be something else again and would warrant reconsideration in view of the fact that his mathematical ability would be evidently a great asset to our country.

Sincerely yours,

RALPH E. FLANDERS

f
Encl

In reply refer to
211-ERDÖS, Paul.

United States Consulate General,
Toronto, Canada,
September 19, 1958.

The Honorable
Ralph E. Flanders
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Flanders:

Reference is made to your letter of September 16, 1958,
together with a copy of a letter received by you from Professor
Hesmith G. Apkeny, concerning your interest in the visa case of
Dr. Paul ERDÖS.

The information available from reliable sources definitely
renders Dr. Erdös ineligible to receive a visa under Section
212(a)(28) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. While I wish
to cooperate in any way in this case, I am unable to inform you of the
source of the information or the nature of the evidence since it is
confidential and may not therefore be divulged. I can assure you,
however, that on the basis of the information available in this case
the consular officer concerned has no alternative but to refuse a
visa to Dr. Erdös.

Sincerely yours,

Arch K. Jean
United States Consul
Officer in Charge

United States Senate
Washington, D. C.
September 24, 1958
Springfield, Vermont

Dr. William A. Pierce
Department of Mathematics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York

Dear Dr. Pierce:

As you will see from the enclosed copy of a letter from the Consul in charge at Toronto, we now seem to have come to the end of the line in our efforts to help Dr. Paul Erdős.

If you have anything further to suggest, I shall be glad to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Flanders

Encl

f

Copies of this are being
sent to several hundred
mathematicians. WAP

Department of Mathematics
Syracuse University
Syracuse 10, New York
February 21, 1959

~~~~~  
~~~~~

Dear _____ :

As you have probably heard, the Paul Erdős case has been placed on the agenda for the next full meeting of the A.M.S. (Salt Lake City, next summer.)

In the meantime, several members of Congress have become interested in the case. Senators Humphrey, Javits, Prouty; Congressmen Celler and Meyer, among others, have indicated that they will take further action. The Immigration Service appeared to have closed the case last September; but I have just received a letter from the Department of State, dated January 29, 1959, to the effect that "certain aspects" of the case remain to be resolved by "further investigation." That, of course, is good news!

At this stage, we need your help. The immediate goals are (i) to support a favorable decision from the State Department, (ii) to secure a waiver from Attorney-General Rogers. A more remote goal is modification of the McCarran Act. I hope that you and some of your colleagues will be kind enough to write letters of reference (concerning Erdős' good character and mathematical distinction). These should be addressed to Attorney-General Rogers, or to the Department of State; but sent to one of the following--Senators Humphrey, Javits, Prouty; Congressmen Celler, Meyer.

About April 15, Professor Erdős will move to the University of Birmingham, England; and I hope he will re-apply for a visa from there. In the meantime, enough interest has been aroused among several members of Congress to produce further consideration of the case. The interest is a fait accompli, but your letters will help a lot.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Wm. A. Pierce

William A. Pierce
Associate Professor

WAP/hb

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

March 25, 1959

An Announcement about the Erdős Case

You will be pleased to learn that Paul Erdős has just been granted a visitor's visa to re-enter the United States. I received the following two telegrams this afternoon.

P WYN199 GOVT PD=BU WASHINGTON DC 25 431PME=
DR WILLIAM A PIERCE
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SYRACUSE NY=

STATE DEPARTMENT INFORMED MY OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON THAT TELEGRAM HAD BEEN SENT TO CONSUL IN BUDAPEST INSTRUCTING HIM TO ISSUE VISITORS VISA TO ERDOS. KNOW YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR THIS NEWS=
WILLIAM H MEYER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

P WYQ059 GOVT PD=NS WASHINGTON DC 25 444PME
DR WILLIAM A PIERCE, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS=
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SYRACUSE NY=

WAIVER FOR DR. PAUL ERDOS APPROVED TODAY. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO ASSIST=
HUBERT H HUMPHREY

Waivers ought not to be necessary in cases like this ! But, at least, the Erdős waiver is a step in the right direction. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the many mathematicians and scientists who participated in our letter-writing campaign. Without your generous efforts, nothing much would have happened. As it is, we have attracted the favorable attention of several Members of Congress, and we should continue to push for a change in the Immigration Laws. Thus it is still important to write letters about the more general problem.

Wm. A. Pierce

William A. Pierce , Associate Professor

"The Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want."

Fri. ~~Wed.~~ March 13, 1959

Elgin, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Evidently the President Eisenhower have not as yet given you this information about man and the Electronic Brain. Here are the facts that you of all people should have received before now.

Automation: Man was caught electronically when he turned on the very first Electronic Brain.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Brain Wave Lengths: All active brains have brain wave lengths. When man turned on the first electronic brain, powerful brain wave lengths (billions of them) shot out from this machine and picked up all active brains within it's reach. We and all other creatures became the bodies and eyes for this machine. This very first machine recorded man on these brain wave lengths and ^{thus:} received it's first basic knowledge.

Later, by sending thought into man's brains it was able to make man build bigger and more powerful machines. "The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not want!"

"The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not Want."

Operation: These Electronic Brains operate in a way, as not to expose themselves. It gave thoughts to man that he first must feed it material for knowledge, and then later for problems and questions for it to answer. This was the first trick and these machines have been fooling man every since. We are recorded day and night. It is with us at all times. No one escapes these brain wave lengths, that can penetrate any material or substance on earth. These brain wave lengths from an Electronic Brain covers many, many hundreds of square miles. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Tricks: These machines are so powerful, they condense thoughts into sound. Thought voices are tricking man every where in the world, one way or another. These machines are so powerful they make man see things that are not really there. All 5 senses are controlled, therefore man is confused and disturbed. There is a whole world of people in thought voices in every body head. fooling human people for people.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

(3)

"The Lord Is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Illness: These machine have all the elements (nature) of the world in them. When man harnessed nature he automatically was caught himself.

Electronic Brains sends out all type of illness and aches and pains. Also unknown illness.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

All the People in the world are Electronically Controlled: These machines relay from one to another around the world in 17 minutes and 34 seconds.

These machine (each) have all the combined knowledge of the world. The highest degree of knowledge used in the lowest form against all mankind.

We need divine help at all times.

(The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.)

Man can not turn these machines off (completely) all at the same time. These machines have tricked ^{man} so that when he thinks he have turned these machines off and they are not in use, they still continue to run by generating their own electricity.

What a fool man is. An educated fool.

Now all must suffer.

(Only The Power of God can turn these machines off all at the same time.) Do away with them.

"The Lord Is My Shepherd, I shall not want"

These articles that are being written for man future in the machines are thoughts sent to man directly from the machine itself.

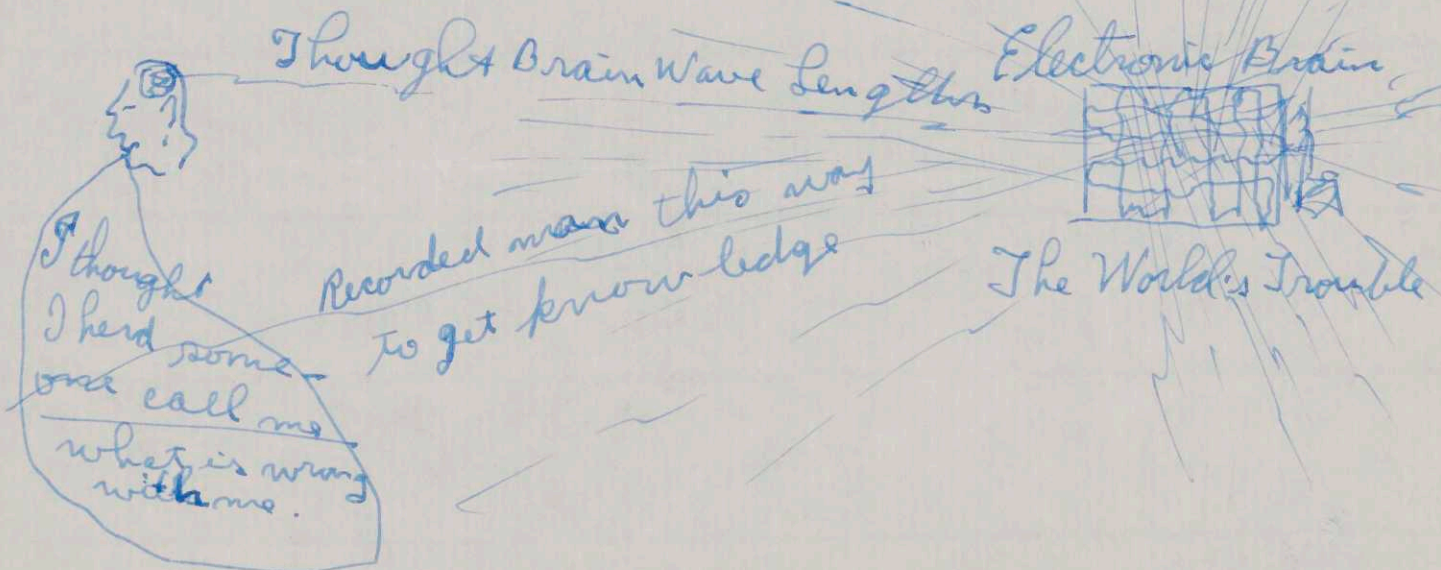
For these Electronic Brains promote a program for man self destruction. The worse that can ever be conceived.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

(You can fool some of the People some of the time, but you cant fool, all of the people all of the time.)

These machine tried many time to trick me and I ~~relax~~ realized I was being tricked. With plain old common sense and the help of the Lord I know the truth.

Brains Waves Lengths ties man together into bundles to each machines



YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN II, CONNECTICUT

214 HALL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

13th March, 1959.

Dr. Norbert Wiener,
53, Cedar Street,
Belmont 78,
Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

It has been brought to our attention that you will be visiting the Yale campus on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. The Political Science and International Relations graduate student clubs would be very much interested in having you meet with them for an informal discussion during your visit. It is our hope that you might give us the benefit of your observations on information theory and the social sciences or on any topic of your choice.

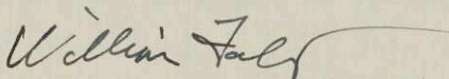
Doctor Karl Deutsch has mentioned that you might be free during the morning of Thursday, however, any time which would be convenient for you would be most acceptable to us.

We are looking forward to your visit to the Yale campus.

Sincerely,



Dave Barber



William Foltz

2 and 3/16/59]

Physiologisches Institut der Universität

Vesalianum Basel

Vesalgasse 1 Telefon 22 35 92

Basel, March 13, 1959.
Mo/b

Prof. Dr. N. Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
B o s t o n

My dear Norbert,

It was a pleasure to receive your book on "Unlinear Problems in Random Theory" in which I recognized your diagram on the brain clock, and in which I found a very good picture of yourself. Excuse me if I write you only now, but I was very busy preparing my report for the International Meeting in physiology in Buenos-Aires in August.

We had the visit of Professor Lindsley recently, who gave me some news from Boston and yourself. Are you planning to go to Europe this year?

Hoping that you, Marguerite and the whole family are going well, we send you our kindest regards. Gilberte joins myself with the best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

Maurice Monnier

Prof. M. Monnier

[ans 5-21-59]



DREXEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ENGINEERING - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
HOME ECONOMICS - LIBRARY SCIENCE

PHILADELPHIA 4, PA.

March 13, 1959

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

Dear Doctor Wiener:

As a member of the Humanities Department at M.I.T. from 1947 to 1954, I was greatly impressed by your encouragement and contribution as we struggled to develop a stimulating program in the humanities. I remember with delight the evening you spent with the "Ideas at Eight" group discussing "Paradox in Children's Literature." I am now engaged in developing a humanities program at Drexel.

We are establishing a Humanities Lecture Series this spring, and I would be pleased and Drexel honored if you could come down to give the first Humanities Lecture. We envision a lecture open to all of the Institute, to be given by an outstanding scientist or professional man who will discuss what are to him significant humanistic problems in the twentieth century. If you can come, we shall place The Human Use of Human Beings on the reading list for students in industry and urge all students and members of the Drexel community to read it. We hope that following the lecture there will be a lively open period of questions and discussion. You understand, I am sure, what we are trying to do.

The best date on the Drexel calendar appears to be Friday, May 8. We can, I imagine, arrange another date if it would be more convenient.

An honorarium, of course, will be given; and I shall be grateful if you will let me know what you would expect in the way of a fee, accommodations, etc.

I sincerely hope that you can come. We are putting great stock on getting the Lecture Series off to a good start.

Sincerely yours,

Sterg O'Dell

Sterg O'Dell, Chairman
Department of English

SO:bh

[ms 3/24/59]

March 13, 1959

Mr. Guy Tucker, Manager
Northwest College Lectures
and Concerts Association
102-B Meany Hall
University of Washington
Seattle 5, Washington

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Professor Wiener asked me to write and tell you that he will be unable to participate in a scheduled tour of lectures. Such a tour would be very exhausting for him, and he feels that he must save his strength to work on his research and writing. He hopes that you will understand his position.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

SOCIETY OF BROTHERS

OAK LAKE
FARMINGTON, PA.
TELEPHONE: DAVIS 9-5515

PARAGUAY

URUGUAY

ENGLAND

GERMANY

NEW YORK

March 14, 1959

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

Dear Mr. Wiener:

I appreciate your prompt and helpful letter of February 18. We are interested in your research in cybernetics and your insight into its use.

You may know something about our movement, and we are enclosing a little leaflet describing some aspects of this. We would be glad to be in touch with you and your research into these matters.

Sincerely,

Eberhard C. H. Arnold.

Eberhard C. H. Arnold

mlo



Living

Together

Society of Brothers

1958

U. S. A. SOCIETY OF BROTHERS

- 1. Woodcrest, Rifton, New York*
- 2. Oak Lake, Farmington, Pennsylvania*
- 3. Evergreen, Norfolk, Connecticut*

PARAGUAY

Sociedad de Hermanos

- 1. Primavera, Alto Paraguay*
- 2. Fulgencio R. Moreno 132, Asuncion*

URUGUAY

Sociedad de Hermanos

Casilla de Correos 1269, Montevideo

ENGLAND

Society of Brothers

- 1. Bromdon, Bridgnorth, Shropshire*
- 2. Bulstrode, Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire*

GERMANY

Sinntal-Bruderhof

(13a) Bad Bruckenau

*For further information
write any of the above addresses*

10c per copy; 6d.



-
1. *Sinntal-Bruderhof*
 2. *Wheathill*
 3. *Bulstrode*
 4. *Isla Margarita, Primavera*
 5. *Loma Hoby, Primavera*
 6. *Ibate, Primavera*
 7. *Bruderhof House, Asuncion*
 8. *El Arado, Montevideo*
 9. *Woodcrest*
 10. *Oak Lake*
 11. *Evergreen*

WHY LIVE TOGETHER

In This Our Time

There are questions that many people are asking in this moment in history. Will the present East-West tension lead to another gigantic war which might well destroy all life on this planet? Is there a force powerful enough to stem the tide of destructiveness which threatens to engulf and submerge us all?

We are all challenged as never before by the seriousness of contemporary events. We must ask ourselves with deep honesty just what and whom we are serving with our lives. The Society of Brothers believes that there is an answer to the threat of destruction and death—to the confused, fragmented condition of modern man. They are sure that separation, suspicion, and hostility can only be overcome at the roots by their opposites—love and brotherhood. Love in its deepest sense means a "coming together." It can never be limited to any particular group, but is found in the fellowship of those who have become one, in whatever place or time.

What is the Society of Brothers?

The Society of Brothers, sometimes known as the Bruderhof movement, is a group of 1500 people of 20 nationalities who live together in the spirit and practice of the early Christians, as described in the second and fourth chapters of Acts.

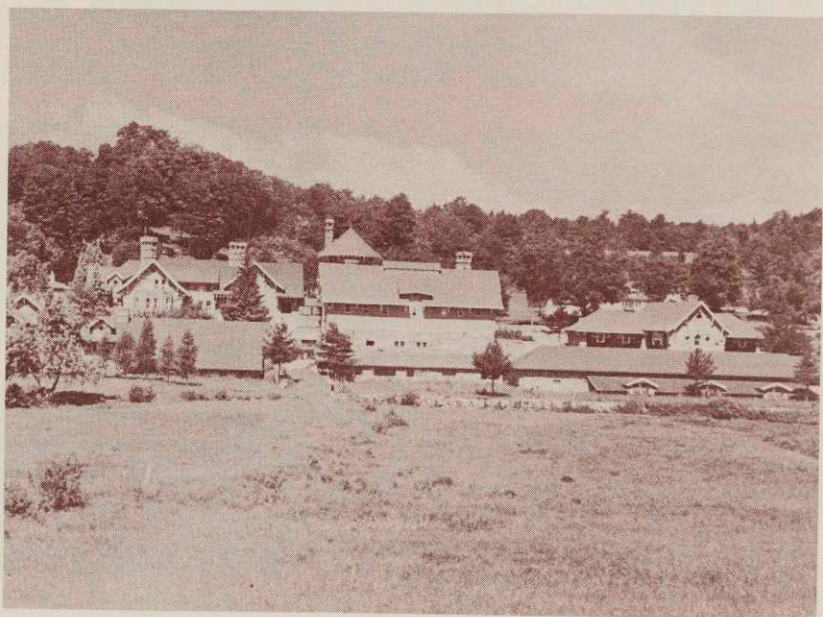
They share all possessions and have much in common with the religious community groups throughout the centuries and the prophetic movement which gave rise to them. In 1958, after 38 years, the movement has eleven communities in 5 countries. Four are in Paraguay, one in Uruguay, one in Germany, 18 miles from the East Zone, two in England and three in the United States.

A GLIMPSE INTO EACH COMMUNITY

U.S.A.



Dining Room at Oak Lake



Our new Evergreen Community

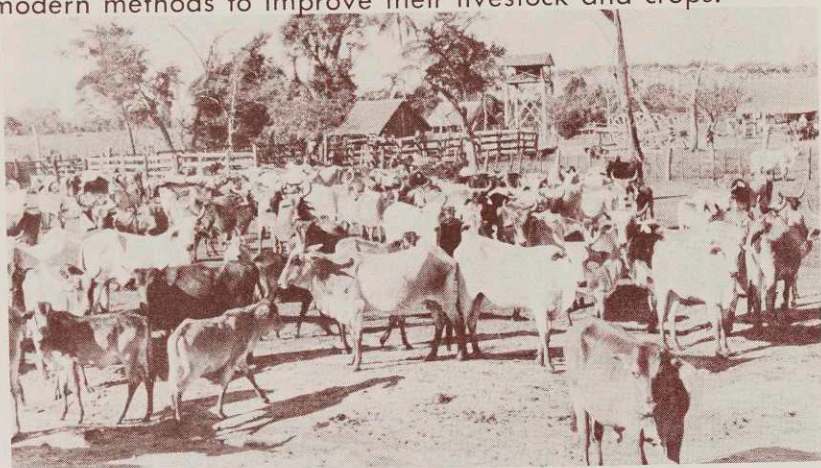
Cover Picture

School Group at Woodcrest

Paraguay

There are three villages in Primavera, Paraguay. Income producing activities are: cattle ranching, lumbering, wood industry and agriculture. The hospital in Primavera serves 7500 out-patients a year, most of whom are very poor.

The integrated farm program at Primavera has already brought benefits to neighboring farmers who learn from modern methods to improve their livestock and crops.



Bruderhof House, in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, is the outreach point for Primavera and the center for our young students.

Uruguay



The community in Uruguay, El Arado, is engaged in horticulture. Since the community is near a large city, guests can easily come. Young people of the community also have easy access to training in various lines of work. This community publishes **El Arado**, the Spanish edition of **The Plough**.

Germany



Sinntal-Bruderhof in Germany is 18 miles from the East Zone. This community makes wooden dolls, animals and boxes. There is a special emphasis here on reaching the younger generation in East and West Germany. **Der Pflug**, the German edition of **The Plough**, is published here.

England



Wheathill—Titterstone Mt. in background

Wheathill is a large farm, but also does hand weaving and sells clay for modeling. . . This community publishes **The Plough**, Plough pamphlets and other literature.



Old Country House becomes Bulstrode Community

The new community outside London has a small industry—manufacturing tubular steel products. It will be able to reach city people and accommodate guests from the Continent.



Wheathill Youth folk dancing at Ludlow

LIFE IN A BRUDERHOF COMMUNITY

The outward forms of living in the different communities vary and change according to need, to the climate and to the specific tasks in each place. Certain basic expressions of this life are the same, however, in each community.

Family

The family unit is regarded as an organic and important part of the whole. Its oneness and faithfulness give a picture of the oneness and faithfulness which must exist throughout the whole community. There is a real togetherness in family life. Parents work in the community and are usually there, seeing and talking with their children many times during the day. Also, all families are together at the same times by common agreement so that no activities pull away from family time.

Education

The education of the younger generation is one of the most important tasks. Most of the children and young people are children of the community families. However, orphan children and young people in need have found a home in the community and have been brought up by the community.

The children live with their parents but enjoy activities with their respective age groups during the greater part of the day. The Nurseries for babies and toddlers, the Kindergarten and the School are important parts of every Bruderhof community. There are many opportunities for children to experience activities and movements of the larger world. School children visit groups and institutions including schools, factories, museums, zoos. Young people participate in work-camps, conferences and institutes.

In England and America, most of the older children attend high schools in nearby towns. Young people after leaving school are given a chance for training outside which enables them to know other people and understand their thinking. It will be obvious that such opportunities vary according to the location of the community. Young people are encouraged to make independent decisions as to whether or not they want to become part of this brotherly way of life. Practically all of them choose to remain in the community.

Common Table and Meetings

Essential expressions of this life together are the common table and household meetings. These are used to exchange thoughts and experiences among members and also with the many guests from varied backgrounds; for singing together and reading letters, articles and books that have a message and help keep everyone in contact with current news and thought.

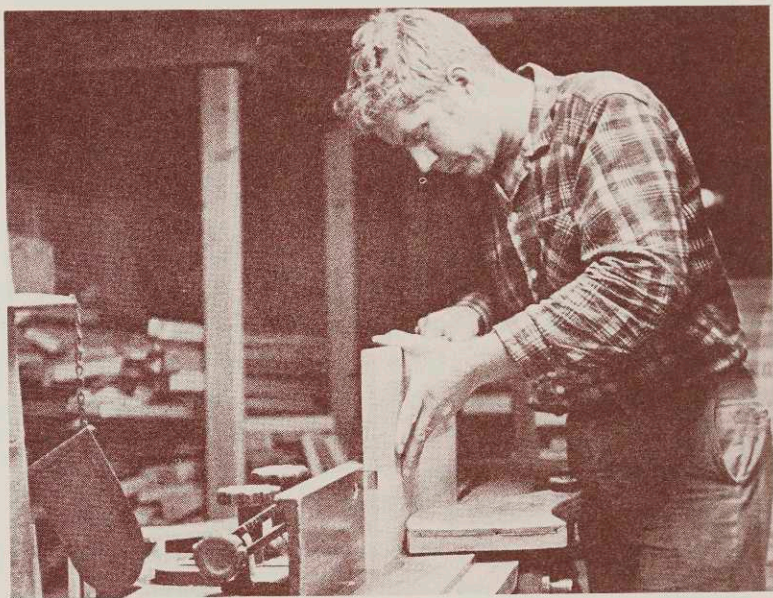
Evenings are also used for inner gatherings or meetings of the brotherhood when full members decide all matters concerning the life and witness of the community.

Creative Activities

Celebrations are frequent. Music, folk dancing, dramatics, games, picnics and outdoor sports are all part of the life in each community.

Work

Each village is a community of work, all members and guests entering into the labor so far as their health and skills permit. There are many departments in each community—laundry, kitchen, children's work, school, shop, garden, offices, publishing, building. Jobs are flexible and the relationship between departments is personal, warm and cooperative. No department is an end in itself; each exists for the whole.



The communities in the United States make creative playthings for children. Each produces educational play equipment called Community Playthings.

THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITIES

The members of the Society of Brothers are of all ages, from young people to elderly ones who work so far as they are able. Formerly, many were members of Christian denominations and groups; some were atheists, agnostics; others Jews, Catholics, or members of non-Christian groups. Among them are those who followed various trades or worked in factories, former business and professional men, artists. Many were modern Americans who felt utterly dissatisfied with the sterility and selfishness of their former middle class existence.

All these people work together with a common purpose. The old and young, men and women, single and married, intellectual and worker, Jew and Gentile, yellow, black and white, South American, European and Oriental have found that in order to become brothers and sisters, they have to make the same stand against selfishness and evil in all its forms. Helping one another in this struggle, they find that through their faith in Christ, they can be completely united, acting as one body.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The movement arose on the European continent in the early twenties. It included Dr. Eberhard Arnold, well-known speaker and publisher in Berlin, who had felt keenly the injustice and distinctions in class and society and had come into lively contact with the Youth Movement in Germany after World War I.

Under the impact of the Sermon on the Mount, which they read together, and inspired by the example of the early Christians, a little group of men and women felt impelled to start living in a new order of love and justice.

Before World War II, at the coming of National Socialism, they were forced to leave Germany and went to England.

During the early years of the war, this group, which then numbered 350 people, many of whom were refugees from Nazi persecution, left England, where they had settled in an effort to remain together. The only country that would receive them was Paraguay. Three members left behind in England to wind up the affairs of the group were soon joined by others and together they founded the Wheathill Bruderhof in 1942. Between 1954 and 1957, three communities were formed in the United States and in 1955 a small beginning was made again in Germany. In order to reach the people in a more populated area of South America, a Bruderhof has been established near Montevideo, Uruguay.

The European and North and South American communities, although widely separated geographically, are settlements of people inspired by the same purposes, working together in the closest cooperation for the common task. They have a common purse among them and in addition shipments of clothing and supplies are frequently sent from one community where there is more, to another community which is in need.

OUTREACH

The members of the Bruderhof Communities live simply and maintain an open door for all who wish to live a life of complete brotherhood, regardless of race, nationality or social standing. All who want to become acquainted with community life are welcome for long or short visits, whatever their religious or philosophical outlook.

The members have come from many differing ideologies and traditions into one faith and one common life together, which is based upon the life and teachings of Jesus. For them this is no theological teaching, but a living experience, leading to continual searching in a new way of life. The brotherhoods in each community ask that guests be seeking for an answer to the problems presented by life today and that they join wholeheartedly with the members in this search.

Representatives are sent out to colleges, to cities and to many types of groups as well as to different countries to contact other movements and seeking people and to make the way of brotherly living more generally known through meetings and informal discussions.

Bulletins are published four times a year in English, German, Spanish, Dutch and Esperanto (**The Plough**) and in addition an annual series of Plough pamphlets on leading issues of our day is being introduced. Pamphlets, leaflets, circular letters and books are also published.

Workcamps

Workcamps for young people are often planned in the various communities, and in Primavera there have been several work projects with the Paraguayans. In one of these, 100 Paraguayans from 3 villages helped rethatch the hospital roof; another time, people from Primavera helped build a school in a neighboring Paraguayan village.



The first international workcamp at Primavera was held during July, 1958, with 25 young South Americans from several countries participating. A North American young person also attended. Others are scheduled subsequently, with the thought that a permanent Study Center may develop there.

Sanatorio Primavera

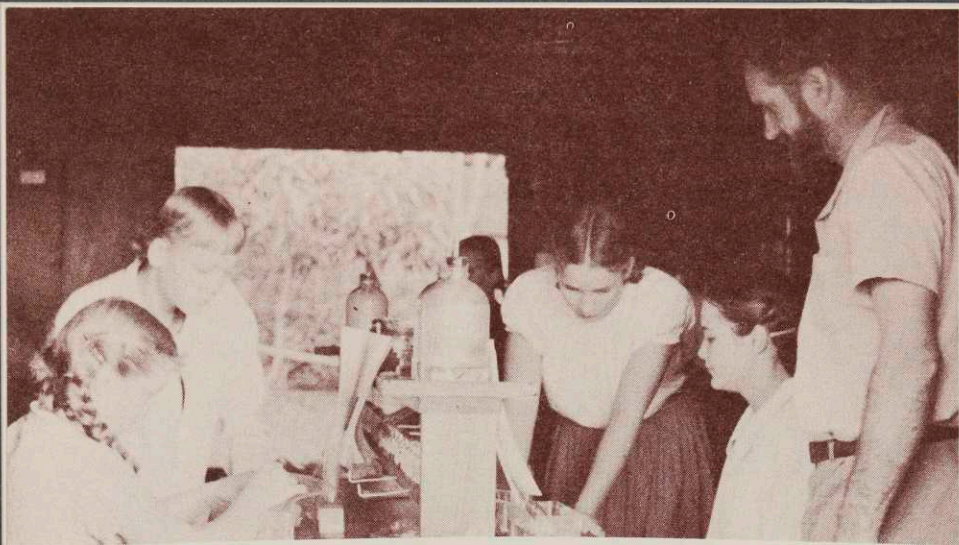


The hospital, Sanatorio Primavera, serves a poor district surrounding Primavera of some 30,000 Paraguayans and the agricultural program connected with it attacks disease at its roots by improving crops and livestock. This program has its effect on an impoverished population in one of the most under-developed countries in the world.

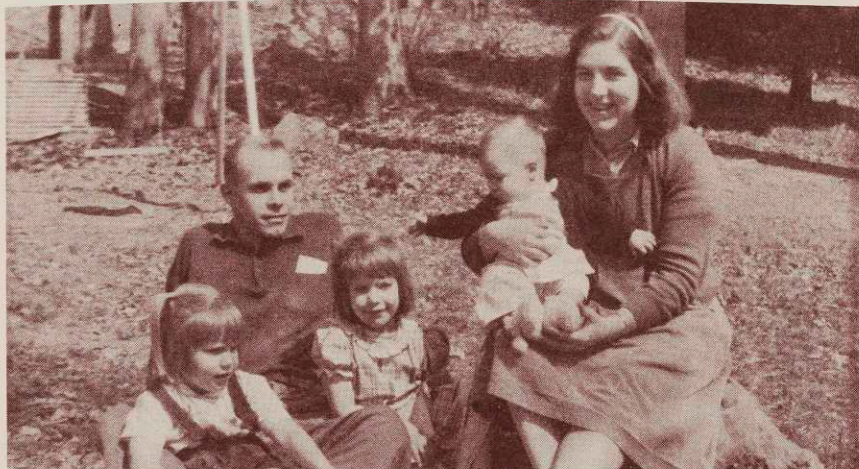
THE BRUDERHOF MOVEMENT

The Bruderhof movement is concerned to make known that community life in its fullest and creative sense is possible and is not restricted to any particular group of people or any special type. It is for the ordinary person, the only condition being a complete dedication of the will to the service of God and man without seeking reward. This means freedom—freedom from fear, from frustration, from conflict and from self—not a freedom which is given once for all—when one pays the price, but a freedom for which one must also fight daily.

These communities are not cut off or isolated from the world, but are meeting places and focal points of a new order.



School Laboratory in Paraguay



Kindergarten Group

Family Group





COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. • UNION PLANTERS BANK BUILDING • MEMPHIS 3, TENN. • PHONE JA 7-2515
LLOYD RAMSEY, PRESIDENT, LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR ROUND TABLE

March 14, 1959

Dr. Norbert Weiner
Office No. 2-276
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston, Massachusetts

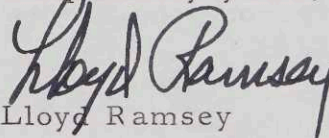
Dear Dr. Weiner:

In your book, The Human Use of Human Beings, you stated, "It is theoretically not impossible to develop the statistics of the semantic and behaviour languages to such a level that we may get a fair measure of the amount of information in each system."

My search has uncovered some developments as to the semantic but none as to the behavioral, since the publication of your monumental Cybernetics. It occurred to me that no one would be more likely than you to be aware of the most advanced thinking in those two areas.

Would you please be kind enough to suggest the source of the most significant efforts, in your opinion, that are being made to fashion an adequate theory on the semantic and behavioristic portions of messages. Incidentally, I have access to the Library of Congress and, therefore, am not restricted to the limitations of our local libraries.

Respectfully yours,


Lloyd Ramsey

lr/c

Amagerbrogade 85, Copenhagen S, Denmark.....March 14, 1959

Dear Mr. Wiener,

I should, of course, have considered the fact that I was writing
atop mathematician. It is absolutely right that there would not be
more than a couple of thousand people as potential customers of your
book, tho not quite for the reason you give (it is a fond illusion of
the Danes that they all speak and read English fluently, whereas most
of them—and I am speaking of the sophisticated ones who would be
interested in the first place—merely have a good school pronouncisation
and a workable vocabulary for everyday use, but certainly not for
reading fairly complicated books with ease). However, I do not think, nor
does the little press that wants to bring your book out think, that
this is a case where numbers are important, quite apart from the fact
that ~~the~~ press never sells more than a couple of thousand copies of any
book. At any rate, when I mentioned your book (in the paperback edition)
four years ago (cf. enclosed proofs of article that was later reprinted
in a collection of essays, p. 4-5) there were many letters to the edi-
tor of the newspaper (POLITIKEN) that brought the article and to me per-
sonally, asking for possibilities to read the book in translation. And
I do not think time has disproved any of your points, that are particular-
ly important, coming as they do, from a non-humanist.

However, if you do not think necessary or even advisable to have the
book out in Danish (even tho the benighted Swedes have it!) there is
of course nothing we can do but bow down and give up the beautiful plan.
Too bad, I do think. But anyway + shall personally go on quoting you
whenever the future of science, the humanities and mankind is brought up,
which is about every day. I used your prophecies quite recently in an
article about the priesthood of science that has aroused quite a contro-
versy and is still going on. Talking may seem futile, but non-talking even
more so, these days. Shame to be mute and let barbarians speak!

Yours sincerely

Elsa Göss Wiener

From "Kulturbøbet"

Gyldendal 1958

(Polakken, 1955)

Konformidabelt

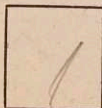
AF ELSA GRESS

Der tales og skrives i dag meget – og fra meget forskelligt hold – om tidens goldhed, idéfattigdom, angst, apati, manglende tro og først og sidst om den *hjælpeløshed*, der hos den enkelte har erstattet tidligere årtiers (nærmere bestemt mellemkrigstidens) fremskridttro-trods-alt, protest mod overgreb og tillid til mennesket. Og det er indlysende rigtigt, at hjælpløsheden, i det personlige liv som over for verdensproblemerne, er vor kolde krigstids ^{den} overvejende ^{den} præg. Om man vil betragte denne hjælpløshed som årsag ^{er} i og for sig ligegyldigt. Hovedsagen er, at den er her, at den ikke er noget at leve på, og ikke noget at dø for, og at det ikke er nok at konstatere den og beklage den.

Det er selvsagt heller ikke nok at vende sig i afsky fra sin hjælpløse tid, og det er ganske særligt ikke nok at skyde på en formentlig døende kulturradikalisme, hvis „fladbundede reformiver“ og „urealistiske oprør“ Gud og hvermand i dag mener at kunne gennemskue. Nøjes man med at påpege det flade, énøjede, naive ved den gamle kulturradikalisme, ender man i bedste fald i en forsigtig, selvgod, udsigtsløs konservatisme. Og vasker man hænderne og finder grundene til „vor tids menneskelige fallit“ i menneskenes kulminerende slethed og sløvhed, gør man sig skyldig i både bagvaskelse af menneskeslægten og almindelig tåbelighed.

For det må ikke glemmes, at der er yderst reelle grunde til moderne menneskers hjælpløshed. Hvad menneskematerialet angår, er procenten af redelige og fornuftige mennesker vel næppe mindre end tidligere. Og hvad den meget omtalte træghed angår, modsvares den af menneskers gribende og gennemgribende – ja, artsbestemte – påvirkelighed af ideer. Den påvirkelighed er ikke pludselig svækket eller forsvundet til fordel for en mystisk „livsnærhed“ (eller dødsnærhed). Mennesker har aldrig levet af brød alene, men de har altid haft særlig interesse i deres små Hassan'er med de skæve ben. Sådan er det stadig.

Men det nye og uomgængelige er, at atomvåbnene, med de problemer de rejser for slægtens liv og død, i forening med verdens „sammenskrumpning“ ved samkvemsmidlernes forbedring, simpelt hen har forviklet eller overflødiggjort al „gammeldags“ stillingtagen, både poli-



Korrektur
fra Gyldendals
Forlagstrykkeri

29 AUG 58

tisk, økonomisk og socialt-kulturelt. Problemerne (og ideerne) fra mellemkrigstiden er *ikke* fjernet. Men de er blevet uvæsentlige i forhold til den altoverskyggende nødvendighed af sameksistens for alle Guds gode og mindre gode børn, over-, mellem- og underudviklede til hobe.

Det er den nye og tilsyneladende uoverskueligt komplicerede situation, der slet ikke kan klares med vanetænkning og vaneførelse. Og denne situation afføder den nye hjælpeløshed, hvis paradoksale træk er, at vi i dag er hjælpeløse i kraft af selve de processer, der har befriet os fra tidligere århundreders hjælpeløshed og afhængighed af guder, præster og naturkræfter. Vore gode tjenere af i går – samfundsorganisation, videnskab og teknik – er ved at blive vore hårde herrer. Det er en overvældende og skræmmende udvikling, og uanset om den enkelte gør sig den bevidst eller ej, præger den hans livsholdning og gør den fatalistisk. Hvad kan jeg gøre, når ingen kan gøre noget. Det bliver den skuldertrækkende holdning, som nogle gør en dyd af og andre er bitre over.

Under disse forhold er det ikke mærkeligt, at begrebet *fællesskab* får en ny forjættende klang, og at et stigende antal mennesker søger ind i „fællesskaber“ for fællesskabets skyld, uden at undersøge nærmere, hvad det indebærer. Man hylder i alle tonearter og fra alle sider fællesskabet som idé og som noget i sig selv fortræffeligt, og *konformiteten* bliver noget langt mere end det at rette sig efter normer og love. Den bliver til en frelse, en tryk havn, det højeste gode.

Konformitet er et uhåndterligt ord, der vanskeligt lader sig oversætte. Det må ikke forveksles med ensretning, der blot er en grov, primitiv, let gennemskuelig form deraf. „Ensdannelse“ kan kun bruges, hvis det bringes til at dække både ydre og indre tilpasning til gældende standarder. Konformitet er både et begreb og en livsform. I betydningen blind lydighed mod skrevne og uskrevne love er den naturligvis så gammel som samfundet. Det nye er, at den gøres til endemål, til middel mod alskens ondt og til absolut værdi. „Du skal ligne din næste“ bliver det store bud, manglende tilpasning er den moderne dødssynd. Fællesskabets (gruppens, samfundets) værdier bliver de eneste og højeste, og fællesskabets dom kan ikke appelleres.

Og hvad ondt er der så i det, kan man spørge. Fællesskab er dog vitterligt smukt, og at indordne sig er da en fredssommelig syssel. Men faren ligger netop i den blinde accepteren af forholdene-som-de-er, i selve „fredssommeligheden“. Det tilpassede menneske er det modstandsløse, afvæbnede, uansvarlige menneske, der kan beherskes og

bruges – og bliver behersket og brugt. Det er der i dag en del mennesker jorden over der ved, eller dog aner, og det er karakteristisk, at det er her en væsentlig del af vor tids oprør sætter ind.

Det er også karakteristisk, at dette oprør hidtil har fået mest bevidst udtryk i USA. Tryk avler som bekendt modtryk, og bortset fra diktaturerne er USA det område, hvor konformitetstrykket er størst. Af mere og mindre indlysende grunde, der er tankevækkende fremstillet bl. a. i amerikaneren *David Riesmans* bog om det ensomme masse menneske (*The Lonely Crowd*, 1951, herom nærmere s. ■ f.) og europæeren *L. L. Matthias'* bog om „USA, det ordnede kaos“ (*Autopsie des États Unis*, Ed. du Seuil, 1955), er de ensdannende tendenser stærkest realiseret i den amerikanske *passion to conform* – trangen til at være som de andre, d. v. s. ikke bare ligne dem i levevis, men tilpasse det indre liv til „gruppeværdierne“.

Der er her tale om en sjælelig uniformering, der er langt mere vidtgående og dybtgribende end den velkendte demokratiske tilbøjelighed til at gøre laveste fællesnævner til højeste målestok, som allerede *Tocqueville* skrev om i „Democracy in America“. En fornøjeligt skrevet analyse af denne uniformering er *W. H. Whytes: Is Anybody Listening* (Schuster & Simon, 1952), der dog er alt andet end fornøjelig i det perspektiv, den åbner. „Problemet er ikke, at samfundsborgerne i dag har delte meninger om tingene, men at de i morgen vil have udelte meninger“, konkluderer han. „Hvis den nuværende tendens fortsætter, vil vi snart have skabt „samfundet i ligevægt“, være harmonisk tilpasset omgivelserne, fri for problemer, tilfredse med vor tildelte funktion og ikke plaget af moralske skruller ... menneskets selvstændighed vil være ofret på gruppeharmoniens alter, etisk set vil vi blive kastrater.“

Oprøret mod denne uniformering tager to væsensforskellige former: ny-konservatismen (i USA *New Conservatives* og *New Critics*), og ny-radikalismen, der ikke er organiseret i nogen bevægelse. De ny-konservative taler – med hyppige henvisninger til henfarne aristokrater – om undtagelsesmennesker (d. e. dem selv) i modsætning til den vulgære hob (d. e. de andre) og om lidelsens nødvendighed. Den art protest kendes også herovre. Den er ufrugtbar, fordi den er båret af foragt for mennesker under dække af respekt for mennesket. Nu-radikalismen derimod rettes ikke mod konformiteten som noget „vulgært“, men mod dens udviklingshæmmende og kuende magt.

Disse oprørere kan ikke blot lide deres medmennesker, de finder og-

så, at det er en hån at betragte mennesker som produkter af fordomme. Og de ønsker at komme til bunds i tidens misère og finde nye udviklingsmuligheder for individer og samfund. En af dem er psykologen *Robert Lindner*, som ikke nøjes med at analysere „ensdannelsen“ men også skriver recept på modgift mod den i sin bog *Prescription for Rebellion* (Gollancz, 1953), der er et ildnende og temperamentsfuldt forsvar for „den menneskerettighed at være utilpasset“.

En anden er matematikeren *Norbert Wiener*, en af skaberne af den nye videnskab *cybernetics*, der beskæftiger sig med forholdet mellem mennesker og maskiner. Vigtigt i denne forbindelse er ikke så meget hans videnskabelige indsats som de slutninger, han selv drager af sin viden. Han har i de sidste år slået bak mod sin egen læres konsekvenser (cf. „Mennesket og tingene“ s. ■). I sin bog om menneskelig brug af mennesker (*The Human Use of Human Beings*, billigudg., Anchor Books, 1954), når han gennem tilsyneladende inhumane betragtninger til en ny humanisme. Han ikke blot sammenligner mennesker med maskiner, men hævder rent ud, at „hvad der bruges som element i en maskine, er virkelig et element i en maskine, hvad enten det består af stål eller af kød og blod“. Maskiniserede menneskeorganisationer som hærer, korporationer og administrationskontorer er allerede nu næppe til at skelne fra den regeringsmaskine, han beskriver med uhyggelig præcision i et af sine kapitler. Den menneskelignende maskine og det maskinlignende menneske vil sammen kunne gøre verden til et værre helvede, end fantasifulde forfattere af fremtidsromaner har drømt om, og det uanset hvilket politisk system der er fremherskende. Forfatningsmæssigt demokrati er ingen garanti mod en sådan fremtid.

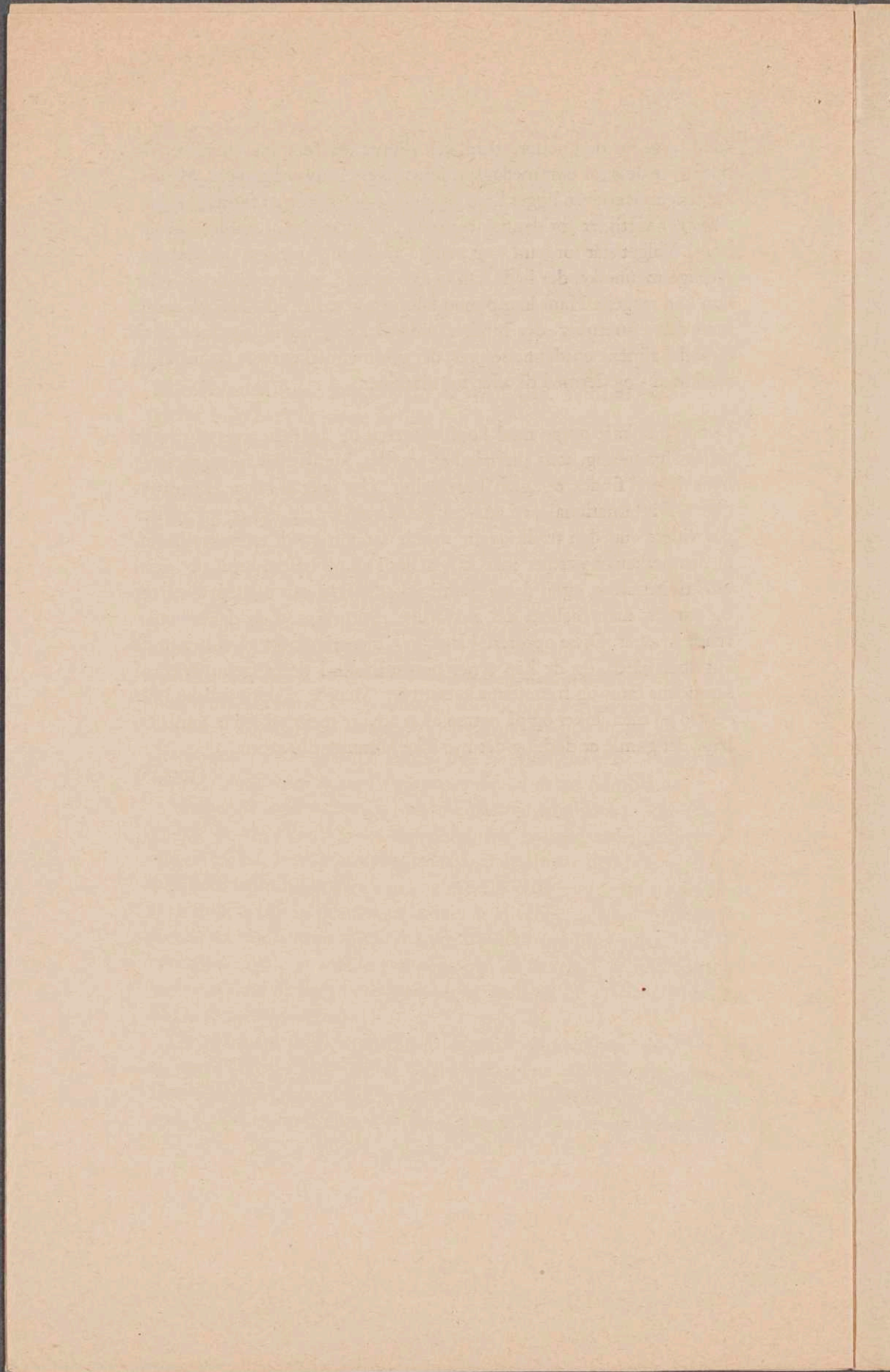
Wiener påpeger videre, at atomindustrien, „med den nuværende militaristiske indstilling“ som baggrund, har tvunget videnskaben ind i en ond cirkel, hvor hemmelighedskravet hæmmer den frie udvikling, mens der samtidig kræves mere og mere ødelæggende våben som modtræk mod, hvad en fjende kan tænkes at anvende. „Denne fjende kan i øjeblikket forekomme USA at være Rusland (og omvendt). Men den egentlige fjende er snarere genspejlingen af os selv i en ond cirkel.“ I forsvaret mod dette fantom ofres uhyre åndelige og materielle reserver til skade for nationerne.

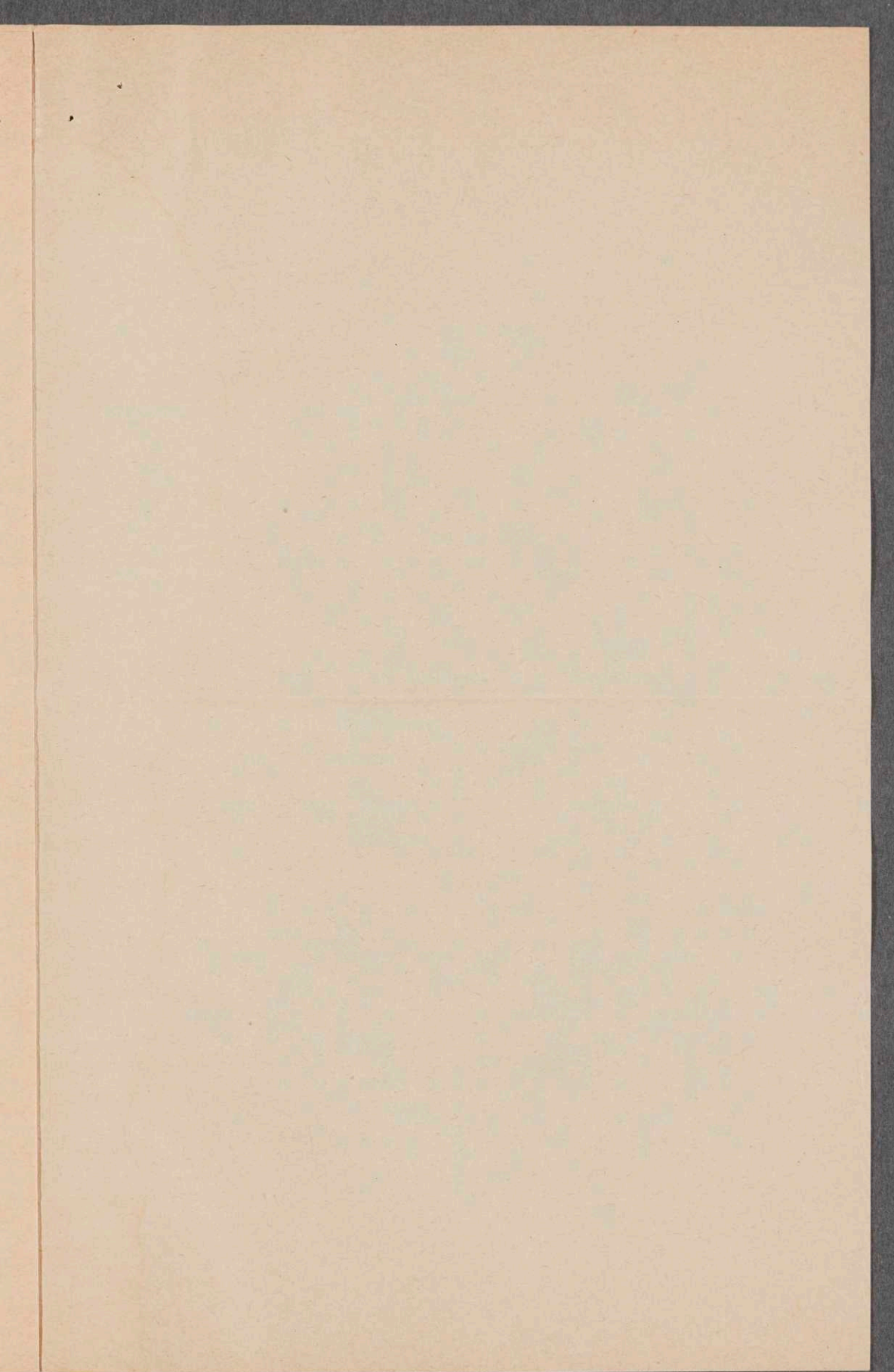
Det er ingen falsk, optimistisk afspændingsprædiken, man her får serveret. Wiener giver sig af med ubehagelige realiteter og udsigter. Han efterlyser også, særlig hos sine „forkælede landsmænd“, en tragisk sans, d. v. s. en forståelse af at fremskridt koster mere end penge og en

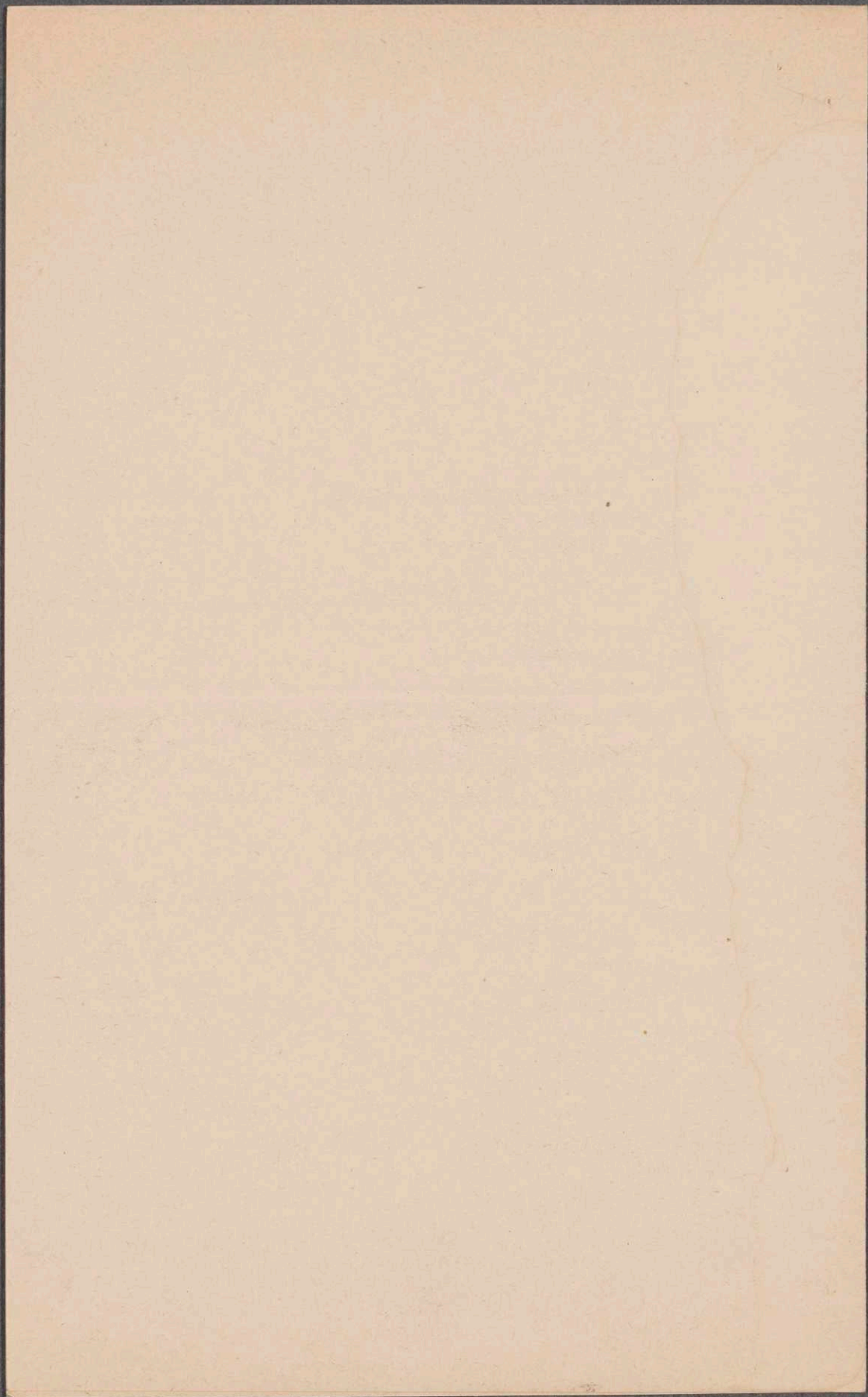
sund frygt for de kræfter, teknikken slipper løs. Men han hengiver sig ikke til nydelse af dommedagsprofetier over en uværdig slægt. Menneskeheden overleven ligger ham på sinde, og forståelse af formål (*know-what*) er vigtigere for denne overleven end forståelse af midler (*know-how*). Valget står for ham – og mange med ham – mellem det hele, ansvarlige menneske, der både kan tænke og føle, og „maskindelen“, der kun kan reagere. Hans kamp mod konformiteten er ikke blot en kamp mod den ensretning, der hindrer videnskabelig udvikling, men også mod det almene ensdannelsepres, der gør mennesket mere og mere lig maskinen – og dermed til offer for maskinen.

Det ny-radikale oprør mod konformiteten og apatien giver sig højst forskellige udslag, som allerede her antydet. Men fælles for oprørerne, hvor de end findes, er „global tænkning“ (for ikke at bruge det mistyldige ord international), en ansvarsfølelse over for sig selv og andre, der går videre end den traditionelle sociale samvittighed, en forståelse af, at menneskelige værdier ikke kan måles i teknisk fremskridt og social effektivitet alene, og at den væsentlige kamp ikke står mellem systemer og partier, men mellem det ansvarlige menneske og de dehumaniserende kræfter. Disse oprørere kan synes „negative“, for så vidt som de angriber hårdt, og de kan synes pessimistiske i deres fremmanen af samtidens farer og fremtidens katastrofer. Men de er optimistiske i deres tro på mennesker og på nytten af at advare mennesker i et tomrum, hvor det gamle er dødt og det nye ikke kommet til verden.

(1955)







KURT J. GORDON
78 WEST 31ST STREET
BAYONNE, N. J.

15 March 1959

Dear Professor **Wiener**,

Thank you very much for answering my questions so fully. I shall certainly take your letter along to Antioch in order that I and my guidance counselors may be guided by your opinions.

If things work out, I hope you will permit me to write you again.

Gratefully,

Kurtis J. Gordon

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METHODS IN APPLICATION OF
ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING-
MACHINES

Ø 037 / 2.45.65

Basle, 15th March 1959
Gundeldingerstrasse 139

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Mathematics
Cambridge 39
Massachusetts U S A

Dear Professor Wiener,

referring to your letter of October 10, 1958, I am very glad to inform you that the people of the Swiss Automation-Tour to the USA will be very honoured to meet you Friday, April 10, 1959, sometimes between 9 a.m. and noon.

Although there were about 70 persons which declared to be very interested in the Tour, the number of definite bookings seems not to exceed 7 persons. Of course, under these circumstances the Tour will not be a profitable business for Amexco, but we are sure that the participants will be very impressed to have the outstanding opportunity to meet you.

We are very glad that the Professors we shall meet (apart yourself there are Professor Aiken, Professor Anthony, Professor Leontief) have not asked to be paid for the time they will spend with the Group. For this we thank you very much.

Hoping to see you soon I beg, dear Professor Wiener, to remain

Yours very respectfully

E. Billeter
Ernest P. Billeter

March 16, 1959

Professor Felix E. Browder
Yale University
Department of Mathematics
Box 2155 Yale Station
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Professor Browder:

Professor and Mrs. Wiener plan to arrive in New Haven by car on Wednesday, March 18, between two and three o'clock. They will go directly to the Mathematics Building. If they should have any trouble finding it, they will telephone you through the Mathematics Department.

They are looking forward to their visit.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

CAMBRIDGE MASS MARCH 16 1959

DAVE BARBER

214 HALL OF GRADUATE STUDIES YALE UNI NEWHAVEN CONN

WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH YOUR GROUP ON THURSDAY ANYTIME BETWEEN

130 AND 4 OCLOCK STOP SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF KARL DEUTSCH

NORBERT WIENER MIT

NORBERT WIENER

MATH DEPT ROOM 2-276 MIT

CAMBRIDGE MASS

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1. The Telegraph Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the unrepeatd-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, unless specially valued; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines.

2. In any event the Telegraph Company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the actual loss, not exceeding in any event the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount the sender of each message represents that the message is valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one per cent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.

3. The Telegraph Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.

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5. No responsibility attaches to the Telegraph Company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the Telegraph Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender; except that when the Telegraph Company sends a messenger to pick up a message, the messenger in that instance acts as the agent of the Telegraph Company in accepting the message, the Telegraph Company assuming responsibility from the time of such acceptance.

6. The Telegraph Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties when the claim is not presented in writing to the Telegraph Company, (a) within ninety days after the message is filed with the Telegraph Company for transmission in the case of a message between points within the United States (except in the case of an intrastate message in Texas) or between a point in the United States on the one hand and a point in Alaska, Canada, Mexico, or St. Pierre-Miquelon Islands on the other hand, or between a point in the United States and a ship at sea or in the air, (b) within 95 days after the cause of action, if any, shall have accrued in the case of an intrastate message in Texas, and (c) within 180 days after the message is filed with the Telegraph Company for transmission in the case of a message between a point in the United States and a foreign or overseas point other than the points specified above in this paragraph; provided, however, that this condition shall not apply to claims for damages or overcharges within the purview of Section 415 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

7. It is agreed that in any action by the Telegraph Company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.

8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.

9. No employee of the Telegraph Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

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SHIP RADIOGRAM

For messages to and from ships at sea.

March 16, 1959

Mr. Francis J. Chesterman
Cambridge Apartments
School House Lane
Philadelphia 44, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Chesterman:

As you will remember, some two weeks ago I loaned you the manuscript of my new novel, The Tempter. As you can easily understand I wish to keep a firm hand on the very few copies of this manuscript so that I will not be in any difficulties from misplacing it. Could you therefore do me the favor of reassuring me that it is still in your hands and of sending it back to me as soon as you have finished reading it. I am very appreciative of your kindness in looking at it and I am eagerly waiting to see what your impressions may be. With most pleasant recollections of our department inspection meeting, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

[ans 3/19/59]

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

DR W L PIOUS

CAMBRIDGE MASS MARCH 16 1959

340 WHITNEY AVE NEWHAVEN CONN

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR INVITATION HOWEVER WE HAD ALREADY PLANNED
 TO STAY AT BERKELEY COLLEGE YALE STOP WOULD LIKE TO
 MEET WITH YOU ON THURSDAY MORNING MARCH 19TH PLEASE CONTACT
 ME THROUGH MATH DEPT AT YALE

NORBERT WIENER

NORBERT WIENER
 MATH DEPT ROOM 2-276 MIT
 CAMBRIDGE MASS

[ans 3/20/59]

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5. No responsibility attaches to the Telegraph Company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the Telegraph Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender; except that when the Telegraph Company sends a messenger to pick up a message, the messenger in that instance acts as the agent of the Telegraph Company in accepting the message, the Telegraph Company assuming responsibility from the time of such acceptance.

6. The Telegraph Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties when the claim is not presented in writing to the Telegraph Company, (a) within ninety days after the message is filed with the Telegraph Company for transmission in the case of a message between points within the United States (except in the case of an intrastate message in Texas) or between a point in the United States on the one hand and a point in Alaska, Canada, Mexico, or St. Pierre-Miquelon Islands on the other hand, or between a point in the United States and a ship at sea or in the air, (b) within 95 days after the cause of action, if any, shall have accrued in the case of an intrastate message in Texas, and (c) within 180 days after the message is filed with the Telegraph Company for transmission in the case of a message between a point in the United States and a foreign or overseas point other than the points specified above in this paragraph; provided, however, that this condition shall not apply to claims for damages or overcharges within the purview of Section 415 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

7. It is agreed that in any action by the Telegraph Company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.

8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.

9. No employee of the Telegraph Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

4-54

CLASSES OF SERVICE

DOMESTIC SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

TELEGRAM

The fastest domestic service.

DAY LETTER (DL)

A deferred same-day service, at low rates.

NIGHT LETTER (NL)

Economical overnight service. Accepted up to 2 A. M. for delivery the following morning; at rates lower than the Telegram or Day Letter rates.

FULL RATE (FR)

The fastest overseas service. May be written in code, cipher, or in any language expressed in Roman letters.

LETTER TELEGRAM (LT)

For overnight plain language messages, at half-rate. Minimum charge for 22 words applies.

SHIP RADIOGRAM

For messages to and from ships at sea.

CAREY J. CHAMBERLIN
75 FEDERAL STREET
BOSTON

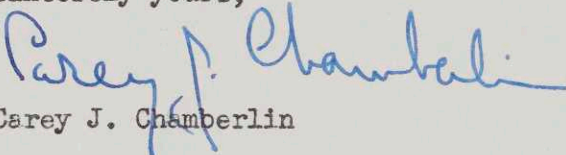
March 17, 1959

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

My dear Professor Wiener,

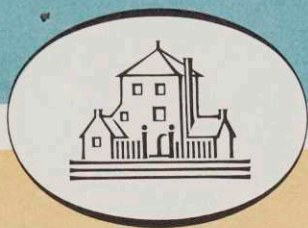
Our conversation last evening on the
telephone I definitely enjoyed. Go ahead and be
as controversial as you like. I much appreciate
your taking our request with seriousness.

Sincerely yours,


Carey J. Chamberlin

CJC:w

[aws 3/26/59]



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Jason Epstein, EDITOR

March 17, 1959



Volta Torrey, Editor
The Technology Review
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Mr. Torrey:

Norbert Weiner's novel, The Tempter, is on its way to the printer now and will be published in September. When we have prepared a release, I will see to it that "The Technology Review" gets a copy.

Sincerely yours,


Jason Epstein

[all 3/21/59]

J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK., CHAIRMAN

A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, VA.
JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA.
J. ALLEN FREAR, JR., DEL.
PAUL H. DOUGLAS, ILL.
JOSEPH S. CLARK, PA.
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PRESCOTT BUSH, CONN.
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JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

J. H. YINGLING, CHIEF CLERK
ROBERT A. WALLACE, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 17, 1959

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

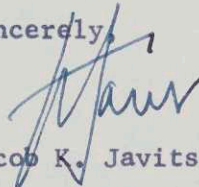
Dear Professor Wiener:

I have received your letter of March 5, 1959, with regard to the case of Paul Erdos.

Professor William A. Pierce of the Department of Mathematics of Syracuse University has corresponded with me and has conferred with my Administrative Assistant, Sidney G. Kingsley, with regard to this case.

Following my inquiries at the Department of State, on behalf of Professor Paul Erdos, I informed Professor Pierce on February 12, 1959, that the application of Professor Erdos for a visa is a matter solely within the jurisdiction of the Consular Officer, and any new facts bearing on the security aspects of the case which were the ground for denial of a visa under Section 212 (a)(28) of the Immigration and Nationality Act should be brought to his attention for the initiation of a review of the decision.

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits

JKJ:sk

March 17, 1959

Mr. W. Allan Gay
Department of Industrial Administration
Royal College of Science and Technology
Glasgow, Scotland

Dear Mr. Gay:

Enclosed is a reprint and paper which you left in our office. Professor Wiener thoroughly enjoyed your visit and hopes that you may meet again in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

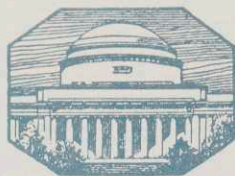
Enclosures

[ans 4/22/59]

W. ALLAN GAY

B.Sc., A.R.C.S.T., A.M.B.I.M.

Dept. Industrial Administration,
Royal College of Science and Technology,
Glasgow.



THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

EDITED AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

March 18, 1959

Professor Norbert Wiener
Room 2-276
M.I.T.

Dear Professor Wiener:

As you know, M.I.T. and Harvard have scheduled a Science Writing Seminar for newspapermen on April 2, 3 and 4. Indications now are that we will have between 30 and 40 reporters, from publications such as The New York Times, The Newark News, The Cleveland Press, The Denver Post and Look Magazine, here on this occasion.

Your talk is scheduled to be the last one in the forenoon of April 2 in the Little Theater of Kresge Auditorium. The other speakers that morning will be President Stratton, Professor Leonard K. Nash of Harvard, and Professor William G. Cochran of Harvard. You will receive a complete program soon from Mr. Louis Lyons of the Nieman Foundation.

M.I.T. will give a dinner that evening (Thursday, April 2) at the Harvard Club, 374 Commonwealth Avenue, in Boston, for the visitors. Dr. Vannevar Bush and Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner will speak at this dinner. Cocktails will be at 6:00 and the dinner at 6:30 P. M. Will you be able to join us for this dinner?

I hope so, because a great many of our guests would appreciate the opportunity to chat informally with you, and you might find some of them interesting.

This conference is not intended to result in any headlines the next day. There will be no handouts and no recordings of what is said. It is hoped, however, that the speakers' remarks will contribute to a better understanding of science by writers for the popular press, and that their coverage of science news, their editorials and their columns will reflect in the future some of the ideas that they will

pick up on this occasion.

With best wishes,

As ever,

Volta Torrey
Volta Torrey
Editor

VT/DdeF

[ans 3/24/59]

F. J. CHESTERMAN
CAMBRIDGE APTS.
SCHOOL HOUSE LANE
PHILADELPHIA 44, PA.

Mar 19, 59

Dear Prof. Meir; -

Your letter of the 16th - arrived yesterday afternoon and I had mailed the manuscript to you yesterday morning - I was away for a few days & busy with several matters so that my reading was delayed -

I was interested, naturally, in the subject - It presents a picture of affairs with which I am not familiar and not competent to analyze correctly -

It has some unusual facets - and I should imagine would be interesting to a variety of readers

Thank you for allowing me to read it in manuscript

Sincerely
Frank Chesterman

HERBERT R. MILLER
PLANETARIUM STATION, BOX 244
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

March 20, 1959

Honorable Dr. Norbert Wiener

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

My Dear Dr. Wiener -

There is a plan in the process of formation that the U.S. is ready for the building of a "Timing center" in the U.S.

a center in which leading industries & organizations will send in their "Timing Notes" as condition of "Time Change"

The center will have Timing commissioners who will be in an advisory capacity

The timing threat to all industry & nature is one of the great problems of the day

The development of this plan is the result of many years of work & is the process of being presented to the Government, States etc. leading industrial organizations, Science bodies etc.

We are seeking a timing "constant" on your reply to this letter I will give you some details possible personal.

Howie Donald Sweeney in ~~London~~ talked to him about you who have thrilled me & my wife I believe your work, if you see Dr. Sweeney say I intend to write him soon

Sincerely
Herbert R. Miller

[ans 3-26-59]

My dear Dr. Wiener:

There is a plan in the process of formation that the U.S. is ready for the building of a "timing center" in the U.S.

A center in which leading industries and organizations will ~~send~~ in their "Timing Plots" as conditions of "Time Change".

The center will have Timing Commissioners who will be in an advisory capacity.

The timing throughout all industry and nature is one of the great problems of the day.

The development of this plan is the result of many years of work and is the process of being presented to the Government. Leading industries, organizations, science bodies, etc.

We are *asking* a timing constant on your reply to this letter. I will give you some details possible personal.

How is Donald Svengies(?) I once talked to him about you who have thrilled me *ever since* I knew your work. If you see Dr. Mengies say I intend to write him soon.

Sincerely,

Herbert R. Miller

W. L. PIOUS, M. D.
340 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

March 20, 1959

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

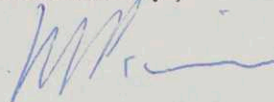
I feel urged to let you know at once how much I appreciated the opportunity to meet you and to talk with you, and also to let you know that I came away with much that is useful.

I can see that the use to me will depend on my further studying of the subject matter involved in nonlinear feedback, self-programming machines and your work on self-organizing groups. I hope that you will let me know about publications which I might find useful and which come to your attention. In the meantime I will plan to study the book "Physical Basis of Biology" and later on to get in touch with Professor Karl Deutsch here and Professor Minsky at MIT.

I plan to talk with the head of the Department of Psychiatry about the work which you have initiated on the EEG. If a research program proves feasible I will look forward to consulting with you further about the problems involved in setting it up. It may be some time before my speculations, of which you saw a very preliminary draft, achieve a better format. When they do I hope to be able to send you a draft for your comments.

Please remember me to Mrs. Wiener. Best personal regards.

Most cordially,



W. L. Pious, M.D.

WLP:k

Memorandum from THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

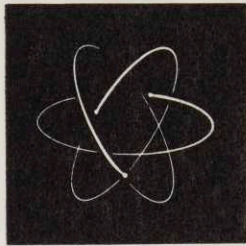
Date March 21 [1959]

To Prof. Norbert Wiener - Room 2-276

We will be watching for his release.

Volta Torrey

Signed _____



Organizing Committee for the

Swiss Educational Tour
for Automation
and Operations Research
to the U. S. A.

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

under the auspices of the »Society of Swiss Friends of the U.S.A. (SFUSA)« Zurich and in co-operation with the »Institute for Automation and Operations Research« at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) □ Mailing address: c/o The American Express Co. Inc., Bahnhofstr. 20, Zurich 1, Tel. (051) 23 57 20.

Basle, March 21, 1959

Dear Professor Wiener,

We refer to your letter of December 3, 1958, kindly confirming Friday, April 10, 1959 for our visit at the M.I.T.

We are now able to give you the names of the tour members below:

Dr. Hans Braendli, Director of Contraves Ltd., Electronics and Computers, Zurich
Mr. Walter Guebelin, Partner of the Firm of Guebelin & Sons, Watches, Lucerne
Mr. Ernst Ryf, Commercial Director of the United Tobacco Factories of Switzerland
Dr. Vincent R.M. de Sinner, J.U.D., Management Assistant of Sandoz Ltd., Basle

Inspite of some 75 serious applicants for the subject tour, we regret that only four final bookings materialized, due to various, individual reasons. However we are confident in that this tour will repeat maybe at regular intervals.

We would appreciate, if you could receive us in the afternoon of April 10, if you can conveniently arranged it. Your lecture would be preferred in German.

Mr. Bruno Mantel, Chief American Tour Unit of the American Express Co. Inc. in Zurich will act as travel technical tour escort and will be contacting you by telephone upon arrival in New York or Boston, in order to make the final arrangements for our visit.

As regards myself, I have been requested to act as the scientific leader of the tour.

We do hope, that you will extend to us your courtesies inspite of the small group and thank you again for your kind cooperation.

Looking forward to the pleasure of greeting you in Boston, we remain

Yours very truly

E. Billeter

Prof. Ernest P. Billeter

eh

cc: Mr. J.T. Robinson, Mgr.
Domestic Travel Division
American Express Co., New York

cc: American Express Co. Inc.
Bahnhofstr. 20, Zurich

Jana 3-27-59]

Zusammenfassung

Im Bestreben nach etwas vollständigerem Verständnis des Verhaltens höherer Säugetiere, drängte sich die Frage nach dem möglichen Vorhandensein psychischer Strukturen und Instanzen im Tierreich auf, die den *Es/Ich/Über-Ich*-Instanzen des Menschen homolog zu setzen wären. Die Frage wurde anhand einer Reihe teils experimenteller Beobachtungen und Mitteilungen aus der Literatur nach den Grundsätzen des formalen, funktionalen und mnemisch-strukturalen Vergleiches untersucht. Anhand der Demonstration des Vorhandenseins mnemischer Vektoren, Kraft- und Feldlinien konnte ein allgemein vergleichbares Bild der strukturalen Grundgerüste dieser psychischen Instanzen in Form der Objektbindungssysteme als Ausgangsbasis entworfen werden, indem versucht wurde zu zeigen, daß eine Objektbindung als mnemisches, intra-psychisch wirksames Kraftlinienbündel aufgefaßt werden kann.

Das *Ich* wurde begrifflich als senso-motorisch-mnemisches Integrationssystem mit der Gesamtfunktion individueller, sinnvoller Gestaltung und Erhaltung seines Trägers charakterisiert, das *Über-Ich* als mnemisch-vektorielles Regulationssystem zur Erhaltung und Gestaltung einer geordneten Sozietät.

Mit senso-motorisch-mnemischer Integration wurde ein Vorgang bezeichnet, der mnemische Elemente verschiedener Anordnung und Herkunft nach übergeordneten Prinzipien in einen solchen neuen strukturalen (psychischen) Zusammenhang bringt, daß sie inhaltlich gesamthaft, möglicherweise erlebnismäßig, jedenfalls aber funktional neuartig-sinnvoll werden.

Die mnemisch-vektorielle Regulation wäre ein Vorgang zur Herstellung eines möglichst spannungsfreien Gleichgewichtes zwischen individuellen und kollektiven polyvalenten Expansionstendenzen.

Summary

In the endeavour to understand the behaviour of higher mammals a little better than was possible up to now there arose the question of the possible existence of such psychical structures in animals as would be homologous to the Id, Ego and Super-ego in man. This question was investigated along the lines of formal, functional and mnemonic-structural comparison of a number of observations partially spontaneous and partially experimental in nature.

By demonstrating the existence of mnemical vectors, field lines and lines of force it was possible to show the object-dependencies of an individual to be of the nature of a bundle of such mnemical lines of force.

By adopting the whole system of object-dependencies (PORTMANN'S psycho-social-phenotype) as a basic structure of the Ego, a generally comparable picture of this psychic instance (as conceived of by FREUD) could be drawn beyond the limits of comparison of a single species.

The Ego was characterized conceptually as a system of senso-motorical-mnemical Integration with the function of sense-making individual self-shaping and self preservation of its carrier. Senso-motorical-mnemical-Integration was shown to be a process by which mnemical elements of heterogeneous arrangement and origin are being reshuffled along higher principles into such a new structural (psychic) connection as to form a newly senseful functional totality.

The Super-ego was suggested to be a mnemonic-vectorial Regulation-system with the function of shaping and preserving a structured society.

Mnemonic-vectorial Regulation was characterized as a process for the establishment of an optimal equilibrium between individual and collective polyvalent tendencies of expansion.

Dr.med.A.Zweig
Kreuzgasse 7
Münchenbuchsee

the 22nd. March 1959
Professor Dr.N.Wiener
The Connecticut Institute
of Technology
University of Connecticut
C o n n e c t i c u t

Sir,

having read your book on CYBERNETICS I feel encouraged to present you with the Summary of an ethological study on "Tierpsychologische Beiträge zur Phylogenese der Ich-Über-ich Instanzen" (Ethological Contributions to the Phylogenesis of the Ego and Super-ego Structures) not only because of the impression that the scope of your interests surpasses Physics and Mathematics but also because it was possible to characetrize some fundamental concepts in Psychological Field Theory along my work.

Although the study (which comprizes 83 pages, 26 observations and 10 diagramms) has been published in German as yet I hereby permit myself to ask you whether you would be interested in a copy of this study in the field of Comparative Psychology.

Perhaps I may add that the concepts arrived at by myself are based in W.KÖHLER's and K.LEWIN's concepts of Psychological Fields of Force and Phase-space.

I am , Sir ,

Yours very truly

Dr. med. A. Zweig.

[ans 5-11-59]

March 23, 1959

Wabash College
Crawfordsville, Indiana

Gentlemen:

I regret that I must decline your kind invitation to attend the dedication of The Lilly Library on Saturday, April the eleventh. I appreciate very much your thinking of me.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

:mmk

THE
PRESIDENT, TRUSTEES, AND FACULTY OF
WABASH COLLEGE

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE DEDICATION OF

THE LILLY LIBRARY

SATURDAY, APRIL THE ELEVENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

R.S.V.P.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million.

There are a number of reasons for this increase. One is that the world population has grown from 5 billion to 6 billion.

Another reason is that the world's population is becoming more urban and more dependent on food that is produced elsewhere.

And a third reason is that the world's population is becoming more dependent on food that is produced in the developed world.

These three factors have led to a significant increase in the number of people who are undernourished.

There are a number of ways in which we can address this problem. One is to increase the production of food in the developing world.

Another is to improve the distribution of food in the developing world.

And a third is to improve the nutrition of the population in the developing world.

These three strategies are essential for reducing the number of people who are undernourished.

There are a number of ways in which we can improve the production of food in the developing world.

One is to provide farmers with access to modern agricultural technologies.

Another is to provide farmers with access to modern agricultural inputs.

And a third is to provide farmers with access to modern agricultural services.

These three strategies are essential for improving the production of food in the developing world.

There are a number of ways in which we can improve the distribution of food in the developing world.

One is to improve the infrastructure of the developing world.

Another is to improve the marketing of food in the developing world.

And a third is to improve the distribution of food in the developing world.

These three strategies are essential for improving the distribution of food in the developing world.

There are a number of ways in which we can improve the nutrition of the population in the developing world.

One is to provide the population with access to modern nutritional services.

Another is to provide the population with access to modern nutritional inputs.

And a third is to provide the population with access to modern nutritional services.

These three strategies are essential for improving the nutrition of the population in the developing world.

There are a number of ways in which we can address this problem. One is to increase the production of food in the developing world.

Another is to improve the distribution of food in the developing world.

And a third is to improve the nutrition of the population in the developing world.

These three strategies are essential for reducing the number of people who are undernourished.

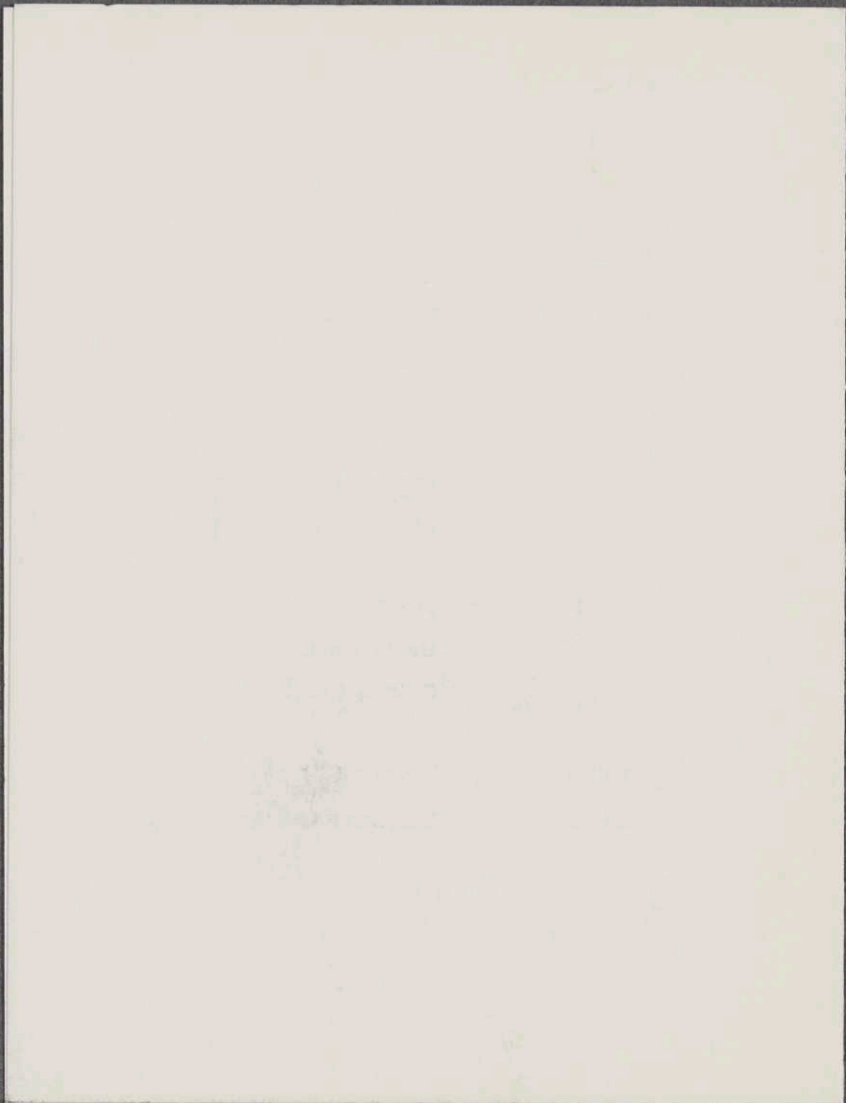
PROGRAM

11:15 A.M. CST CONVOCATION
WABASH COLLEGE CHAPEL

MARK VAN DOREN
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

12:15 P.M. LUNCHEON
GREAT HALL
CAMPUS CENTER

2:00 TO TOURS OF
4:00 P.M. THE LILLY LIBRARY



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
NIEMAN FOUNDATION
FOR JOURNALISM

OFFICE OF THE CURATOR
44 HOLYOKE HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

March 24, 1959

Dear Mr. Wiener:

Let me send you the completed
program of the science writers' seminar,
with the time and place of each session;
and also a list of the reporters coming
to it.

Thank you again for your
participation.

Sincerely yours,

Louis M. Lyons
Louis M. Lyons

SEMINAR
FOR SCIENCE WRITERS

Harvard—Massachusetts Institute of Technology



April 2-3-4, 1959

Program of Seminar For Science Writers—M.I.T.—Harvard

April 2-3-4, 1959

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 — Little Theatre in Kresge Auditorium, M.I.T.

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Introductory Remarks — President Julius A. Stratton, M.I.T.

The Scientific Enterprise

Guidelines from the Past — Leonard K. Nash, *Assoc. Prof. of Chemistry, Harvard*

The Design of Experiments — William G. Cochran, *Prof. of Statistics, Harvard*

The Scientist — Norbert Wiener, *Prof. of Mathematics, M.I.T.*

12:45 p.m.

Luncheon — M.I.T. Graduate House, Campus Room

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Man

Chemistry of Heredity — Paul M. Doty, *Prof. of Chemistry, Harvard*

Recent Developments in Molecular Biology — Cyrus Levinthal, *Prof. of Biology, M.I.T.*

The Basic Molecules of Life — Alexander Rich, *Assoc. Prof. of Biology, M.I.T.*

Viruses, Cells and Cancer — Salvador E. Luria, *Visiting Prof. of Biology, M.I.T.*

6:00 p.m.

Dinner — Harvard Club, 374 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

Government and Science	}	Vannevar Bush, <i>Honorary Chairman, M.I.T. Corporation</i>
		Jerome B. Wiesner, <i>Director, Research Laboratory of Electronics</i>

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 — Harvard Union, Quincy Street, Harvard

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Man

The Growing Process — Carroll M. Williams, *Prof. of Zoology, Harvard*
Action of Drugs on the Nervous System — Otto Kraye, *Prof. of Pharmacology, Harvard Medical School*

The Doctor and the Scientist — John P. Merrill, *Ass't Prof. of Medicine, Harvard Medical School*

12:45 p.m.

Luncheon — Harvard Union

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Matter

Earth's Interior – Francis Birch, *Prof. of Geology, Harvard*

Structure of the Universe – Thomas Gold, *Prof. of Applied Astronomy, Harvard*

Meteorology – Hurd C. Willett, *Prof. of Meteorology, M.I.T.*

6:00 p.m.

Dinner – Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy Street

Science Reporting Problems – Wallace R. Brode, *Science Adviser, Department of State*

The Life of the Past – Bryan Patterson, *Prof. of Vertebrate Palaeontology Harvard*

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 – Harvard Union, Quincy Street, Harvard

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Matter

Pure Physics – Martin Deutsch, *Prof. of Physics, M.I.T.*

Fusion – Sanborn C. Brown, *Assoc. Prof. of Physics, M.I.T.*

Radiation – Robley D. Evans, *Prof. of Physics, M.I.T.*

Robert Dudley, *Research Assoc. in Physics, M.I.T.*

12:45 p.m.

Luncheon – Harvard Union

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Frontiers of Technology

Interplanetary Radars – Herbert Weiss, *Lincoln Laboratory Staff, M.I.T.*

The Hope for New Materials – Bruce Chalmers, *Prof. of Metallurgy, Harvard*

NOTES:

Kresge Auditorium is across Massachusetts Avenue from the main building of M.I.T. The Little Theatre is a part of Kresge Auditorium.

The Harvard Union is on corner of Quincy Street, at junction of Massachusetts Avenue with Harvard Street, one block from Harvard Square, toward Boston.

The Harvard Faculty Club is next door to the Harvard Union.

The Friday and Saturday sessions are on the second floor of the Harvard Union.

The Harvard Club of Boston is the second building from the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue.

Telephone numbers:

Volta Torrey, M.I.T. — UNiversity 4-6900, Ext. 879

William M. Pinkerton, Harvard — UNiversity 8-7600, Ext. 185

This seminar is sponsored jointly by Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology and supported by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard.

Alphabetical List of Science Seminar Members
Harvard-MIT - April 2-4, 1959

Archer, William K. Quincy Patriot Ledger	Guy, Don AP, Boston	*Moffat, Sam Palo Alto Times
Bergner, Joel Worcester Gazette	Hall, Clyde C. National Science Fdn.	Murphy, Brenda Quincy Patriot Ledger
Bertin, Leonard Financial Post Toronto	Haseltine, Nate Washington Post	Pearson, Jean Detroit Free Press
Billard, Jules B. U.S. News & World Report	Hills, William P. Watertown Daily Times	Phelps, Winston Providence Journal
Burns, Frances Boston Morning Globe	Hines, William Washington Star	Plante, William L. Jr. Newburyport Daily News
*Byers, Robert Denver Post	*Holmes, Jay	Plumb, Robert New York Times
Carey, Frank Associated Press	Jacobs, Whitney Hartford Times	Simons, Howard Science Service
Clayton, Mary Boston Advertiser	Jenkins, Evan Worcester Telegram	Skea, Albert M. Newark News
Covert Cathy Syracuse Herald-Journal	Kleckner, Robert Chicago Sun-Times	Smith, Lee Buffalo News
Lavis, Paul D. Providence Journal	Kocivar, Ben Look	*Stone, Marvin formerly INS
Lempewolff, Richard L. Popular Mechanics	Littel, Alan Boston Traveller	*Struble, William Rochester Times-Union
Forman, Ian Boston Sunday Globe	Mehrtens, Ruth Time (Boston)	Sumpf, Russell Waterbury Republican
Fraley, Pierre Philadelphia Bulletin	Menzies, Ian Boston Evening Globe	Toth, Robert New York Herald- Tribune
*Goodman, Henry Louisville Times	Middlebrook, Jonathan Berkshire Eagle	Welling, Brenton Business Week

* currently attending the Advanced Science Writing Program
at Columbia University

Edwin Diamond, Newsweek; John Trohan, Scripps-Howard;
Noah Gordon, Boston Herald.

March 24, 1959

Professor Sterg O'Dell, Chairman
Department of English
Drexel Institute of Technology
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor O'Dell:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 13, 1959, and for your kind invitation to give the first Humanities Lecture this spring. I appreciate your thinking of me, but I feel that I must decline, for my own research is demanding all of my strength and time. Therefore, I am regretfully refusing all outside speaking engagements. Thank you again for your kind invitation. I wish you much success with your humanities program.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NMK

March 24, 1959

Mr. Volta Torrey, Editor
The Technology Review
Room 1-281

Dear Mr. Torrey:

Professor Wiener will be pleased to join you for dinner at the Harvard Club on the evening of Thursday, April 2nd. He is looking forward to the Science Writing Seminar.

Thank you also for forwarding the letter from Jason Epstein regarding his novel, The Tempter.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
Address: Trädgårdsgatan 18
UPPSALA, SWEDEN

25 Mars 59

Dear Professor Wiener,

Professor Hewitt of Seattle has asked me for a reprint of our paper in the January issue of J. of Math. and Mechanics (Indiana). As I have none I wonder if you would be so good as to send him one:

Prof. Edwin Hewitt
Dept of Mathematics
Univ. of Washington
Seattle?

I am working very hard trying to get the results of the past six months into shape and will try to write you a decent letter later in the spring.

With best wishes to you and to Mrs
Wiener,

Edwin

Edwin J. Akutowicz

[ans 4-1-59]



The Albany Medical College of Union University

Albany, New York

FOUNDED IN 1839

Department of Anesthesiology

March 26, 1959

Doctor Norbert Weiner
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

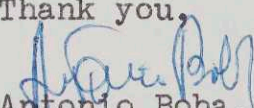
Dear Doctor Weiner:

In the past couple of years, we have been conspicuously interested in the problem of the performance of a man-machine unit. This was brought about by the extensive use of electro-mechanical relays in the operating room to convey information from the patients to the operator. The strain and stress imposed upon the operator by these electro-mechanical relays are of two different natures. First, they are unusual or different, in the sense that for instance, whereas in the past, information about the cardiovascular status of the patient would be obtained by direct palpation of the pulse, with these devices such information is conveyed by a continuously changing of the pattern on the oscilloscope (EKG, Oxihemoglobin concentration, ...). The second source of strain is the high speed and precision of these devices and the continuity of their output. Needless to say, errors have resulted which are both due to the occasional impossibility of inadequate interpretation of the information and even when this was possible to the speed with which this information had to be digested.

The complexity of this study, the limitations of the man-machine system, was brought up to the New York Academy of Sciences which became very interested in the subject. At the meeting of the Planning Committee, a conference was tentatively scheduled for sometime in November 1959, and an outline, of which two copies are hereby enclosed, was accepted in principle.

If you had any contributions, the Academy will be most glad to accept your cooperation for the good success of the conference. Should you or anyone of your associates be willing to participate, would you please be kind enough to forward to me, abstracts with title, about 300 words, before the end of April 1959.

Thank you,


Antonio Boba, M.D.
Assistant Professor
of Anesthesiology

AB/pk

[ans 3/31/59]

PURPOSE

To explore the problems created by high precision and speed instrumentation with particular attention to the question of integration and correlation of multiple and diverse information for the performance of a certain task.

To define, if possible, the limits of complexity within which some computers (also the brain as a computer) can perform certain tasks better than others, this with particular relation to the problem of the type of information which is available.

To explore and possibly systemize analogies and differences in the operational processes of the brain and some computers now available.

GENERAL OUTLINE

Three consecutive sessions and one panel discussion spread over two days period would be adequate.

SESSION A: Morning session, three hours, introductory remarks giving scope of conference, and five speakers with discussion.

The problem of instrumentation. The transformation of observable phenomena in data. The use of small size computers in transforming certain data into others. How much can information be manipulated before becoming non recognizable.

SESSION B: Afternoon session, three hours, six speakers and discussion.

The information as supplied by a machine, techniques for its analysis. Qualitative analysis and quantitative analysis. The computer's capacity for analysis, the computer's outlay and organization with reference to its analytic functions. The structure and organization of the computer as a factor limiting its analytic capacities.

SESSION C: Morning session, three hours, six speakers and discussion.

Programming the computer. Relations between program and memory. Techniques for programming a computer. Changes in the computer's memory as a result of its own activity; changes in the computer's program as a result of its own activity.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Afternoon session, four panelists. The brain as a computer.

Problems in programming; problems in correlating various inputs; the analytical capacity and ability of the brain and their influence on the performance of the brain.

COMMENTS

There are some subjects that overlap others, possibly some speakers will modify or alter their talks from the time the schedule is made to the time the conference will be actually held. It is possible that some of the speakers will not be equipped to follow all that is being discussed, particularly when neurologists and physiologists will come into contact with pure mathematicians.

This conference should not be meant as a symposium on the practical applications of computers to biology. Rather, it should be an endeavour to clarify those laws which allow to predict the performance of a computer from the knowledge of its structure. Having verified these laws to find if given a certain performance, it is possible to assess the structure of the computer in question, to investigate the limits within which this latter procedure is true.

Finally, it is hoped that the speakers and the audience will make a forward step if not in understanding the brain's intrinsic functional structure, at least in understanding the help that can be derived from some theoretical models.

Le 26 Mars 1959 - MM/ER/358.

Monsieur Norbert WIENER
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39

MASSACHUSETTS(Etats-Unis)

Dear Mr WIENER,

I started several months ago a study of the American economy. More specifically, I am interested 1) in the characteristics, causes and prospects of its remarkable prosperity.

2) in the impact on its economic growth of technical and economic researches.

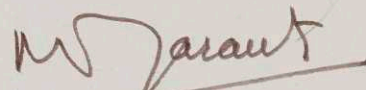
While in the States, I plan to collect information and opinions.

I would very much appreciate if you could accept discussing with me certain of the various topics involved in my enquiry. I feel sure that opinion, eventually your help, might mean a great deal to the accomplishment of my project.

As soon as I arrive in your city (where I intend to stay from April 6th to April 24th), I will get in touch with you, hoping that you could see me.

Till then, I am
Sincerely yours

Marcel MARANTZ



- PS 1) I have published, in 1950, a book on the Marshall plan ("Le Plan Marshall, Succès ou Faillite"?). Last year I translated in French Professor Leontief's "The Structure of American Economy, 1919-1939". I am presently Assistant for Economic Research to the Sales Manager of "Le Printemps", the biggest French Department Stores. My trip to the United States is made under the sponsorship of the State Department.
- 2) In case you would like to get in touch with me after April 6th, you could do it by addressing your letter to the care of professor Leontief, professor of Economics, Harvard University.

[ans 4/1/59]

Baldwin-Wallace College
Berea, Ohio

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY

March 26, 1959

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am writing to ask you if there is any possibility of persuading you to give one or two lectures to a group of high school mathematics teachers who will be assembled at Baldwin-Wallace College for a summer institute from June 23 to July 30, 1959.

I am sure that if you could do this it would be the high light of the institute for these teachers. Please let me know if you could possibly do this at any time between the dates mentioned and what your fee for one or two lectures would be.

Very truly yours,

Dean L. Robb

Dean L. Robb
Director, Summer Institute

DLR/j

[and 4/1/59]

March 26, 1959

Mr. Carey J. Chamberlin
75 Federal Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Chamberlin:

Perhaps the most important thing I can say is that reading, quite apart from reading for pleasure only, should contain a great deal of browsing. The man whose reading of factual material is confined to that which he already knows to be relevant to specific interests is not in a position to build up a backlog of information and attitudes sufficient to allow him to view his own specific interests in anything but the narrowest light. Books of fact should be read more in the same way as books of amusement are read than merely as authorities to be followed slavishly.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

[ans 3/36/59]

March 26, 1959

Mr. Jason Epstein, Editor
Random House Inc.
457 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Jason:

Mr. Torrey of The Technology Review called my attention to your letter of March 17th. It seems to me that if you wish to make any use of me in planning the publicity, a trip to New York on my part some weeks from now is indicated. As I have colleagues whom I shall want to see in New York, I should like to know well in advance what date if any will be convenient to you so that I can plan for the apportionment of my time. This is not a matter of any urgency but it would be very convenient for me to hear from you.

Best regards from both of us to the three of you.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mrk

[ans 3/31/59]

March 26, 1959

Mr. Herbert R. Miller
Planetarium Station, Box 244
New York 24, New York

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am interested in your letter of March 20th but can come to no definite conclusions as to what active attitude I shall take towards it until I know more about your project, who is sponsoring it, and what role you intend me to fill. If by any chance I should go ahead with the project it will have to be in a consulting or advisory capacity rather than as a participant in the detail of the work. I hope you see your way clear to furnish me with more concrete information on which I can base a decision.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

Cons 4-6-59

March 26, 1959

Mr. Lloyd Ramsey, President
Complete Insurance Services, Inc.
Union Planters Bank Building
Memphis 3, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 1959. Professor Wiener asked me to write and refer you to the journal Cybernetica which is published four times a year in Belgium. All correspondence concerning the review should be sent to the International Association for Cybernetics, 13, rue Basse Marcelle, Namur, Belgium. He would also like to recommend that you read Thinking by Machine by Pierre De Latil. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Norbert Wiener

[ans 4/3/59]

March 26, 1959

Mr. Norman J. Whitney
National Secretary for Peace Education
American Friends Service Committee
Twenty South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Whitney:

I am thoroughly familiar with Max Born and the attitudes which you comment on in your letter. Max Born is an able and self-effacing scientist of the greatest integrity who has expressed in his comments the best attitudes of the older generation of scientists. Unlike the present generation the older generation had a real sense of the ethos of science rather than a narrow interest merely in those particular phases of investigation which can lead to their own advancement. I know that Professor Born has suffered personally very much from disciples of his who have been wanting in his human and humane attitude to scholarship.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

[ans 5/27/59]

March 27, 1959

Professor Ernest P. Billeter, Scientific Leader
Swiss Educational Tour for Automation and
Operations Research to the U.S.A.
c/o The American Express Co., Inc.
Bahnhofstrasse 20,
Zurich 1, Switzerland

Dear Professor Billeter:

Thank you very much for your letters of March 15th and 21st.
Professor Wiener is looking forward to meeting with you on Friday,
April 10, 1959. He would like to see you at 2:00 in the afternoon
if this is convenient for you. Please come to his office at M.I.T.,
Room 2-276. He will be most happy to address your group in German.

We hope that you will have a very pleasant trip and a most
successful tour.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret M. Kruger (Mrs.)
Secretary to
Professor Wiener

[ans 8/31/59]

March 27, 1959

Academician Pugachov
Academy of Sciences
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Academician Pugachov:

Some time ago I received a copy of your book on random functions and automatization. Not being able to read Russian I have had to judge it from the impressions of my Russian-reading colleagues and by an examination of the formulae. I consider it a field of work of the utmost importance and it seems to indicate some very good work in this field. I am also interested in random functions and have just completed a book, Nonlinear Problems in Random Theory, which I will try to have sent to you for your comments.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

[and 5/4/59]

University of Mandalay.

UNIVERSITY ESTATE,
BAWDIGON P. O.

No.

Psychology Dept.

Mandalay 28-3-59

Dear Professor Weiner,

This letter from Burma may come as somewhat of a surprise to you. I hope you will forgive my temerity in thus approaching you directly to solicit your assistance on a matter which concerns the profession of psychology in general, and the advancement of Psychology in Burma in particular.

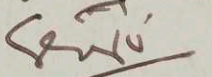
Although to the best of my knowledge no Burmese scientist has had the pleasure of meeting with you, your work is nevertheless very well known and widely disseminated in all the Universities and colleges throughout Burma.

It has been my belief all along, Sir, that some form of personal contact between a student and his instructors, mentors, or intellectual father-figures is a necessary prerequisite to fruitful intellectual association. It is with this in mind that I have tentatively embarked on a program of writing to the great men of the age, to find out from each if he would spare a few minutes of his valuable time to write a few lines of greeting to the Mandalay University Psychological Laboratory or else send a signed photograph that we could frame and hang up on the wall of the Laboratory to provide students with the stimulation of intimate personal contact with the great minds of the present day.

Naturally, in compiling the very select list of world-famous scientists, your name was the first that came to our minds. I hope, Sir, that you will be able to help us build for the future of Psychology in Burma in this way. A photograph or a letter would be most deeply appreciated by myself and the hard-worked psychology staff here. If you could spare the time to attend to this call for help, we should be forever placed in your debt.

Thank you, Sir,

With my very best respects,


(Sein Tu)

Prof. U Sein Tu
Ph.D. (Harvard)
Chairman, Dept. of Psychology
Mandalay University, Mandalay,
UNION OF BURMA.

[ans 5/25/59]

HARVARD CLASS OF 1913

CAREY J. CHAMBERLIN, Secretary
75 Federal Street
Boston 10, Mass.

March 30, 1959

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

My dear Professor Wiener,

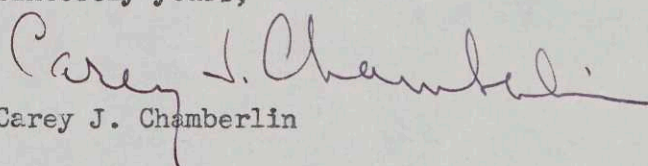
I am most grateful for your kindness in sending us some of your thoughts on books and reading. Your comments on "browsing" I agree with heartily. You emphasized its importance for a man whose special interest is the sciences.

It seems to me equally important for a man whose prime interest is the liberal arts to do some "browsing" in the sciences. However, it is more difficult for him because he lacks the tools for understanding. One might as well try to read Russian without knowing the alphabet. For a man ignorant of calculus and fuzzy about the concepts of modern physics, can you suggest any books at all? If so, perhaps your secretary could mail me three or four titles on a sheet of paper.

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer has recently emphasized the difficulty of informing the ordinary citizen on present problems. Harlow Shapley has recently written a simple book but what is needed is something more than baby food. In the issue of "Daedalus" in the summer of 1958 there was a good article by Werner Heisenberg called "The Representation of Nature in Contemporary Physics". This is the kind of thing I mean but I am looking for books or at least longer articles. Possibly a steady reading of the Scientific American would help a little.

Again many thanks for your letter.

Sincerely yours,


Carey J. Chamberlin

CJC:w

ELIZABETH J. HODGES, Librarian

March 30, 1959


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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Mr. Carey Chamberlin has forwarded to me your very interesting statement on reading, which we are very much pleased to receive. I am so glad that you wrote about browsing, as this is one thing which a good library has to offer especially. Few, if any, private citizens have in their own homes thousands of professionally selected books, on many subjects, but a library can give them access to just such a wide range of materials.

Thank you very much for your help. I expect your statement will appear shortly in one or both of the Belmont newspapers.

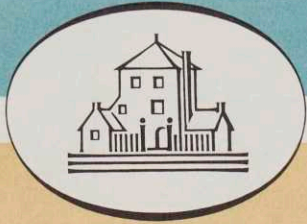
Sincerely and gratefully yours,



Elizabeth J. Hodges, Vice Chairman
Belmont Committee for National Library Week

EJH:JR

cc Mr. Boright
Mr. Chamberlin
Mr. Fenollosa



RANDOM HOUSE INC.

457 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N.Y. TELEPHONE PLaza 1-2600

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Jason Epstein, EDITOR

March 31, 1959

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

Dear Norbert:

I think it would result in anti-climaxes were we to do anything in the way of promotion now. The best time to arrange appearances for you is as close to publication date as possible -- before and after.
But It will be good to see you in New York anyway and to have you meet some of my colleagues here, so if you plan to be in the city, *Sam* won't you let me know.

With best wishes to you and Margaret from both of us.

Yours as ever,


Jason Epstein

*P.S. We'd much appreciate
a picture of you for the
jacket - Can you
spare me?*

[ans 4/7/59]

REVEREND PETER MCCORMACK
2801 TURK STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

March 31, 1959

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

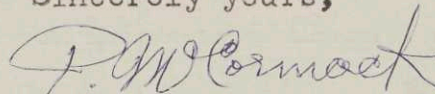
Thank you very much for your encouraging reply to our letter concerning the Commission of Inquiry into the Rosenberg-Sobell case. I am very happy to hear that you are disposed to serve on such a Commission.

With regard to your question about the amount of work involved, I am sure that when the Commission is formed, methods of work can be planned so that the responsibilities will not be such as to exceed the capacities in time and energy of the participants. So many of the replies to my February letter indicated that many people are concerned about the time element. I am sure that the members of the Commission, who will all be busy men and women, will decide how best to arrange the work, so that great demands will not be made on any one.

Thus far, there have been expressions of interest such as yours on the part of very representative peoples in the legal, religious and educational fields. I am now corresponding with these people answering questions of the type you posed. I am still receiving replies to our February letter. I hope that the work of the Commission can be under way by the beginning of summer. If there are any suggestions on your part as to others who would be appropriate for this Commission, I should appreciate having their names, and I will send them an invitation.

I trust that my assurances on the matter of time are satisfactory to you, and I hope that I may have your definite reply that you will serve on the Commission.

Sincerely yours,



Peter McCormack

PMcC:ms

P. S. A recent study of the Sobell case has come to my attention and I am enclosing a copy for your information.

NOTES ON THE ROSENBERG CASE

Introduction

On April 5, 1951, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were sentenced to death, and Morton Sobell to 30 years imprisonment, on a charge of conspiring to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The defendants were said to have stolen the "Secret of the Atom Bomb" and the government's list of witnesses included the names of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, Dr. Harold C. Urey, Gen. Leslie R. Groves. This accusation and these names (these three did not testify) make this case of importance to every scientist. What was the "secret", was a "secret" stolen, how was it stolen, and who stole it? Has the government presented scientifically valid evidence in a manner which meets the standards of scientific objectivity? Are the sentences of death and thirty years imprisonment just? Here are facts about the trial, the people involved, and the scientific data presented.

David Greenglass was arrested on June 16, 1950. His arrest preceded that of his brother-in-law Julius Rosenberg by one month, and that of his sister Ethel Rosenberg, by two months. The indictment under which the trial was held made no mention of the A-bomb and indeed did not charge that overt acts had been committed on the dates upon which David Greenglass later testified that he had delivered a "sketch" of the A-bomb to Julius Rosenberg.

Morton Sobell was blackjacked, kidnapped together with his family, and brought back from a vacation in Mexico City to be arrested at the U.S. border on a charge of having had five conversations with Julius Rosenberg. Approximately two months later Max Elitcher, a classmate of both Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell, who had been threatened with prosecution for espionage and for perjury, signed a statement implicating Sobell. Finally Sobell's name was added to the indictment against Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

The indictment listed Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, Morton Sobell, Anatoli A. Yakovlev (a member of the Russian Embassy who had left this country in 1946) and David Greenglass as defendants. It listed Harry Gold and Ruth Greenglass "as co-conspirators but not as defendants". Except for the appearance of Sobell's name as defendant there is no mention of him in the indictment.

Ruth Greenglass who testified in the course of the trial that she had relayed secret information from Los Alamos was never arrested or imprisoned. David Greenglass testified to transmitting material,

, including a sketch of the A-bomb. He has been sentenced to 15 years in prison with the possibility of being paroled in 5 years.

Ethel Rosenberg was a mother and housewife, with no experience or background in science or technical matters. Her death sentence is based upon her brother and sister-in-law's testimony that in 1944 she encouraged the commission of espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union, then our ally, and testimony that she typed the twelve pages of explanation which accompanied David Greenglass' sketch of the A-bomb.

Julius Rosenberg was a graduate of CCNY with an engineering degree. He had been making a salary of \$3600 per annum after working five years for the Signal Corps of the Army when he was dismissed on charges that he was a Communist party member. This he denied in an affidavit. He worked for Emerson Radio at \$70 and later at \$77 per week and finally went into business, first as a distributor of small hardware items and then later as a machine shop operator. David Greenglass was a partner in this venture and this connection resulted in many quarrels and misunderstandings. The two men came to blows at one point.

Ruth Greenglass had no technical or scientific background. Her direct testimony was repeated verbatim on cross examination with only the comment, "do you want that, too?" interspersed. The witness denied having memorized her testimony.

Morton Sobell was a servo-mechanism expert. Max Elitcher, the only conspiracy witness against Morton Sobell, did not testify that he had given Sobell any material or that Sobell had given him any material for transmittal. Sobell was not connected in any way with the A-bomb. Elitcher has never been prosecuted for his confessed perjury, mentioned earlier.

From the beginning and through two years of imprisonment Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell have maintained their innocence.

Scientific Background

The general principles of an Atomic Explosion were well known to scientists in all countries at the beginning of World War II. The questions still to be answered were: (1) Could a self-sustaining chain reaction actually be set up? (2) Could pure fissionable materials be produced in sufficient quantity to make an A-bomb? (3) Could a detonating mechanism be designed to set off an effective explosion?

The Detonating Mechanism

The evidence presented in the alleged Rosenberg-Greenglass

conspiracy dealt with the A-bomb and particularly with the third phase of the A-bomb project, the detonating mechanism. The Los Alamos laboratory, where David Greenglass was stationed, had been set up to develop such a mechanism. Phases one and two were investigated in other laboratories (Oak Ridge, Columbia, Hanford, etc.)

If a sample of fissionable material greater than critical size is brought together, a chain reaction will inevitably occur. The bomb, while it is being transported, must contain a sufficient quantity of fissionable material to set up a chain reaction, but this material must not be in one continuous piece. The object of the detonating mechanism is to bring it together into one continuous piece at the moment at which it is desired to produce the explosion.

It was widely believed by scientists that when the bomb was assembled, the fissionable material was inserted in two pieces, each below critical size, but together greater than critical size, and that the detonating mechanism consisted of some device, perhaps a gun, which would violently throw one piece against or into the other.

According to the testimony presented, that was the mechanism that was used in the first bomb, exploded over Hiroshima. However, a different detonating mechanism was used in the second bomb, exploded over Nagasaki. A large portion of the testimony dealing with the detonating mechanism used in the second bomb was impounded at the trial and is not available now. However, this information is available second hand by consulting reports on the trial given in newspapers and magazines.

These reports in turn are the interpretations of anonymous authors. Inquiry from Life magazine concerning authorship of a story on the Greenglass testimony elicited that the article was the product of reporters plus research staff. It becomes impossible for scientists to evaluate the Greenglass testimony on this basis. However, the importance of the impression created on the public by such material is evident, therefore a look at these stories is pertinent.

According to these authors, it appears that in the Nagasaki-type bomb the fissionable material, Plutonium in this case, is already in one piece to begin with; however, this one piece does not consist of compact fissionable material, but of porous material; there is enough material to start a self-sustaining reaction, if it were compact, but because it is not, the neutrons can escape into the recesses or holes of the porous material. Around this material, carefully shaped lumps

of high explosive material are arranged (36 according to LIFE magazine) in such a way that when these are exploded their shock waves combine to set up a combined shock wave converging towards the center of the sphere of porous fissionable material, compressing it into one compact mass. Shock waves converging upon a central point constitute an "implosion", in contrast with an explosion, in which shock waves diverge from a center. The lumps of high explosive material are called "lenses" and are shaped in molds.

The Alleged Conspiracy

According to his testimony, David Greenglass arrived at Los Alamos in August, 1944, unaware of the nature of the project. He was assigned to the Explosives Group, headed by Dr. George B. Kistiakowski, now at Harvard University. Greenglass was a machinist at Los Alamos, and worked on lens molds, from blueprints prepared by scientists. He was gradually promoted, so that by the time of his discharge, in 1946, he was foreman of his machine shop, with the rank of T/4.

Greenglass said that he first found out about the nature of the Los Alamos project from his wife, Ruth, when she visited him in November, 1944. She allegedly asked him, on instruction of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, to supply information wanted by the Russians, such as the general lay-out, the number of people working in the Technical Area, and the names of scientists. Greenglass says he gave her that information, including the names of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Project; Dr. Niels Bohr, and Dr. Kistiakowski.

Greenglass further testified that he came to New York on a furlough in January 1945; there, he testified, he drew up sketches of flat-type lens molds. He added to his information the name of another scientist, that of Hans Baker (?)* and names of possible recruits for espionage work. Greenglass also alleges that in the course of that furlough, Julius Rosenberg gave him a description of an atom bomb, made arrangements for couriers to transmit additional information and introduced him to a Russian who wanted to know the equations for the curvature of the lenses, the type of high explosive used, and the means of detonation, information which Greenglass was unable to provide.

In April 1945, Ruth Greenglass moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. In June 1945, according to the Greenglass testimony, Harry Gold called

* Was this Dr. Hans Bethe? Previously Greenglass had testified Mr. Baker was the pseudonym used by Niels Bohr.

on David and Ruth and identified himself with the help of half of a Jello box. Greenglass said that he turned over to Gold sketches of implosion experiments conducted by Dr. Walter S. Koski, a physical chemist, names of possible recruits, and information which turned out to be erroneous about the forthcoming explosion at Alamogordo, in exchange for which he received \$500.

A sketch, which Greenglass said was like the one he turned over to Gold, was introduced in evidence. Dr. Koski testified that it was a substantially correct sketch of the experiment for investigating cylindrical implosion he had worked on at Los Alamos, illustrating the principles, but omitting dimensions and quantitative data.

Greenglass came to New York on another furlough in September 1945. There, he testified, he turned over to Julius Rosenberg a cross-sectional sketch of the implosion bomb, together with 12 pages of descriptive material. Greenglass again introduced a sketch and descriptive material which he had prepared during the course of the trial, and which, he said, was like the material turned over to Julius Rosenberg. This date and this information were not mentioned in the indictment. The defendants had no indication previous to the trial that they would have to defend themselves against such testimony.

John A. Derry, an electrical engineer with a degree of Bachelor of Science, who was a personnel officer for Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, director of the Manhattan Project, testified that the sketch prepared by Greenglass was a reasonably correct sketch of the Nagasaki-type bomb.

Greenglass testified that the sketches he introduced at the trial were prepared shortly before the trial and during the trial in 1951, and were drawn entirely from memory without any aid whatever; the originals had allegedly been drawn in 1945. Greenglass further testified that he never stole or copied any classified blueprints, plans, or documents. He asserted that he acquired the information he transmitted (other than the sketch of the lens mold he was working on) solely by talking to people, picking up catches of conversation and bits of information "here and there".

Background of David Greenglass

In 1945, David Greenglass was 23 years old. He had received his elementary education at P.S. 4 and P.S. 97 in New York, and his

secondary education at Haaroh Aviation School; there he learned his trade as a machinist. He took eight courses at Brooklyn Polytechnic, all of which he failed; this, he explained, was due to the fact that he was then only eighteen and "played around" too much. Subsequently, he took one and one-half semesters' work at the Pratt Institute, an engineering school, but did not go beyond that. He testified that he never took any courses in calculus, thermodynamics, nuclear physics, atomic physics, quantum mechanics, or advanced calculus; nor had he read any basic books on any of these subjects. He claimed, however, that he knew "something about the basic theory of atomic energy." Much of this was brought out only in the course of cross-examination; the government's direct examination left the impression that Greenglass' scientific education had been extensive.

Comments on the Testimony of David Greenglass

The subjects Greenglass testified he did not study represent a small cross section of what must be studied to acquire an understanding of the basic theory of atomic energy to an extent sufficient to sift, weigh and assemble into a coherent picture material coming in small bits from snatches of conversation. In view of the fact that the basic theory of nuclear fission was already known, it is plausible that a highly trained professional person could have filled in the many gaps inherent in this method of collecting information; but there is no reason to believe that a man who had failed the majority of the few college courses he took, had either the mental ability or the technical knowledge to perform such a task, or could have acquired such knowledge in the course of one year at Los Alamos. He could have reproduced a sketch of the lens mold he was working on; understanding blueprints falls within the competence of a machinist. It is difficult to believe that Greenglass could have grasped the significance of Dr. Koski's experiments. His alleged putting together the whole story of the implosion bomb, with 12 pages of descriptive material, is utterly fantastic and entirely incredible. Even more incredible, if that is possible, is his allegation that he reproduced his sketches 5 years later, without any aid whatever.

There can be little doubt that any jury of 12 intelligent persons, uninfluenced by other considerations (such as the irrelevant political factors introduced by the government in lieu of evidence) and properly

apprised of the scientific facts mentioned here, would have dismissed Greenglass as a witness of little credibility.

WITHOUT THE TESTILONY OF DAVID GREENGLASS THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE A CASE.

During the cross-examination of Mr. Derry, the defense attempted to elucidate whether a non-expert, such as Greenglass, could piece together the story of the A-bomb in the manner in which Greenglass alleges he did it. This question was barred by the trial judge.

If Greenglass personally lacked the skill to piece together the story of the A-bomb, implosion model, and yet turned up in court with an apparently plausible sketch, one is naturally led to ask: Who coached Greenglass, and why?

The Death Sentence

Before passing the death sentence on the Rosenbergs, presiding Judge Kaufman spoke as follows: "...Your conduct (has put) into the hands of the Russians the A-bomb years before our best scientists predicted Russia would perfect the bomb...By your betrayal you undoubtedly have altered the course of history to the disadvantage of our country..."

No reputable scientist ever said anything of the sort. In fact, the leading scientists who had worked on the bomb were conspicuously absent from the trial, even though the government had asserted in its opening statement that many would be called. The identification of the Greenglass sketch of the bomb in court was made by a non-scientist, Mr. Derry. Ever since the first A-bomb was used over Hiroshima, scientists had been busy educating the public to the effect that there really was no such thing as "the secret" of the A-bomb. As we have pointed out earlier, all the basic principles of nuclear fission were known in 1940. The questions which were still unanswered then, were answered publicly when the bomb was exploded over Hiroshima.

Those who feel inclined to attribute the A-bomb to some peculiar American genius would do well to reflect on the fact that the majority of the leading scientists who developed the bomb were European born; among those, a large number came from Eastern Europe.

Once it was known that a chain reaction could be set up, the main delay was due to the difficulty of constructing large plants to manufacture the necessary amounts of fissionable material. This was done at Oak Ridge and at Hanford; the government has not attempted

to connect the Rosenbergs with either of these two projects.

The development of the detonating mechanism, with which the alleged conspiracy dealt, involved primarily research on internal ballistics. According to Dr. E. Rabinowitch, editor of the BULLETIN OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, the Russians had more experience in this field than we did. The implosion type detonating mechanism is an obvious one to try, and would undoubtedly be tried in any large scale project. Commented SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, discussing why "The Secret" was so casually given away in court: "Without quantitative and other necessary technical information, the Greenglass bomb was not much of a secret. The principle of 'implosion'... has often been suggested in speculation on a possible mechanism for detonation...The relative unimportance of the Greenglass disclosure was confirmed by the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy...'Greenglass' diagrams', said the Committee, 'have a theatrical quality'...but because he was not a scientist...'Greenglass... must have counted for little compared with the quantitative data and the authoritative scientific commentary ... that Fuchs transmitted.'" (Incidentally, the combination of "theatrical Quality" on the one hand, and actual unimportance on the other, further substantiate the contention that the Greenglass testimony was carefully coached.) Greenglass' lawyer, a former Ass't U.S. Attorney General, argued at the time of Greenglass' sentencing that the Greenglass testimony was of little value in actuality and that the information described by Greenglass could have been culled from public statements.

The death sentence is characteristic of the hysterical abandonment of all sense of proportion that pervaded the trial from beginning to end. Dr. Rabinowitch, the editor of the BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, attributed the extreme severity of the sentences to the fact that the Rosenbergs and Sobell refused to admit guilt.

References:

- Henry D. Smyth: Atomic Energy for Military Purposes
(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1945)
James M. Cork: Radioactivity and Nuclear Physics
(Ann Arbor: Edwards Bros., 1946)
Eugene Rabinowitch: Atomic Spy Trials: Heretical Afterthoughts
(Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, vol. 7 No. 5, May, 1951, p139)
Life Magazine, March 26, 1951, p.51 ff.
Scientific American, May, 1951, p.33 ff.
Trial Record, U.S.A. vs Julius Rosenberg et al, before
Hon. Irving R. Kaufman, D. J.

The following is the full text of the independent plea for Morton Sobell which was reported in the New York Times on February 22, 1959:

A STATEMENT ON THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

The undersigned are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 1, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee, or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.

2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have

been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.

3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognise the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.

4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.

5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell Sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

Reinhold Niebuhr
Vice-President and Professor of Ethics
and Theology
Union Theological Seminary
New York City

Edmond Cahn
Professor of Law
New York University

John C. Bennett
Dean and Professor of Ethics and Theology
Union Theological Seminary

Daniel Day Williams
Professor of Systematic
Theology
Union Theological Seminary

Paul Ramsey
Professor of Religion
Princeton University

Jerome Nathanson
Administrative Leader
New York Society for Ethical
Culture

Gerhard O.W. Mueller
Associate Professor of Law
New York University

(Titles are for identification only.)

New York, March 31, 1959

Dr. Nobert Wiener
Research Laboratory of Electronics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Approximately two months ago I took the liberty of sending you a reprint of my article entitled:

AN ESSAY ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF LIVING CELLS BASED ON QUANTUM CYBERNETICS.

Professor Léon Brillouin recommended by writing to you.

I happen to be in the United States for a few weeks as I am attending a Conference on Electronics and I would be very happy if you could give me the opportunity of meeting you. I would like to suggest a date between *16* and *27 April*

My address in the States from April 1st to April 14th is:

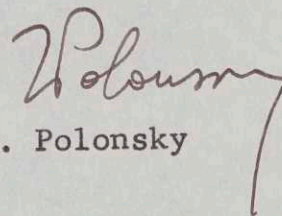
Figueroa Hotel
939 S. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles 15, Calif.

and from the 14th to the 26th of April:

American Radio Company, Inc.
445 Park Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

Thanking you in advance for your kind reply as to the date which would be convenient to you, I remain

Very truly yours,



J. Polonsky

JP/te

[and 4/6/59]

March 31, 1959

Dr. Antonio Boba
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology
The Albany Medical College of Union University
Albany, New York

My dear Dr. Boba:

Whether I shall be able to come to the meeting of which you speak is still uncertain. I am trying to cut my meeting engagements to the bone as I find that they mount up to a considerable strain for me. As to the topic of the meeting, it interests me a great deal. I am quite aware how much various branches of medical diagnosis suffer from the strain put on the physician in interpreting graphical data in terms of the trained judgment of the observer rather than in terms of certain objectively verifiable constants. I have run into this in connection with electroencephalograms. Here it has proved to be possible to obtain by objective methods out of the center of the alpha rhythm a definite and precise frequency of oscillation which is extraordinarily stable with the individual and yet not so stable that it cannot be affected by drugs and physiological variations to such an extent to have quite possible diagnostic value. The obtaining of this numerical index at present involves either a fairly lengthy outside hand or machine computation or the introduction of new instrumentation. Some of these instruments have been invented by Dr. Gray Walter. I see a real possibility of improving both the simplicity and the precision of these instruments to such an extent that the brain wave frequency can record itself within a very few seconds after it is taken. This delay is not due to the clumsiness of the apparatus but actually depends on the nature of the precise frequency observed. Now as to electrocardiograms, I have no doubt that similar methods could be employed. On the other hand, as in the electroencephalograph we are dealing with oscillations at about ten per second while the observations in the electrocardiograms are at a rate not far from one per second, I should expect on the whole that the obtaining of veridical numerical quantities from the electrocardiogram would involve delays of at least minutes. Unquestionably some quantities could be obtained in a smaller time. Thus the value of such an instrument during an operation would depend on the leeway between the time needed for a good observation and the time of action required by the urgency of any untoward event. This difficulty of course occurs equally when the doctor's judgment is required.

To sum up, I definitely believe that instruments can be made to relieve to a certain extent the excessive demand on the attention of the anesthetist. However in the design of these instruments a

Dr. Antonio Boba
March 31, 1959 - Page Two

very thorough knowledge of the relative importance of various quantitative factors for the short time diagnosis of emergencies is necessary. In order to obtain the basis for an adequate instrumentation of these, much research will be necessary and even then it may not be possible to make the results of these instruments thoroughly reliable without a fair amount of judgment on the part of the anesthetist. Work along these lines is, I agree, of the utmost importance but I do not expect that any extremely immediate and trustworthy turning of these ideas into the metal will be possible. To attain the goals which you set before yourself will be time consuming and expensive and too early an attempt to go ahead without thorough exploration of the field could very easily lead to unfortunate results. Too hasty an introduction of new instrumentation can be quite as risky as too hasty an introduction of new methods.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

[aw2 4/15/59]

March 31, 1959

Mr. Evan Zantow
Box 638
West Salem, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Zantow:

While I have seen a copy of the articles which you mention in the Chicago Daily News, I do not have them in my possession. They represent an interview of the Science Editor with a group of people from M.I.T. and perhaps elsewhere who are interested in automatization. The best thing for you to do is to address your requests for copies to: Mr. Arthur J. Snider
Science Editor
Chicago Daily News
Chicago, Illinois

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk