

265

CORRESPONDENCE

Sept. 1959

N. WIENER MC 22

Sept. 1, 1959

Dr. Arthur W. Burks
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Burks:

I am intrigued by your invitation to lecture at the University of Michigan this academic year and wish to accept provided we can find a suitable date. The time best for me is in the early part of the second term.

I am in a very active period of new scientific work. Therefore I should like to delay the selection of the theme of my talk for a month or two.

My lateness in answering is simply because of a very strenuous month spent on the west coast. I have been too tired until now to do my duty by my correspondance.

Sincerely yours,

[au 12/1/59]

South Tamworth, Sept. 1, 1959
(East Sandwich)

President Eldon L. Johnson
University of New Hampshire
Durham, New Hampshire

Dear President Johnson:

I am much intrigued by your kind invitation to spend a week at the University of New Hampshire during the coming academic year in the manner you describe in your letter of August 3. I wish to accept this invitation provided we can find a suitable date.

The period which seems best for me is the early part of the second term. In comparing the academic calendars of the U. of N. H. and M.I.T. I find that our spring vacation just precedes

cation just precedes yours. Unless you see some serious objection to that time, the week of March 28 would be

best from the point of view of M.I.T.

My lateness in answering your kind letter is simply because of a strenuous month spent on the west coast.

I have been too tired until now to do my duty by my [ans 9/10/59]



(1)



Monsieur le Professeur Norbert WEINER

~~Institute of technology~~

~~MASSACHUSETTS~~

Forwarded

To → South Tamworth
New Hampshire
ETATS-UNIS d'AMÉRIQUE

Forwarded

IMENITOFF - 54, rue du Chateau
BOULOGNE sur SEINE



Paris, le Septembre 1959

Monsieur le Professeur
Norbert WEINER
de l'Institute of Technology
MASSACHUSETTS

Monsieur,

Les définitions sur la Création que je soumets à votre jugement ne sont pas d'un scientifique et les mathématiques qui sont à la base de toutes les grandes découvertes me sont fermées. Néanmoins, je vous conjure de ne pas écarter sans avoir bien scruté mes vérités parce qu'elles vous abordent sans référence universitaire.

Vous devez reconnaître que vous, les Savants, vous refusez de croire qu'il existe un autre chemin que le vôtre qui, par un raccourci, peut nous amener vers un lieu où l'éénigme de la vie universelle dévoilée nous a fixé un rendez-vous.

Si je devenais devant le monde l'homme que je suis, on verra quel prix j'ai payé pour enjamber le raccourci qui m'a conduit solitaire vers l'origine des choses.

Mon esprit créateur ne se présente pas à moi ni en vision ni en songe mais en plein jour par ma pensée. Par des déductions logiquement irréfutables, mes propositions renferment la solution des problèmes qu'on ne pourra pas obtenir par des formules chiffrées ni au laboratoire.

A cause du langage logique de ma pensée ma métaphysique est réaliste, elle cherche à célébrer des fiançailles avec la science et de cette union peut jaillir une grande lumière où se reflètera l'origine et le but de l'existence.

Du livre "FIANCAILLES de l'HOMME
avec la Création

Ayant scellé ma vie dans l'écrit sur la Création, je proclame devant les Cieux et les Hommes que je détiens le pourquoi de la Création ainsi que les données des grands problèmes qu'elle renferme.

J'ai vu que nous gravitons dans l'archive des valeurs corrompues sur le bord de la Création et pour confirmer ces faits la nature a ordonné que la conception et la naissance de la vie s'accomplissent de même sur le bord du ventre par où on expulse les déchets.

Que c'est le fluide cosmique qui est à la base de l'existence et qui fait mouvoir les univers : notre corps est son aspect figé, notre âme c'est le cosmos qui a pris conscience à travers notre corps, lequel se désintègre en âme sans fin aux degrés supérieurs et dégradants.

Bien que c'est le torrent cosmique qui fait mouvoir les Univers, néanmoins, il sera confirmé que toute la vie terrestre contribue à la rotation de la terre.

Qu'une seule loi régit la Création, elle se propage par écho rayonnant à travers tous les degrés et c'est le milieu et l'écran récepteur qui donneront visage à toutes vies animées ou figées. Exemple ; Bien que d'aspect mort, les lettres d'un alphabet groupées dans un ordre donné, représentent des formules qui ont le pouvoir d'éveiller dans notre monde cérébral des images vivantes. Il en est de même dans le cadre de la Création Universelle où la vie forme et classe des images conventionnelles qui serviront de base pour un nouveau livre à l'action créatrice.

Si notre corps émet des rayonnements qui peuvent impressionner une plaque sensible, notre âme ou notre Moi en bloc de même émet des rayonnements d'une autre portée, lesquels, s'ils heurtent un écran approprié prennent vie. Tout ce qui vit et vibre peut déployer ses ailes en Toi qui devient tes ailes.

Donc, l'homme est un mécanisme établi selon un principe donné que voici : il décompose les rayonnements qui affluent vers nous de tous les degrés de la Création en les rendant vivants, et en s'appropriant leurs connaissances qu'ils portent scellées; que la vie est un assemblage de rayonnements figés qui servent de refuge à des rayonnements d'un autre ordre, et inversement, la vie digère les rayonnements figés qui, devenus libres, émigrent vers d'autres lieux.

J'ai vu que ce que nous appelons notre double ou âme, c'est une troisième hémisphère cérébral démesurément agrandie dans le Cosmos que nous élaborons à travers notre vie de nous-mêmes et tissage rayonnant universel.

Que l'enceinte mouvante de la Création qui charge en tous sens des messages rayonnants allant d'une phase de vie vers toutes et de toutes vers chacune, est à la base du principe de formation de germes de toutes natures ainsi que des antitoxines.

Nous sommes vraiment, par notre action, des stalactites qui reproduisent inversement l'image des faits préexistants dont nous avons capté les rayonnements.

Que cela étant, notre Moi n'a qu'une stabilité locale fictive vu que les rayonnements qui nous traversent déplacent notre personnalité et ainsi nous vivons en même temps à tous les degrés de la Création. Par conséquent, la mort ne peut aucunement être prise comme l'acte final de la vie.

Que le principe d'émigration d'ondes rayonnantes qui régissent la Création équivaut à une transfusion de sang d'une vie à l'autre et de toutes à chacune. De même que le sans se coagule une fois extériorisé de son milieu toute forme de matière est une coagulation des reflets venant d'autres Cieux : c'est un mode de défense par spore.

Que la mort survienne par suite du manque de réceptivité aux rayonnements vitaux et inversement les rayonnements que l'organisme sénile élabore ne peuvent émigrer et ils deviennent des excroissances-organisme, indépendants qui vivent à nos dépens. Du moment qu'il n'existe aucune liaison entre l'organisme et la force attractive universelle, la vie se désagrège.

Le germe de l'arbre ne meurt pas pour avoir dissipé son avoir à travers les racines, le tronc, branches, feuilles, fleurs et fruits, il vit dans chaque cellule de son Univers agrandi et ressuscité, rajeunit sur la cime de l'arbre dans ces germes.

La vie, c'est la sueur qui suinte des Cieux et de la terre. Des pensées ailées ou sans ailes scellées dans des messages rayonnants, sillonnent les Cieux sans arrêt à la recherche des partenaires en vue d'un jeu divin. Elles fouillent nos entrailles et toute la vie terrestre clame : Soyez les bienvenus ! De jour et de nuit des fiançailles rayonnantes sont célébrées avec échange de messages chiffrés.

Toute matière n'est que vie condensée, figée et la grande puissance atomique réside dans une accumulation de l'effort des myriades de millénaires de vies dans la préexistence antérieure à l'existence de la terre. Et comment cela pourrait-il être autrement lorsque la terre cessera d'exister ou se cacheront les cris de justice, l'espoir et le désespoir des milliers d'humanités qui se sont succédées depuis l'origine de la vie. Si la vie n'était qu'une flamme qui s'éteint à jamais, enfanter aurait été un plus grand crime que d'avorter.

Par la faculté créatrice qui vit en nous et qui nous rend semblable au Créateur, que tout comme lui nous avons le pouvoir, non seulement de réveiller à la vie l'inanimé que nous introduisons comme nourriture dans l'organisme-univers, mais parce que notre corps se désintègre continuellement en âme que nous donnons encore des ailes à la vie rampante.

Le mouvement spiroïdal dans la Crédation existe pour créer une chaîne ininterrompue dans la marche des étapes embryologiques universelles, de sorte que l'action qui ne peut franchir un échelon peut revenir en arrière sans être obligé de buter contre un mur, ainsi tant que l'action universelle durera, on peut mille fois recommencer le chemin aller et retour et élaborer des reflets-image de notre Moi qui auront le pouvoir de franchir l'enceinte blindée d'un échelon supérieur de la Crédation.

Mohstre ou ange, tu reviendras vers ton Moi universel, registre en mains. C'est parce que la Crédation

écrit un livre non concerté et que chacun transmet son chapitre ailleurs pour y donner suite que rien ne peut être effacé de notre action, et notre vie n'est plus un registre personnel unique : ces répliques prennent mille visages en bien et en mal, pour se greffer comme plante parasite sur l'arbre de notre vie universelle.

Comme preuve, que seule, l'image conventionnelle-réceptrice d'ondes joue pour donner tel ou tel fruit et prouver que tous les arbres puisent dans la terre le même soc. Ainsi la sagesse qui plane dans la ruche est la même qui a enfanté chez Pascal sa pensée, chez Bach la musique que seuls les claviers récepteurs diffèrent.

Tu as beau aiguiser le dard pour ceux qui ne sont pas de ta race, nous portons en nous toutes les races et le dard, tu l'enfonces dans ta propre chair ou des populations de cellules se révolteront d'où cancer ou autres maladies.

ORIGINE POSSIBLE DU CANCER

Les unions de raison amènent souvent dans une prison des organes hostiles par leur nature les uns envers les autres, et ils s'accordent mal pour vivre en harmonie. Et certaines maladies ne sont qu'incompatibilité d'humeur entre organes. Le corps humain étant un assemblage de beaucoup d'espèces de vie qui n'ont pas toutes la même longévité; c'est pourquoi certains de ces organes approchent plutôt vers la fin de leur action que les autres, et sans apporter la contribution de leur labeur habituel à l'organisme, ils continuent à se diviser ce qui n'est qu'un automatisme vu que le moteur global du corps continue à fonctionner : cette division n'est plus une action vivante mais similaire-reflet de la vie précédente. (Cancer ?)

Par une erreur de sélection, il peut exister un antagonisme entre le corps directeur cérébral et les corps proprement dits, certains organes peuvent s'accorder avec le centre cérébral qui le commande, les autres, non, ce qui entraîne une perturbation pour les uns comme pour les autres.

Lorsque l'homme asservit toutes les fonctions de son organisme à un seul organe, bien que d'apparence semblable aux autres, il reflète la forme de vie lorsque cet organe était un organisme indépendant, exemple ; pris comme univers, celui qui asservit tout à l'estomac n'est pas gouverné par le monde cérébral, lequel ne fait qu'accomplir les fonctions pour lesquelles il est apte.

La capitale de cet univers se trouve logée dans le monde stomachal d'où partent les ordres. Tel autre n'est qu'un monde germinal oùtout est asservi aux fonctions de la ponte, et ainsi de suite : dans tous ces cas là, l'aspect humain n'est qu'un paravent. Cela joue un rôle dans la longévité de même que pour les maladies.

Les bêtes qui sont en nous ont des instincts naturels, mais si nous leur permettons d'assouvir leur désir, c'est nous qui agissons contre nature; car avec la figure et une conscience humaines, nous ne devons pas prendre celles de la bête. Ceci de même joue un rôle pour engendrer des maladies.

L'homme pris comme Univers, sa conscience est le Dieu immédiat pour la multitude des mondes cellulaires qui le peuplent. Or, notre action extériorisée se propage comme réplique à travers notre Moi intérieur sans que notre volonté y soit présente et ainsi provoque souvent des ravages; les rayonnements que l'organisme sénile élabore ne peuvent émigrer et ils deviennent des excroissances-organisme, indépendants qui vivent à nos dépens.. (Cancer ?)

L'HOMME

Si je cherche ailleurs qu'à Paris des esprits susceptibles de prêter un intérêt à mes recherches, c'est parce que le germe ne féconde pas le milieu qui l'a formé. Or, c'est Paris qui l'a enfanté et mûri ma pensée.

Dans l'espoir que vous ne resterez pas sourd à mon appel, je vous prie, Monsieur, d'agréer avec mes excuses de vous importuner, mes sentiments de haute considération.

Imenitaff - L'HOMME

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SAINT LOUIS 5, MISSOURI

THE HENRY SHAW SCHOOL
OF BOTANY

September 2, 1959

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am writing on behalf of the Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to invite you to participate in a symposium on the effects of scientific progress on our future welfare.

The committee is one that has been newly established by the AAAS in recognition of the need that scientists concern themselves with the social consequences of scientific progress. I am mindful of the fact that some members of the scientific community, such as yourself, have for many years been advocates of this concern. I think that you will be gratified to learn that the AAAS has now come to share this belief. For several years the matter of whether or not the AAAS should engage itself in this realm of activities has been under discussion. After a favorable report by an interim committee, the AAAS Board last December decided to establish the present committee on a permanent basis. The committee's purpose is to stimulate discussion of the social consequences of science among scientists and to bring the results of such discussions to the public at large.

I have given you this background information in order to explain why our forthcoming symposium is one which we believe to be of unusual significance. It will, in effect, represent the first effort on the part of the new committee to engage the problem to which it has been assigned. The committee is most eager that the symposium represent a vigorous and significant expression of the problem. Because of your strong concern with the effects of scientific progress on human welfare and the considerable influence of your own work, I believe that your participation would contribute very greatly to the significance of our symposium.

Professor Norbert Wiener

-2-

September 2, 1959

We would like you to speak for a matter of 30 or 40 minutes on any aspect of the problem that concerns you. A suitable subject, for example, might be a discussion of the possible social consequences of future extensions of automatic controls, but I mention this simply as an illustration. The symposium will consist of three or four talks. Other speakers who are being invited to participate are Dr. Rene Dubos of the Rockefeller Institute who has been concerned with the future consequences of medical progress and Dr. Brock Chisholm who has had considerable experience in regard to the relation between scientific progress and the welfare of underdeveloped areas of the world.

The symposium is scheduled for the morning of December 27, 1959, during the annual meeting of the AAAS in Chicago. It is planned as an all-AAAS meeting so that we should expect attendance of a significant fraction of those present at the meeting as well as some interested members of the public. At the moment we plan only to have direct presentation by the speakers but if it seems useful we might, with your agreement, include in addition some round-table discussion following the direct presentations.

There are no plans for publishing the papers presented at the symposium. However, the editor of Science is always glad to consider any major presentations at the annual meeting for publication as a lead article, so that if you desire to publish your paper this could be arranged for expeditiously. However, this decision would be entirely in your own hands. The committee will be glad to defray your expenses for the trip.

I believe that you are acquainted with one of the members of our committee, Dr. Laurence Frank, who like yourself has been a pioneer in this area. Dr. Frank would be happy to discuss with you the work of the committee and any questions that occur to you in connection with the presentation.

I realize that it is no small burden to come to Chicago during the Christmas season. In asking that you undertake this task I can only plead the importance of the occasion and the great value that we would derive

Professor Norbert Wiener

-3-

September 2, 1959

from your presence. I earnestly hope that you will agree to speak.

Sincerely yours,

Barry Commoner

Barry Commoner
Chairman, AAAS Committee on
Science in the Promotion
of Human Welfare

BC:da

cc: Dr. Laurence Frank

[ans 9/10/59]

September 2, 1959

Mr. D. Stanley-Jones
Hayle
Cornwall
England

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am sorry I was unable to get to your manuscript for several weeks. I have been lecturing on the west coast during July, and it took some time for me to relax after that.

Your book is a magnificent collection of new cybernetic observations and ideas. You have done a great service to neuro-muscular physiology and have paved the way for much future work.

While I admire the book I have certain criticisms to offer, not in the spirit of faultfinding, but of suggesting directions for future study. The categories of positive and negative feedback of oscillation and run-away to zero or to maximum are essential notions but do not constitute a complete study of the cybernetic behaviour of a system. To carry the work further more sophisticated tools are

necessary . In the first place the dynamical systems with trivial exceptions and above all all living systems are nonlinear. It is only for infinitely small oscillations that the word oscillation without further qualification is an adequate description. To some extent you recognize this in systems which have a different pattern of feedback from the two sides. However, much more needs to be said here.

One matter in particular is very little mentioned in the book.

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duction of statistical ideas in the study of cybernetic systems. The statistical ideas as I have seen them are indispensable. In studying dynamical stability it is important to know the statistical way in which the system will respond to statistically describable changes in the norm. It is hence most important to have a theory of the response of nonlinear systems to random disturbances. You will find that in a recent book of mine, Nonlinear Problems in Random Theory.

One other matter of a more purely physiological nature. In my opinion you give the all or none law of nerves a validity which it has for the longer neurons but does not have for the shorter neurons found in the cortex and other parts of the nervous systems. The uniform shape of nerve spikes is something which is developed in the course of the relatively long time transmission of an impulse over a long neuron. In your language it is the result of a positive refection

which ultimately carries a nerve impulse into the specific shape

while negative reflection obliterates it entirely. In view of this I think one should be careful not to push the digital analogies of the nervous too far.

I hope you will not mind my criticisms of a book which greatly advances the frontiers of knowledge and which in addition is excellently written. The fact that cybernetics is a living science means that no one of us can afford to treat its repertory of ideas at any given time as complete.

Sincerely,

[Ans. 9/7/59]

September 3, 1959.

Mr. Edmund Dews
Managing Editor
Pergamon Press, Inc.
122 East 55th Street
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Dews:

I have now looked over the book of D. and K. Stanley-Jones entitled Kybernetics of Natural Systems and consider it a most important and valuable piece of work and well worthy of publication. As to my detailed comments concerning it, I am communicating them to Mr. Stanley-Jones directly. I am returning the manuscript to you.

The delay in reading the manuscript was due to my absence in California on a lecture engagement from which it has taken several weeks to rest up before I felt equal to giving the manuscript the proper attention.

Sincerely yours,

[ans 9/8/59]

South Tamworth, Sept. 3, 1959

Mr. William D. Houghton
RCA Laboratories
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Houghton:

Enclosed you will find the material requested of me in our telephone conversation. The fifty word summary of my talk on November 12 is as follows:

Two important fields not adequately covered by communicational electrical engineering are those of nonlinear problems and of random disturbances. The present lecture is devoted to a unitary technique covering both fields and making each applicable to the other. This technique can be used in the solution of a wide variety of practical problems.

I hope this summary will give you what you want.

Sincerely,

P.S. The title of my talk if I have not given you one before would be:

Random Functions and Nonlinear Processes in Engineering.

September 3, 1959

Mr. John B. Kaymen
45 Spring Garden Street
Hamden 17, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Kaymen:

I am highly complimented by your request to give a talk at your opening dinner meeting of the New Haven M.I.T. Club, but I scarcely see when I could find time to do it. I am pretty heavily loaded up already with engagements anterior to yours, and although I am in fairly good shape now there is a limit to what I should and can take on.

I deeply regret that I am not able to accept your kind invitation. Thank you again for asking me.

Sincerely,

Mr Norbert Wiener!
Are you the mathematician
I met in San Francisco, later in
Paris when you attended the Sorbonne
and we traveled together to Berlin
to the Hazel House?

Myself & the artist-painter
Bernard Zackheim and I are to
read soon your book "the human
use of human beings".
If you are the Wiener please reply
Yours Bernard Zackheim

BERNARD ZAKHEIM

1512-1964 86.

San Francisco 7. Calif

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



DR Norbert Wiener
c/o MASSACHUSETTS
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
MASSACHUSETTS

September, 6, 1959

Mr. Eugene Ayres
South Wellfleet
Cape Cod, Mass.

Dear Mr. Ayres:

My first ideas concerning cybernetics date back to 1940 at which time I was 46 years of age. The book was written in 1947. You will find the necessary material concerning the origin in the preface of the book.

With thanks for your pleasant words about me, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

September 6, 1959

Mrs Catherine Barth
228, West 24th Street
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Miss Barth:

I find it very hard to answer your letter. The label cybernetics has been pinned on very many different packages with greatly varying content. I could not possibly support a manuscript with Random House or write a foreword without more knowledge of the contents than merely the title.

I am also more than hesitant to say that I will look it over for you as I am very heavily loaded down with work and commitments. My desk is buried under many weeks deposit of not yet read manuscripts, many of them unsolicited. I hope you will understand .

Sincerely yours,

September 6, 1959

Mr. Stafford Beer
Head, Operational Research and Cybernetics Department
The United Steel Companies Limited
Cyber House
1 Tapton House Road
Sheffield 10, England

Dear Mr. Beers:

Many thanks for your letter of July 17. I shall almost inevitably get a copy of your book as soon as it appears appears from Wiley as they are also my publishers. I do not know when I shall be in Europe again, and I shall try to let you know. We may be able to get in contact with each other.

Sincerely yours,

September 6, 1959

Mr. Ralph Farbman
Beresford Hotel
635 Sutter Street
San Francisco 2
California

Dear Mr. Farbman:

The Drucaroff matter leaves me in an embarrassing position. On the one hand the table of content of Drucaroff's recently completed manuscript could well cover some interesting questions. On the other hand the outline you have already sent me does not seem to have enough content to justify its terminological profuseness.

In view of this I am returning it to you with the feeling that whatever valuable material Mr. Drucaroff may have is off my beat. May I then request you to ask for a sympathetic response to Mr. Drucaroff's work elsewhere and leave me out of it in the future.

Sincerely,

September 6, 1959

Mr. Roy E. Hanson
Assistant Program Director for Earth Sciences
National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Several weeks ago you sent me proposal P-6461 from the Division of Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences of the National Science Foundation for rating. This proposal has as the responsible scientific investigators F. Gilbert and L. Knopoff of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of California at Los Angeles. It covers Seismic Theory and Interpretation and is for the years 1959-1962.

To give a fair estimate of this proposal I should have to make a careful study of the authors earlier work. At present I am in the White Mountains on my vacation and away from all literature. In about two weeks when I am back at M.I.T. I shall try to give a supplementary report based on this reading. Since you ask for a report as soon as possible I am therefore sending you this interim report. Thus you will understand that I have nothing to go on except the content of the proposal itself.

This proposal gives me no intimation of how much the authors really know about the harmonic analysis which they propose to apply to the seismic problems. This is a difficult and rapidly developing field particularly in the field of nonlinear of an earthquake. Before using digital computer methods for processes such as are likely to occur with the epicenter such problems and indeed before estimating the time length of

2.

data necessary to do valuable digital computer work a good deal of quite new mathematical study is demanded. I can see in the proposal neither an acquaintance with research of this nature nor indeed an indication that such research is needed. On the strength of this proposal itself it seems that we have before us another of these pieces of research in which the digital machine dominates the ideas and not one in which the ideas dominate the use of the digital machine. Therefore as a proposal rating until I make acquaintance with what the authors really know and have done in this field, I cannot give the proposal a high rating.

Sincerely yours,

September 6, 1959

Professor D. S. Jones
Department of Mathematics
University College of North Staffordshire
Keele, Staffordshire
England

Dear Professor Jones:

By a curious coincident I have recently received a manuscript entitled Kybernetics of Natural Systems by a man who is almost a namesake of yours, namely, D. Stanley-Jones, of Hayle, Cornwall. The book is an excellent account of a large number of problems that have to do with cybernetics in the neurophysiology of living organisms. If your main interest in this branch of cybernetics is/ I think you should consider your namesake seriously for the post which you have vacant. I must admit that my opinion of him is founded entirely on his manuscript as I have no personal acquaintance with him.

However, it is my opinion that as Mr. Stanley-Jones is obviously not a man of mathematical training, it would be questionable whether he is suitable to a chair where part of the duties would be to give an all around picture of what is after all a highly mathematical subject. From that point of view I am afraid that I know of no

British scientist who would be entirely satisfactory. One of the difficulties is that really competent men in the engineering aspects of the field have been snatched by the industries at salaries with which the Universities can scarcely compete. I therefore leave out of consideration names like Shannon, Brillouin, and the like.

Of the people now in industrial work in the U.S.A. one of

married to a German lady is doing some remarkable work on game playing machines, originality in machines, programming of higher logical type and the relation of machines to inductive logic. I am quite convinced that much of his work will lend itself to the physiological and psychological sides of cybernetics. Even if Dr. Watanabe himself should not be able to accept I should in your place solicit his help in finding the right man, for he has a number of good new men under him.

Another good all around cyberneticist is Benoit Mandelbrot, the nephew of Prof. S. Mandelbrojt of the College de France. Benoit Mandelbrot has worked extensively both in France and in the U.S.A. over a very wide range of subjects allied to communication theory, and I regard his comprehension of the whole of cybernetics as excellent. He is also a thoroughly personable and pleasant individual and like Dr. Watanabe has a first rate command of English.

Another man of first rate intellectual ability and scope in the field of cybernetic activity is Schützenberger, I do not recall his first name. He is a native of Alsace-Lorraine. He has both medical and mathematical training and understands thoroughly all fields of cybernetics. His English is good, although perhaps less perfect than that of the men I have already mentioned. The chief difficulty with him is that although a very lovable person, he is a bit of an eccentric and a wild man. This would take some putting up with, but on the other hand Dr. Schutzenberger has a first rate and original intellect.

As to my own pupils I think that they are either too young

or too well established for you. I have a very bright group of young engineers working with me, some of whose names appear in the preface of my book, Nonlinear Problems in Random Theory. If it were a question of a lectureship or a readership I think one of them might do very well, but it is a little too soon to offer them a professorship.

You will see that I give importance to practically all the fields that you mentioned. I am thoroughly convinced that whatever the nominal field of the man on whom you settle, (and the field is not too important) he must above all have a sound basis of mathematical knowledge. All the men whom I have suggested possess this.

Wishing you all possible success in obtaining a suitable candidate, I remain,

sincerely yours,

[Aug 9/19/59]

September 6, 1959

Mr. P. Augustus Turner
253 Harold Street
Boston 21, Mass.

Dear Mr. Turner:

I am afraid I have a great Prejudice against being heckled by mail. I find it hard to put my hands on enough time to do my own work and take the necessary rest to enable me to continue it, let alone writing papers to order. I made a considerable effort in a very busy period to give the talk at Los Angeles City College and this does not entitle you to make further claims on my time and energy.

Yours truly,

Sept. 6, 1959

Mrs. O.H. Wilcox
1221 Haskell
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mrs. Wilcox:

While cybernetic ideas are very important in the study of the brain and the nervous system, the details of the analysis of such processes are extremely complicated. Knowledge is scarcely such a simple quantitative thing that the word feedback of knowledge is itself significant without a great deal of study in the detailed nature and mechanism of such feedback. Work of this sort is being done by several leading physiologists such as Prof. J.Z. Young of University College, London and Drs. D. and K. Stanley-Jones in England.

Sincerely yours,

D. STANLEY-JONES, F.R.C.S.

Buckshead,

Townshend,

Hayle, Cornwall.

PHONE: LEEDSTOWN 223.

7th September 1959

Dear Dr. Wiener,

It is indeed good of you to write so encouragingly on my book on Kybernetics of Natural Systems. I shall go over the text once again, to see what I can do to make good some of the deficits which you have pointed out. I fear I shall not be able to do much in that way, however, as I have perforce chosen the non-mathematical approach, not only for the sake of my readers but even more on account of my own mathematical limitations. I fear that any introduction of the "more sophisticated tools" that you mention would expose my short-comings far more than it would enlighten my readers.

It speaks greatly for your breadth of vision, and the largeness of your own outlook, that you can speak so kindly of the work of a stranger, almost a trespasser ~~who~~ into the highly specialized branch of learning that you have created, in spite of the wide difference of my approach from what has come to be regarded as orthodoxy.

Would it be possible for me to avail myself yet further of your kindness, and to ask you to write me a brief Foreword, behind which I can take shelter from the slings and arrows of outraged reviewers?

Cordially yours,

D. Stanley-Jones

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

PERGAMON PRESS, INC.

Telegraphic Address: PERGAPRESS, NEW YORK
Telephone: PLAZA 3-9651

122 East 55th Street,
New York 22, N.Y.

September 8, 1959

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

re: KYBERNETICS OF NATURAL SYSTEMS

Dear Professor Wiener,

I am most grateful to you for examining the manuscript of this work by D. and K. Stanley-Jones, and for your recommendation that it is a most important and valuable work well worthy of publication.

Thank you also for sending your detailed comments directly to Mr. Stanley-Jones, but I should be grateful if you could send me a copy of these comments, as such information is almost as useful to the publisher as it is to the author, particularly where, as for this work, we have ourselves some detailed recommendations to make for this revision.

i75

Yours sincerely,

E. Dews

EDMUND DEWS
Managing Editor

ED:ck

[ans 9/10/59]

WGBH
Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council
Educational television Channel 2, radio 89.7 mc. and motion pictures
UNiversity 4-6400
84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

September 9, 1959

Mr. Norbert Wiener, PH.D., SC.D.,
Professor of Mathematics
Department of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am writing to you about a television program we do on Channel 2, WGBH-TV, entitled: "I've Been Reading." This program, which beginning in October will be telecast on Monday evenings, 9:30-10:00, takes the form of a spontaneous, unrehearsed discussion of recently published books of importance to our viewers.

For our program of Monday, October 26th, we would like to discuss your book, The Tempter. We would be very happy if you could join us at that time.

It wouldn't be necessary for you to be here until 8:45 P.M. the evening of the telecast. I'm sure the hour or so you'd spend here would be a most enlightening one for our audience, and an enjoyable one for you. The program, in addition to it's live telecast on Monday evenings, is also taped and later played on WGBH-FM and the educational radio network, and on WCOP.

I hope you'll find the time to be with us.

Yours sincerely,

Warren S. Park, Jr.
Warren S. Park, Jr.
Producer-Director
"I've Been Reading"

*all
answered*

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, N. H.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 10, 1959

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

Dear Professor Wiener:

We at the University of New Hampshire are delighted to know that you will be able to spend the week of March twenty-eighth on our campus next spring. That time is excellent from our standpoint.

Your own range of interests and writing will provide stimulation, we are sure, for scientists, humanists, and social scientists alike. As March draws nearer, you will hear further from us; meanwhile, please do not hesitate to let us know if there are other questions.

Sincerely yours,

Eldon L. Johnson

Eldon L. Johnson
President

ELJ:BCC

polite refusal

MATHEMATA
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT
MANHATTAN COLLEGE
RIVERDALE 71, NEW YORK

KINGSBRIDGE 8-1400

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
WERNER F. MEYER

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ROBERT V. POIGNANT
JOHN P. SHEA
MARTIN T. STROMMER

Sept 10, 1959

Mathematics Department
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

Please excuse this intrusion upon your time, but several years ago I had the opportunity of enjoying both volumes of your autobiography, and I recently thought of sharing some of your humorous observations with the readers of our undergraduate mathematics publication.

I would greatly appreciate your permission to make the following quotations in Mathemata:

"These marriages of mathematicians to the daughters of their professors are so typical of the academic world, both in Europe and here, that there has come to be a saying that the genetics of mathematical ability is peculiar— it is not inherited from father to son, but from father-in-law to son-in-law." (I am a Mathematician; page 217)

"Three of the most important moral science dons with whom I came in contact, all fellows of Trinity, were known as the Mad Tea Party of Trinity. Their identities were unmistakable. It is impossible to describe Bertrand Russell except by saying that he looks like the Mad Hatter. He has always been a very distinguished, aristocratic Mad Hatter, and now he is a white-haired Mad Hatter. But the caricature of Tenniel almost argues an anticipation on the part of the artist, even though I am told that the original of Lewis Carroll's description and Tenniel's caricature was an actual hatter at Oxford, and that his 'Anglo-Saxon Attitudes' were really the effect of an industrial mercury poisoning. McTaggart, a Hegelian and the Dr. Codger of Wells's New Machiavelli, with his pudgy hands, his innocent,

sleepy air, and his sidelong walk, could only be the Dormouse.

"The third, Dr. G. E. Moore, was a perfect March Hare. His gown was always covered with chalk, his cap was in rags or missing, and his hair was a tangle which had never known the brush within man's memory. Its order and repose were not improved by an irascible habit of running his hand through it. He would go across town to his class, with no more formal footwear than his bedroom slippers, and the space between these and his trousers (which were several inches too short) was filled with wrinkled white socks. He had the peculiar habit of emphasizing his words on the blackboard by running them through with chalk-marks instead of underlining them." (Ex-prodigy; pages 194-195)

I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for your convenience. We will be pleased to send you a copy of our next issue.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Werner F. Meyer

Werner F. Meyer
Editor-in-Chief

[Aug 9/28/59]

September 10, 1959

Professor Barry Commoner
Chairman, AAAS Committee on Science in the Promotion
Washington University of Human Welfare
Saint Louis, Missouri

Dear Professor Commoner:

I shall be delighted to accept your request to give a talk
on the morning of December 27, 1959 during the annual AAAS mee-
ting in Chicago.

I propose as subject of my talk The Nature of Social Dangers
of the Control Machines of the Future.

In speaking of defraying expenses for my trip, since I have
already arranged to be in Florida (probably St. Petersburg) at
that time, may I request that these expenses cover my stay in
Chicago and my trip by air to Chicago and return to Florida.
I would prefer to spend the night before the meeting in Chicago
and return to Florida immediately after the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. Conner

[ans 9/18/59]

September 10, 1959

Mr. Edmund Dews
Managing Editor
Pergamon Press
122 East 55th Street
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Dews:

The letter I have written you about Dr. Stanley-Jones' manuscript was at least partly sent under a misapprehension, due in part to my being absent from Cambridge during the summer and in part to my own carelessness. Your letter had become separated from the manuscript, and reading the manuscript first, I thought it had been sent to me by the author directly. A few days later I came upon your letter asking me to read the manuscript for you. I hope no harm has been done.

However, I wish to reenforce the impression the book has made on me. As of the present date the book is by far the best and almost the only account of general cybernetic mechanisms in a large variety of nervous systems. As such it demands immediate publication. However, as Dr. Stanley-Jones is not a mathematician his account of the quantitative detail of such mechanisms is sketchier than I hope would be found in a similar book written ten years from now. This does not mean in the least that we should wait ten years for such a book. In the more definitive development of the subject which I expect to see in the future the working up of the rich mine of material in Dr. Stanley-Jones' book does play an essential part, and the immediate appearance of the book is necessary to enable it to play that part.

Sincerely,

refusal by
phone

THE AMERICAN THERMOS PRODUCTS COMPANY

THERMOS®

JHA:SB.

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

Norwich, Connecticut

September 11, 1959.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

The local chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, would like to extend our invitation to you to speak to our group at our regular membership meeting on December 10th, 1959, on whatever topic you should choose in the field of cybernetics.

We believe that you, - one of the outstanding authorities in research and science in this field, would be able to contribute a great deal to the thinking of our top scientific and engineering personnel in the Eastern Connecticut area.

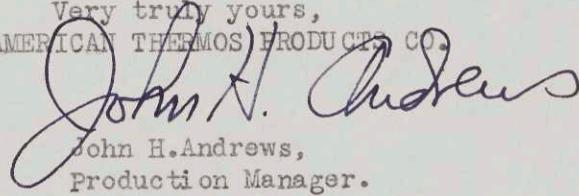
In the New London, Groton and Norwich area, the largest employers are The Pfizer Company, manufacturers of Pharmaceuticals, and The Electric Boat Company, a division of The General Dynamics Corporation. The Pfizer Company is now enlarging their research staff by several hundred at this plant, where they have recently constructed new laboratories and office facilities. The Electric Boat Company has achieved world-wide recognition as the manufacturer of the first Atomic Submarine, as well as one of the largest manufacturers of undersea craft for our armed services.

The area supports a number of smaller manufacturers with broadly diversified products. Some of these are, - The American Thermos Products Co., the largest employer in the Norwich area, Ponemah Mills, a manufacturer of quality specialized fabrics, The Dow Chemical Company, the Gair Packaging Company, and Owens-Corning Fibre Glass Corporation.

Mr. Thos. Keel, Program Chairman of our New London section of the A.S.M.E., has authorized me to indicate to you that our local section covers the travelling and living expenses for speakers that we invite.

Of course, we understand that with your teaching and research schedule, you are a very busy man, and we would be honoured if you could accept our invitation. If this cannot be, is there any other authority in your field whom you would like to recommend, and suggest that we have as our speaker?

Very truly yours,
THE AMERICAN THERMOS PRODUCTS CO.


John H. Andrews,
Production Manager.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

September 11, 1959

Dear Professor Wiener:

On Monday, September 28, 1959, at 6:30 p.m. at the — M.I.T. Faculty Club, the Welcoming Committee of the Graduate Student Council is holding a dinner for the incoming foreign graduate students.

The object of this dinner is to give these new students an opportunity to meet each other and to become acquainted with several of the faculty members in an informal, sociable atmosphere.

In previous years, this annual dinner was an event which was enjoyed and long remembered by the guest faculty members as well as by the foreign students themselves. We expect this year's dinner to be even better than the previous ones.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us as our guest for this affair. Would you please let us know if you can or cannot attend by filling in and returning the enclosed reply card.

For the Graduate Student Council,

Charles Buntschuh

Charles Buntschuh
Michael Ming Chen
Welcoming Committee

ЖУРНАЛ
«ВОПРОСЫ ФИЛОСОФИИ»

Орган Института Философии Академии наук СССР
Издательство „ПРАВДА“
Москва, Волхонка, 14. Телефон Б 8-76-32

Зак. 1224

„12“ сентября 1959 г.

Уважаемый мистер Н. Винер!

Редакция советского журнала "Вопросы философии" обращается к Вам с просьбой написать для опубликования в нашем журнале статью на тему "Наука и общество". Нам хотелось бы, чтобы Вы высказали в ней Вашу точку зрения на роль и место науки в современном обществе и разъяснили Ваше понимание социальной роли и социальной ответственности ученого в современных условиях.

Одновременно сообщаем Вам, что в № 8 нашего журнала за 1959 год опубликована рецензия на русское издание Вашей книги "Кибернетика и общество", вышедшей в СССР в 1958 году.-

С уважением

Управл.

А. ОКУЛОВ

Главный редактор

Title + Subject
Science and Society

Intermediary
Mamardashvili

[ans 3/2/160]

[sept. 12, 1959]

TRANSLATION

Dear Mr. Norbert Wiener!

The editor of the Soviet journal "Problems of Philosophy" would like you to write an article on the theme "Science and Society" for publication in our journal. In this article we would like you to present your point of view on the role and place of science in modern society and an elucidation of your understanding of the social role and social responsibilities of the scientist under contemporary conditions.

At the same time we would like to tell you that in No. 8 of our journal (1959) a review of the Russian translation of your book "Cybernetics and Society" (after the Russian edition which appeared in the USSR in 1958) was published.

A. Okulov
(Principal editor)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Keele,
Staffordshire.

Department of Mathematics

DSJ/VMC

14th September, 1959.

Professor N. Wiener,
Department of Mathematics,
M.I.T.,
Cambridge 39,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Wiener,

I am most grateful for all the information which you gave me in your letter of 6th September about possible candidates for the Chair in Communication. It will be most helpful to us in coming to a decision.

You say that there is no British scientist whom you would consider to be entirely satisfactory. The names of D. M. MacKay and D. K. C. MacDonald have been suggested to me. Would you exclude these on the grounds of insufficient mathematical foundation or for other reasons? It is not that we have any particular desire to appoint a British person. We are only anxious to secure the best available, whatever his nationality.

Yours sincerely,

D Jones



CONFIDENTIAL



Professor N. Wiener,

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology,
Cambridge 39.

Massachusetts,

U.S.A.

First fold here ——————→

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: Professor D. S. Jones, M.B.E.,
M.A., D.Sc.,
Department of Mathematics, University
College of North Staffordshire, KEELE,
Staffordshire, England.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

To open cut here ←

September 14, 1959

Dr. Ing. Max Knoll
c/o Prof. von Kahler
1 Evelyn Place
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Knoll:

Beginning September 19, I shall be at M.I.T. until October 9. From October 9 till October 25 I expect to be away on a trip after which I return to my school.

I am very much interested in your letter, and if you could manage to see me in the interval stated above, I shall be very glad to talk things over with you.

Sincerely yours,

September 14, 1959

Mr. A. L. Patterson
The Institute for Cancer Research
7701 Burholme Avenue
Fox Chase
Philadelphia 11, Pa.

Dear Mr. Patterson:

I am very much interested in your ideas on fractional-orderly Fourier transforms. I have realised that the definitions of these transforms is not unique. As a matter of fact in my book with Paley I give another account of Fourier transforms which can be easily adapted to those of fractional order. Although I have not actually done the adaptation, the basis on which its work should be carried out is my discussion of the relation of both the original function and the ordinary sine and cosine transforms to the Fourier transforms under a logarithmic change in scale.

I suggest that you look into the matter. However, I consider that in discussing the change between the pattern on the object and the image plane you actually, as you suggest, study the infinitesimal transformation between one plane and an adjacent one. This will involve a good deal of work on each plane of the nature of the space.

If it won't interfere with your plans I may have a go at this this myself in the future.

Sincerely yours,

[ans 9/17/59]

PERGAMON PRESS, INC.

Telegraphic Address: PERGAPRESS, NEW YORK
Telephone: PLAZA 3-9651

122 East 55th Street,
New York 22, N.Y.

September 15, 1959

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

re: KYBERNETICS OF NATURAL SYSTEMS
by D. & K. Stanley-Jones

Dear Professor Wiener,

Many thanks for your letter of 10 September with which you send a copy of the comments on his book which you have sent to Dr. Stanley-Jones. No harm has been done by your corresponding directly with the author in this case, particularly because of the helpful and constructive nature of your remarks. We should of course have passed most of your comments on to the author anyway, together with a number of other suggestions, but we should have done so without identifying their source. Coming directly from you, they have added force.

Thank you too for reaffirming your impression that the book is by far the best, and only general, account of cybernetic mechanisms in a large variety of nervous systems, and deserves immediate publication.

I can assure you that Pergamon Press will encourage Dr. Stanley-Jones to make the improvements you suggest, and will publish the book at the earliest possible time.

I wonder if you would be willing to write a short introduction or foreword for this book, perhaps 2 or 3 typescript pages in length. No one is better qualified to introduce this book to the scientific community and to the general reader, and in view of your enthusiasm for its publication I hope that you will agree to do so.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

E. Dews

EDMUND DEWS
Vice President

P.S. In return for your kindness in reviewing this manuscript I hope you will select three or four titles from our catalog, which I should be pleased to send to you with the compliments of the Press.

Dyrs.

NORMAN S. COOKE

Vero Beach

Florida

Sept. 16, 1959

Dr. Norbert Weiner, Professor
M.I.T.
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

I have written to so many people, but no one answers my letters. Strange, but I have the impression the letters never reach their destinations. My problem is: someone is talking to me all the time day and night. They know what dress I have on and they know what I am doing. If I go to the mirror in my bath-room they talk to me. If I am in the kitchen working they tell me exactly how to do my tasks. I know that Mr. E. P. Rhoades Jr. of Gloucester, Virginia perfected an invention for talking with vision by cosmic rays. I also know the Mafia Syndicate has this invention, and they have had it for years. It is their private communication system for the Syndicate. Mr. Rhoades is working with the Mafia Syndicate. I have been used this way for eleven years, and I am so eager to warn my government about the Mafia being able to get valuable information from our government officials and selling it to the Russians. I know they already got the Navy code and the Air Force code. I have written to both

Dora NORMAN S. COOKE
Vero Beach
Florida

Navy and Army Intelligence at the Pentagon, but they do not answer my letters so perhaps they think I am imagining these things.

There is a very small light like a lighted molecule appears in the room at night. I see faces one after the other, sometimes I can see the whole person. There is talking. It is somewhat like television. One night I heard them say the same, meaning me, won't talk and we need the juice going here so keep the dame talking. Well I could go on for days writing about the conversations that go on but I do know these people are working for the Russians and they are interfering with our satellite and missile programs. Something they use has a radio set-up, mirror and a magnetic stone. Just tell me how to be free of it all.

My husband is in the hospital. He has been given treatment for ulcers, but along with that he can't use his legs for walking, nor his hands for eating or shaving himself, and his hands tremble. The doctors think he has arthritis, but this is what I must tell you. I have been threatened so many times by Mr. Rhodes that if I tell on him I will

Drs. NORMAN S. COOKE
Vero Beach
Florida

never walk again, or see again, or I will go insane,
or I will kill you right there in your sleep.

The Mafia warn me not to get mixed up with
them, but I am not afraid. I just want to lead
a normal life again, and be rid of these people
and the lights.

How could someone be hurt from afar?
By a small light focused on the spine, and
when that light has affected the nervous system,
or the eyes, one is hurt badly. It is sort of
a shock, an electrical shock.

Enclosed please find stamped addressed
envelope. Please reply. I cannot upset my
husband at this time.

Very truly yours,

Drs. Norman Cooke

940 - 22nd Place

Vero Beach, Florida

THE INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

7701 Burholme Avenue
Fox Chase
Philadelphia 11, Pa.

September 17, 1959

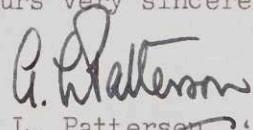
Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 14th and your comments on the paper I sent you earlier in the summer. It would please me very much to have you concern yourself further in fractional transforms. Although I am very interested in the problem my abilities and my occupation with practical diffraction analysis limit the progress I am likely to make with it. Certainly, if I do have any desire to go on with the problem I can check with you on the possibility of duplication. The only idea I now have which was not included in the paper concerns solutions of the type $t = \cos^n \phi + i \sin^n \phi$ (n odd). In these the contour along which the kernels lie is a cycloid with the requisite symmetry properties which "gets away" from the essential singularities at $t = \pm 1$ as fast as possible along the real axis. I don't really believe this notion to be of much value, and at any rate I can't do much with it at present.

With kindest regards and again thanks for your interest.

Yours very sincerely,


A. L. Patterson

ALP/ad

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



SAIN T LOUIS 5, MISSOURI

THE HENRY SHAW SCHOOL
OF BOTANY

September 18, 1959

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am delighted to know that you will participate in the forthcoming symposium of the AAAS Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare in Chicago on the morning of December 27, 1959. The title which you suggest is quite suitable. As soon as the remainder of the program is completed, I shall send you an outline of what the other speakers will present. Perhaps at that time you might send me a paragraph or so describing your presentation.

The AAAS will be very happy to meet your expenses for the trip from Florida to Chicago and return. The schedule which you suggest in your letter seems quite suitable to me.

Your willingness to participate in the symposium does a great deal to assure the success of the meeting and I am indeed grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Barry Commoner.
Barry Commoner

BC:da

Air Mail



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

INCORPORATED

SECTION CORRESPONDENCE

21 September 1959

PLEASE ADDRESS
REPLY TO

Bendix Products Div.
3300 So. Federal St.
Chicago 16, Illinois

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

Dear Prof. Wiener:

While taking M.I.T.'s recent course in plasma dynamics, I noticed that you were giving a talk to M.I.T. students on brain wave research. Some other chance remarks I heard about correlating measured brain waves from several pickups to find the electrical response to a definite stimulus certainly point the way toward artificial electrical stimulation of humans. I have also recently read that a properly applied (small) electrical stimulus will put a person to sleep.

This very interesting area would make the subject of a talk which would be very stimulating if given by you. The Chicago sections of the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) are having their annual joint meeting on 4 March 1960. We would be very honored if you could attend and address the combined group. I do not believe that you have spoken in Chicago for many years so that this might be an ideal opportunity to renew old acquaintances, visit your daughter, etc.

The general area of medical electronics or biophysical electricity is indeed a very fascinating one and the field is entering the exponential growth stage. At our last joint meeting, a talk by V. K. Zworykin on medical electronics applications was very well received.

(Continued.)



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

INCORPORATED

SECTION CORRESPONDENCE

- 2 -

PLEASE ADDRESS
REPLY TO

Professor Norbert Wiener

21 September 1959

I sincerely hope that you will be able to visit us next March. You may have a related or alternate topic to suggest. May we hear from you soon concerning this invitation?

Sincerely,

Gail T. Flesher

Gail T. Flesher, Chairman
General Papers Committee

GTF:n



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

INCORPORATED

SECTION CORRESPONDENCE

21 September 1959

PLEASE ADDRESS
REPLY TO

Bendix Products Div.
3300 So. Federal St.
Chicago 16, Illinois

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Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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(Continued.)



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS
INCORPORATED

SECTION CORRESPONDENCE

- 2 -

PLEASE ADDRESS
REPLY TO

Professor Norbert Wiener

21 September 1959

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Sincerely,

Gail T. Flesher, Chairman
General Papers Committee

GTF:n

HAMBURGER STERNWARTE
DER DIREKTOR

21. 9. 1959
H/h.

Herrn
Professor Dr. N. Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.
USA

Sehr verehrter Herr Kollege:

Sie wissen sicher, dass die Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte in unserem Lande etwa die Funktion hat, die in England oder in den USA die Associations for the Advancement of Science ausüben. Nach dem letzten Kriege hat die Gesellschaft ihre Struktur wesentlich gewandelt: Sie gab die Unterteilungen in Sektionen auf, weil deren Aufgaben heute von vielen Fachgesellschaften besser wahrgenommen werden. Statt dessen hat sie sich das Ziel gesetzt, ihre sehr bunt zusammengesetzte Mitgliedschaft (Lehrer der Physik, Chemie, Biologie; Industriechemiker und -physiker; Ärzte aller Art etc.) bekannt zu machen mit solchen Entwicklungen, die für viele Gebiete der Naturwissenschaft und Medizin übergreifende Bedeutung haben. Deshalb veranstaltet sie alle zwei Jahre Tagungen, die unter wenigen einheitlichen Themen gestellt werden. 1956 in Hamburg waren es z. B. die beiden Themen Isotopie und Mikroskopie.

Nun wurde innerhalb des Vorstandes seit längerer Zeit beklagt, dass der steigende Einfluss der Mathematik in den bisherigen Tagungen kaum sichtbar geworden wäre. Deshalb wurde beschlossen, 1960 in Hannover ein Experiment zu wagen. Am 25. 9. 1960 soll die Eröffnung sein; der 26. 9. steht ganz unter dem Thema "Geographie", das ebenfalls längere Zeit nicht zu Worte gekommen ist. Am 27. und 28. 9. dagegen soll das Eindringen mathematischer Denkformen in Biologie und Medizin geschildert werden.

Wir werden anfangen mit zwei Vorträgen ziemlich rein mathematischen Inhalts. Der erste, für den wir Herrn van der Waerden in Zürich gebeten haben, wird etwa heißen "Strukturwandel der Mathematik und seine Auswirkung in der Naturwissenschaft". Für den zweiten Vortrag haben wir Herrn Schmetterer - Hamburg gewonnen, der sprechen wird über "Das weitere Vordringen der Statistik".

Sodann aber sollten im ganzen etwa 12 Vorträge folgen über Kybernetik. - Sie würden uns eine ganz besondere Freude machen, wenn Sie von dieser Reihe den ersten übernehmen würden. Dabei denken wir an das Thema "Gedankliche Grundlagen der Informationstheorie". Nach Ihnen käme Herr Küpfmüller - Darmstadt mit dem Thema "Übertragung und Verarbeitung von Nachrichten" und dann Herr Oppelt - Darmstadt, der über "Technik der Steuerung und Regelung" zu sprechen hat. - Mit diesen 5 Vorträgen, deren jeder 40 Minuten dauern dürfte, wäre der Vormittag beendet. Am Nachmittag würden dann Anwendungen auf zwei spezielle biologische Probleme vorgeführt werden von den Herren Reichardt und Hassenstein in Tübingen. Am folgenden Tage kämen noch 7 weitere Vorträge über spezielle biologische und medizinische Fragen, die aber alle mit der Kybernetik in nahem Zusammenhang stehen.

Sie kennen damit den Rahmen, den wir für Ihren Vortrag geschaffen haben. Das sehr gemischte Auditorium ist natürlich nicht im Stande, rein mathematischen Gedankengängen zu folgen. Man müsste wohl daran denken, typische Fälle oder Modelle in den Vordergrund zu schieben und die allgemeinen Folgerungen zwar zu formulieren aber nicht zu deduzieren. Wir sind aber ganz sicher, dass wir niemand finden könnten, der eher als Sie selbst das genannte Thema in der angedeuteten Form behandeln könnte. Natürlich würden wir Ihre Reisekosten gerne tragen und uns freuen, Sie als unseren Gast betrachten zu dürfen während Ihres Aufenthaltes.

Wir hoffen sehr, dass Ihr Termin-Kalender die letzte Septemberwoche des Jahres 1960 noch freigelassen hat. Im Namen des Vorstandes unserer Gesellschaft darf ich Ihnen noch einmal versichern, dass wir sehr glücklich wären, wenn Sie unseren Wunsch erfüllen würden.

Mit den besten Empfehlungen bin ich
Ihr sehr ergebener

O. Heckmann.

(Prof. Dr. O. Heckmann)

A B S C H R I F T

Prof. Dr. Otto Heckmann
Hamburg-Bergedorf
Sternwarte

21.9.59
H/h

Herrn
Professor Dr. N. Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.
USA

Sehr verehrter Herr Kollege:

Sie wissen sicher, dass die Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte in unserem Lande etwa die Funktion hat, die in England oder in den USA die Associations for the Advancement of Science ausüben. Nach dem letzten Kriege hat die Gesellschaft ihre Struktur wesentlich gewandelt: Sie gab die Unterteilungen in Sektionen auf, weil deren Aufgaben heute von vielen Fachgesellschaften besser wahrgenommen werden. Statt dessen hat sie sich das Ziel gesetzt, ihre sehr bunt zusammengesetzte Mitgliedschaft (Lehrer der Physik, Chemie, Biologie; Industriechemiker und -physiker; Ärzte aller Art etc.) bekannt zu machen mit solchen Entwicklungen, die für viele Gebiete der Naturwissenschaft und Medizin übergreifende Bedeutung haben. Deshalb veranstaltet sie alle zwei Jahre Tagungen, die unter wenige einheitliche Themen gestellt werden. 1956 in Hamburg waren es z.B. die beiden Themen Isotopie und Mikroskopie.

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Mit den besten Empfehlungen bin ich
Ihr sehr ergebener

O. Heckmann,

(Prof. Dr. O. Heckmann)



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Jason Epstein, EDITOR

September 24, 1959

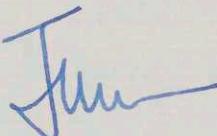
Mr. Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Norbert:

Under separate cover I am sending you the first two copies of THE TEMPER. I hope you and Margaret like them. I do very much. I hope too that they arrive before you leave for New York. I am sending them air mail special delivery.

Please do call me when you are in New York and I do hope you can arrange to spend a couple of hours with me.

Yours,



JE:mg

[ans 9/30/59]

JOHN SIMON GUGGENHEIM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
551 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK · N.Y.

September 24, 1959

Mrs. Margaret M. Kruger
c/o Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Kruger:

Thank you for your letter of September 24 and your kindness in forwarding us Professor Wiener's present title.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Mathias
James F. Mathias
Associate Secretary

mb

September 24, 1959

Mr. Henry Allen Moe, Secretary
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
551 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Moe:

Professor Wiener received the Report for 1957 and 1958 and would like to notify you of a change in the title of his position. He is now Institute Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

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

(ans 9/24/59)

September 25, 1959

Dr. Hideya Gamo
Research Center
International Business Machines Corporation
P. O. Box 218, Lamb Estate
Yorktown Heights, New York

Dear Dr. Gamo:

I was very much interested in receiving the paper and manuscript that you have sent me. I think the chief difference between information and thermodynamic entropy lies in the fact that information in the practical sense is information about something and thus conditional information. It depends not on absolute probability of the message input, but on the change in this intrinsic probability which is made by information concerning the output. This is a field in which the work of Shannon, Fano, and their colleagues is of the greatest importance. I should like to see you put your paper in relation with this earlier work. As to your work in optics, it is of great importance. The general theory of the optical instrument is an Hermitian operator theory and represents work quite parallel to that which I had done on polarized light and polarized instruments in my Acta paper in 1930.

I do very much wish a chance to meet you and to discuss scientific and other matters.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

September 25, 1959

Mr. William T. Lindorff
52 Berkeley Street
Boston 16, Mass.

Dear Mr. Lindorff:

I am not an expert in this branch of number theory. But I would be happy to talk with you. Will you look me up sometime in my office at M.I.T.?

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:nmk

September 25, 1959

Mr. Jay M. Scandrett
Box 3024
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Mr. Scandrett:

Many thanks for your courteous letter. It is always a pleasure to receive the good wishes of my readers.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW: mmk

September 25, 1959

Mr. M. F. M. Osborne
U. S. Naval Research Laboratory
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Osborne:

I am interested in your paper on Brownian motion in the stock market. The type of Gaussian distribution of the logarithm to which you refer is well known in problems of the fragmentation of materials and of the size distribution of particles in crushed rock or crushed coal. But I am sure you can lay your hands on such literature with the help of colleagues who are working in coal or mining engineering.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

September 25, 1959

Mr. A. Oswald
27, John Street
Rochdale, Lancs.
England

Dear Mr. Oswald:

I suggest that you get in contact with Dr. Watanabe of the International Business Machines Corporation at Ossining, New York, who has been immediately concerned both practically and philosophically with the sort of questions you ask concerning chess and chess-playing machines. I believe literature about such matters has recently appeared among the technical journals of the IBM and I am sure that Dr. Watanabe would be happy to send you copies.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

September 25, 1959

Dr. L. Y. Wei
Assistant Professor
Department of Electrical Engineering
University of Washington
Seattle 5, Washington

Dear Dr. Wei:

I find your paper interesting but not definitive. That the quantum theory must be applied to the dynamics of neurons is quite true. But I am of the opinion that a very large part of this dynamics is on a level where the nonquantum theory of classical mechanics is not too far off. It seems to me that the immediate need of neurophysiology lies rather in the development of an adequate dynamics of organized systems rather than in the application of quantum theory. Although there are indeed places where quantum theory considerations are of great importance. The usual contrast between quantum theory and classical theory as a theory of the discrete theory rather of the continuous strikes me as a little glib and subject to misinterpretation. There is a manuscript by Dr. Stanley-Jones of England on the cybernetics of living systems which is likely to appear as a book in the near future. If and when this appears I believe that you will find in it much that is relevant to the field in which you are interested.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

[ans 10/9/59]

826 ARLINGTON AVENUE
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Sept - 28 - 1959

My dear Professor Wiener -

We were so pleased
to hear from Barbara
that you are able to come
to the Radcliffe Club of
New Jersey either the
elevenents or the thirteenth
of November. If you have
no objections to the
thirteenth we would
prefer that time. It seems

easier for our people
who are so widely
scattered to come out
on a Friday rather
than a week night.

We have engaged
McCullough's Hall in
Montistown for the
evening. It is an
historic house which
is being restored and
is open to the public.
It should be a pleasant

826 ARLINGTON AVENUE
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

an interesting setting
and not too remote
from Barbara's when
I understand you
will be staying.

We are, indeed,
looking forward to
seeing you and, we hope,
Mrs. Wiener - and
do thank you for
consenting to come to us.
Cordially,

Elizabeth J. King
(Mrs. Victor R.)

[Aug 10/15/59]

"Game Playing &
moral Implications"

THE
NEW YORKER
No. 25 WEST 43RD STREET
NEW YORK, 36, N. Y.



OXFORD 5-1414

Sept. 28

Dear Norbert:

When is the book coming out
and when are you going to be in New York?
I'd love to see you.

Best regards to Mrs. ~~Wiener~~
Wiener.

Tom Whitmore

[Aug 9/30/59]

September 28, 1959

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

Dear Mr. Epstein:

Enclosed is a list of possible reviewers which we received from
Mr. Torrey, Editor of The Technology Review.

Professor Wiener received the two copies of the novel this morning
and sends word that he is delighted!

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure

[ans 9/30/59]

September 28, 1959

Miss Violet Haas
Assistant Professor
Department of Mathematics
University of Detroit
4001 N. McNichols Road
Detroit 21, Michigan

Dear Professor Haas:

Please excuse our delay in answering your request for a reprint
of Professor Wiener's article entitled, "Generalized Harmonic Analysis".
I regret to say that we have no more copies of that article.

Sincerely yours,

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

September 28, 1959

Mr. John J. Iago
302 Fidelity Building
Baltimore 1, Maryland

Dear Mr. Iago:

Your letter of June 9, 1959, to the New York University Press has been forwarded to us. We regret the delay in answering. There are no copies of Professor Wiener's speech in May at New York University since he spoke extemporaneously. I am enclosing a pamphlet which contains an interview along the same lines and hope that this will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure

September 28, 1959

Dr. Robert S. McCleery
630 Third Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Dr. McCleery:

Please excuse the delay in answering your letter of May 26, 1959. There are no copies of the speech which Professor Wiener made at New York University on May 16th. However, I am enclosing two reprints and a pamphlet which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosures

September 28, 1959

Mr. Werner F. Meyer
Editor-in-Chief
Mathemata
Manhattan College
Riverdale 71, New York

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Professor Wiener asked me to write and tell you that he would prefer not to be quoted concerning his observations in his two autobiographies. He has no objection to your giving the two books as references, but feels that it would be better not to reprint specific observations.

Sincerely yours,

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

September 28, 1959

Mr. Harold J. Ruttenberg, President
Stardrill-Keystone Company
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Ruttenberg:

Please excuse the delay in answering your letter of June 4, 1959. We are sorry to say that there are no copies of Professor Wiener's speech at New York University last May. However, I am enclosing a publication which contains an interview along the same lines as his speech.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure

September 28, 1959

Mr. Egbert J. Sormani
140-13 Rose Avenue (LB60)
Flushing 55, New York

Dear Mr. Sormani:

Professor Wiener regrets that he has found it necessary to refuse all requests for autographs but thanks you for your expression of interest.

Sincerely yours,

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

September 28, 1959

Dr. George J. Train
371 Parkside Avenue
Brooklyn 26, New York

Dear Dr. Train:

Please excuse our delay in answering your letter of July 8, 1959. Professor Wiener's article on child prodigies appeared in the Sunday magazine of the New York Times in 1957. I do not know the date of its appearance, but Professor Wiener submitted the article on May 2, 1957. You could write to Mr. Pierce G. Fredericks in the Sunday Department of the New York Times for more exact information.

Sincerely yours,

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



Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council
Educational television Channel 2, radio 89.7 mc. and motion pictures
UNiversity 4-6400
84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

September 29, 1959

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Office 2-276
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

As I mentioned to you yesterday, I had invited David Riesman to appear with you on the I'VE BEEN READING program to discuss your new novel. Mr. Riesman has regretfully declined the invitation because of his other commitments.

We are contacting Isaac Asimov immediately, and we will let you know as soon as possible whether he is available to appear on the program.

Mr. Warren Park, our producer for I'VE BEEN READING, telephoned Mr. Epstein at Random House, and he was delighted to hear about the I'VE BEEN READING program with you. He further stated that they had no other immediate television plans, although we relayed the message that you preferred to record any additional television they might desire in our studios. We expressed our interest and our availability, and he assured us that he would contact us if there are any further television plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert L. Larsen".

Robert L. Larsen
TV Program Manager

RLL/jo

cc: Mr. Warren Park



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Jason Epstein, EDITOR

September 30, 1959

Mrs. Margaret M. Kruger
Secretary to Professor Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Kruger:

Many thanks for the list of review media to which
to send Professor Wiener's book. Many of the
reviewers on your list would not, I am sure, have
occurred to us and I am very grateful to have your
advice.

Sincerely,

JE:mg



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Jason Epstein, EDITOR

September 30, 1959

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

Dear Norbert:

I hope the books arrived and that you like them.
Can you let me know definitely when you expect
to be in the city? I hope you can tell me this
at least a day or so in advance. If I could know
this I would then arrange the necessary appointments
for you to meet some of my colleagues in the publicity
department here who would very much like to talk to
you before you depart for Mexico.

Best to you and Margaret.

Yours as ever,

JE:mg

[Aug 10/5/59]



Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council
Educational television Channel 2, radio 89.7 mc. and motion pictures
UNiversity 4-6400
84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

September 30, 1959

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Office 2-276
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Isaac Asimov is delighted to appear with you on "I've Been Reading," Monday, November 2, 1959. He has agreed to be at the station at 8:45 on that evening for a brief pre-program discussion with program host, Al Duhamel, Professor of English, Boston College, and yourself.

We are all looking forward to an excellent program.

Yours sincerely,

Warren S. Park, Jr.
Producer-Director
"I've Been Reading"

cc: Robert Larsen

[ans 10/1/59]

Council Members Lowell Institute, Boston College, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Conservatory of Music, Northeastern University, Tufts University

September 30, 1959

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

Dear Jason:

I agree with you that the Random House people have done a splendid job in the typography, the bookmaking, and the jacket of my book. I want to pass on my compliments to the designer for the symbolic theme of his cover design which if I interpret it right represents a blot on scientific integrity. Now I am at your disposal and can only hope that the outcome of the publication will be gratifying to both of us.

I shall be in New York either the 8th or the 9th to talk things over with you and shall let you know in good time. With my thanks for the splendid job of editing you have done and with hopes that this is by no means the last time we shall work together, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

P.S. I have my suspicions that you are the author both of the synopsis and of the account of myself. I am thoroughly pleased with the fairness and restraint of both.

P.P.S. Whiteside of The New Yorker wants to see my book when it comes out and to talk it over with me when I come to New York. There is no one at The New Yorker whom I would prefer to have as my reviewer. Also, it might be interesting to have a review by Marquand.

NW:mmk

September 30, 1959

Mr. E. K. Gaylord
Chairman of the Board
Frontiers of Science Foundation
of Oklahoma, Inc.
Republic Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Gaylord:

Many thanks for your pleasant letter of July 9th. In the course of a summer in which I have done a considerable amount of travelling, I have mislaid your material. By its very central position Oklahoma is a little off my beat and I know of no visit to that region in prospect but if one should turn up, I should certainly think of you.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mnk

September 30, 1959

Mr. Thomas Whiteside
The New Yorker
No. 25 West 43rd Street
New York 36, New York

Dear Whiteside:

My book is printed but is to come out officially about the 29th of October. I am seeing to it that you get an advance copy as early as possible. I very much would like you to review it. I shall be in New York either the 8th or 9th of October and certainly want to be in touch with you. More precise information later.

Margaret joins me in sending our best wishes to both of you.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:mmk

September 30, 1959

Mr. Harold Winkler, President
KPFA (FM)
2207 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Mr. Winkler:

I have no written or tape material covering the talk at the New York University Institute of Philosophy last May. I am working up some of the material in a more finished form for a meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science in Chicago on December 27th and shall see that you get a copy if you will remind me sometime nearer that time.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:NMK