

125

CORRESPONDENCE *Sept 16-30, 1950*

N. WIENER - MC 22

vd

16 Sept. 1950.

Dr. Wiener,

In "The Human Use of Human Beings," on page 226, is written:

"The Church of ^{the} Bishops must assume that it is a universal organization; that there is no way to Salvation which does not go through it. For this reason, there is nothing which is more vexing to a Bishop than a saint in his diocese. By his very nature, the saint claims a direct relation with God. This relation by-passes the authority of the Church, even when it does not contravene it."

The following may interest you:

In Thomas Merton's Seeds of Contemplation (New Directions, 1949), on p. 18, one reads:

"The most dangerous man in the world is the contemplative who is guided by nobody."

Now, I do not think of myself as a contemplative, mystic, or saint, but in 1944 there was an event in my life. This event is widely described as a mystical experience.

Merton on p. 32 says: We become co-contemplatives when God discovers Himself in us

In the so-called mystical experience what happens seems to be compatible with the words: God discovers Himself in us.

This "discovery", in my case, happened to one who was outside of religions, that is I was not guided by superiors of this or that religion, church, or order. Hence I was ^(am) a most dangerous man, if I interpreted Merton correctly. However I am democrat enough to know that one can't be a democrat if one is not a heretic. As for a scientist, a democrat has a consecration which comes entirely from within himself. He is guided by nobody, from within, by "God" I happen to believe.

In any case I protested Merton's assertion for I felt that it is precisely those who insist that contemplatives, etc. must be guided by somebody — that these are the truly dangerous men of the world. Of course, I realize that there is no body who is not, to some extent, guided by many bodies, but I interpreted Merton to mean guided by the Church or superiors of the Church.

Merton's work bears the imprimatur of Francis Cardinal Spellman.

Merton did not answer my protest.

John Weber, C.S.P., of St. Paul's College, Washington, D.C. explained to me:

"The Church states that she is the ordinary means of salvation for all men. She says ordinary because many people in their life time may not know her. In such a case the extraordinary action of God can enter, which may even take the place in contemplation outside her walls. For an example of ^{the} extraordinary action of God you can find one in Acts 9, the conversion of Paul directly by God."

Incidentally, The Cardinal, though it does not bear an imprimatur, indicated that the Church of the Bishops has no monopoly on "salvation."

Another "event" happened in my life in 1944, a month or so prior to the "culminating" event: I dreamed of a previous personality existence in Jackson, Tenn. "I" was a wood products (carriages, coffins, etc.) manufacturer. This event led to a consideration of the possible indestructibility of memory. This event also seems to throw another monkey wrench into the machinery of those who voices are rigid.

201 Park Way
Dinuba, Calif.

Sincerely
J. Printice Womack

7007:

Laurent Schwarz

EMBAJADA DE MÉXICO

Washington, D. C.,
September 17, 1950.

Num.: 4826

File: 73-0/553.1"50"/15

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

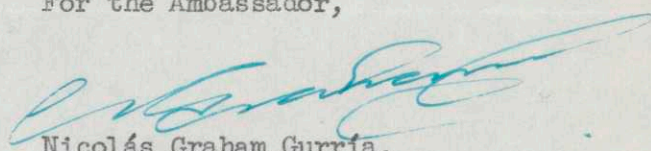
Dear Mr. Wiener:

With reference to your letter dated on the 7th of this month, on the possibilities of arranging for Professor Laurant Schwarz, of the University of Nancy France, to visit Mexico and deliver a few lectures, I am pleased to inform you that your communication has already been transmitted to the proper authorities.

As soon as a reply is received from Mexico, we will be glad to communicate again with you on this subject.

Yours very truly,

For the Ambassador,



Nicolás Graham Gurria,
First Secretary.

CPV: dmg.



MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE
NASHVILLE 8, TENNESSEE

CANCER RESEARCH LABORATORIES
Dr. P. F. Hahn, Director

September 18, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Your secretary wrote to say that it will be convenient for you to arrive in Nashville on Wednesday, October 11 and remain until the following afternoon. I am sure this will work out very satisfactorily and be assured that we shall all look forward to seeing you here at that time.

Very truly yours,

Paul F. Hahn

pfh;ywh

[ans. 10-17-50]

September 18, 1950

Mr. James G. Blair, Librarian
Yale Club
Vanderbilt Avenue and Forty-fourth Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Blair:

I am sure you can get a copy of Cybernetics
through the publisher, John Wiley and Sons,
440 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Margot Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

Z

September 18, 1950

Mr. Donald Bruce, Editor
Technocracy Digest
1166 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia

Dear Mr. Bruce:

I have previously received a certain amount of communication from people interested in Technocracy. As Technocracy not only involves a theory of life but a certain amount of propoganda organization, I feel very hesitant to identify my name explicitly with it.

I don't want to bring down the thunderbolts against you that are falling, and I think very justifiably on the heads of the dianetics people.

You understand that in the confusion of fan mail, and possibly hostile mail, I must watch my step very closely.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 18, 1950

Professor L. M. Graves
Department of Mathematics
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Professor Graves:

Enclosed is Professor Wiener's paper which
was delivered at the International Congress
of Mathematicians.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Margot Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

September 18, 1950

Mr. R. J. Howard
170 Summers Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Howard:

I have myself been thinking along the relation of quantum theory and relativity to communication theory. There is a close relation, I have no doubt, and I have some ideas as to its details but not enough to make a complete theory.

If I do at some future date, I hope it will appear in a form in which it may be accessible to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 18, 1950

Mr. Toni Strassman
24 East 61st Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Strassman:

Many thanks for your letter of the 12th.
For the present, I have no unbespoken
material, but I should be very glad to
send you material at some later date when
enough has accumulated.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z



Wellfleet
Cape Cod
Sept. 19th

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

NEW YORK OFFICE
432 FOURTH AVE.
CORNER 29TH STREET

Dear Dr. Wiener—

Have been intending to drop you a note ever since your visit to N.Y.C. But I was so swamped, preparatory to going off on a week's vacation, that I'm only now getting to it.

Just wanted to tell you what a wonderful job you did vis-à-vis the publicity chores you were subjected to, and to thank you for your splendid cooperation. I don't know when I've worked with a writer who was as pleasant—and successful—to work with as yourself.



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

NEW YORK OFFICE

432 FOURTH AVE.

CORNER 29TH STREET

Mr. Wiener's presence made it additionally pleasurable. I so much enjoyed meeting her.

I am presently winding up my vacation on Cape Cod. And delightful it is here, with its wind-swept moors and ocean-lapped stretches of uncluttered beach.

With renewed thanks for your gracious and effective cooperation, I am,

Cordially yours,

Patricia MacManus

(over)

[ans 9-25-50]

P.S.: I got in touch with Sterling North
(the syndicated critic who lives in
Mainstown - about whom I told you),
and he said he would try and reach
you through your son-in-law. He
was eager to interview you, so
I hope you were able to see him.

My kindest regards to Mr. Wiener.

R. H. M.

THE ASIA INSTITUTE

PETER GRIMM
President
ARTHUR UPHAM POPE
Chancellor



13 67th
EAST 70th STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

REgent 7-7400

September 19, 1950

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Professor Wiener:

I'm not much given to fan mail writing, but I found such prodigious satisfaction in the reading of your book (twice) on "The Human Use of Human Beings" that I have to make an acknowledgement somewhere.

I am in vociferous agreement with everything you said with the possible exception of some implications about cat intelligence; you may have a higher opinion of that scientific abstraction "The Laboratory Cat" than I have.

I have to deliver a convocation address to some graduates taking advanced degrees in our Institute and I'm going to borrow shamelessly from you. I can't squeeze in more than one footnote on that occasion, partly because the amenities forbid it and also because I don't want anyone to infer the painful truth that I get all my ideas from other people.

I owe you thanks for the nostalgic glow from your reference to the Tamworth Iron Works.

The whole book reminded me of a cold winter evening, I think February, 1908; I was studying philosophy with Royce Santayana and the rest of that galaxy, living in Conant Hall. As I came home, I saw you standing there addressing the Mathematics Club; it was a fascinating and delicious spectacle; and I stood there in the cold, wondering whether this was a dazzling flash or the beginning of a self-generating pile. Your book answers the question.

Thanks for a heartening few hours in a confused, dismal and dangerous world.

You're too busy to even answer this.

Very sincerely yours,

Arthur Upham Pope

AUP:m

[ans 9-28-50]

September 19, 1950

Division of Passports
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I have received the appointment of a Fulbright Fellowship for the second term of the present academic year. I am enclosing an expired passport to cover my wife and myself, and also a certified copy of her naturalization papers. I myself am a native born American citizen, born November 26, 1894 at Columbia, Missouri.

I shall be very much obliged if you give me a passport valid for France, England, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Holland, the American and English zones of Germany, Switzerland, and the Scandinavian countries. If it can be made of even greater scope, I am going to Mexico after my return from Europe, and although at present I do not need more than a tourist certificate for that trip.

I am also enclosing data concerning my daughter, Margaret Wiener, who will be of age by the time of the trip. She will want a separate passport as she will be spending most of her time in England. I should also like separate passports for myself and my wife, as it will be highly desirable for my wife to visit relatives in Germany while I am staying in France. In addition to the usual references, I refer you to Mr. Philip Raine, Cultural Attache of the United States Embassy in Mexico, as to details of how I have worked with the American Embassy there.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

September 19, 1950

Mr. Edward Alexander
2635 West Division Street
Chicago 22, Illinois

Dear Mr. Alexander:

I have no connection dianetics nor do I
approve the fanfare of claims which
Mr. Hubbard makes. If he has used any
part of my ideas, he has done so at ~~my~~
his own responsibility, and I do not consider
myself involved in any way in his ideas.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

September 19, 1950

Mr. David Dietz
Scripps-Howard Newspapers
The Cleveland Press Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Thanks very much for your letter of the twenty-fifth of August. I feel highly complimented that you have thought my book worth four consecutive columns.

As to the Christmas meeting, I don't think that I can make it. I have to go to France soon afterwards, and I am so loaded down with lectures before that I think the best thing to do is to let well enough alone.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Mr. Donald B. Edmonton
Franklin Technical Institute
41 Berkeley Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Edmonton:

I do not endorse dianetics in any way. The fanfare with which it is written does not suggest to me any dependable background of scientific thought.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Herr Max Fischer
Munchen-Pasing
Cervantesstr. 13
Munchen, Germany

Dear Herr Fisher:

I don't know how seriously projects for the melting of the Greenland ice cap by atomic energy are to be taken. One thing is manifest. Either they will be unsuccessful or perilous beyond belief. For one thing the change in the level of the ocean would drown out a great many of our ports and greatest cities.

I refuse to believe these things to be practical politics until I see a great deal more detailed consideration of their effects.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Mr. E. G. Henry
621 Eleventh Street
Wilmette, Illinois

Dear Mr. Henry:

I am delighted to receive your note concerning my Cybernetics and the Human Use of Human Beings. I am interested also in your intellectual background which is both varied and relevant. Your attitude to Freud agrees with my own own; namely, that he is a good forerunner and a bad complete mentor. Roughly speaking, he is a John the Baptist and not a Jesus Christ.

As to Korzybski, if I gave the impression of respecting him, that I gave an impression which does not correspond to the facts. I knew how much of a charlatan he was, but I did not desire to get into an unnecessary row. As to your inquiry as to why Cybernetic work wasn't done earlier, the answer is that it is never a miracle that any work isn't done earlier. Work appears when the ground is ripe for it, and the engineering work on which Cybernetics is based is recent. I am very interested in your comments on the nature of invention. It does not change very much my idea that the law is meant to protect a non-existing stage of the invention technique.

As to what you say about the "symboleers" and the gadgeteers, I feel that I belong somewhere in between them. My natural thoughts are symbolism, but I have associated with gadgeteers long enough to be able to think in their terms. As to what you say about operation gadgets for overcoming the diseases of organizations--an organizational gadget is just about as good as the people behind it and no better. I have very little confidence in the existence of a universal cure for the mechanization of human beings. When sun power

Mr. E. G. Henry--2

goes we may be able to keep going on other power, but my confidence in Santa Claus is considerably less than yours.

Meantime I am interested in what you have to say about your boy. I hope to see him and have him work with me sometime.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Mr. Randal Heymanson
Australian Newspapers Service
Times Annex
229 West 43rd Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Heymanson:

I am very gratified by receiving your letter of the 28th of August. I think that in discussing the pressure put on the syndicated columnist there are indirect pressures which are greater than those which you name.

I think the first difficulty is in starting one's career. Once one has reached a certain degree or position, he has also reached a certain degree of independence in his opinions; but if he starts with independence, he will never have position. The result is that even our honest men are those who have been carefully broken in to the idea of keeping their mouths shut.

In such matters as the handling by our columnists of anti-aircraft defense, and the atomic bomb, the syndicated silence for which they are responsible is, alas, only too clear.

What you say about the old Scotch dominies appeals to me. My own education was at the hands of my father who was a very good German-Jewish example of something very similar. Such an education hurts, but it certainly contains a kernel that is very well worth while.

Of course, I know very well that the original idea of radar came from England. It is still true that the development came from both sides of the ocean, and that there was an enormous effort on the part of young men here to carry on the work. The problem of radar was not

Mr. Randal Heymanson--2

merely the central problem which had been solved by the inventors of the cavity oscillator, but the much greater one of bringing the whole of electrical engineering up to a fineness of conception which was suited to such delicate tools. This second part of radar work was completely international from the very beginning. I am not saying this in any chauvinsitic vein, but merely expressing the facts as they appear to me.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Lt. JG Robert B. Mark
USS Valley Forge CV45
c/o FPO San Francisco, California

Dear Lieutenant Mark:

Dr. Wiener's book on the "Fourier Integral and Certain of Its Applications" may be purchased through the Cambridge University Press, 200 Euston Road, N.W.1, London, England. The Cambridge University Press is represented in this country by Macmillan, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and you might be able to obtain a copy through them.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Margot Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Mr. Walter B. Pitkin
P.O. Box 524
Los Altos, California

Dear Mr. Pitkin:

Thanks for your good will and your letters.
Their voluminousness has left me feeling
like an amateur boxer after a Sunday punch.

As soon as my consciousness returns to
normal, and the duties that accumulate
around the beginning of term are less
acute, I shall try to write you a real
letter.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Professor Alex W. Rathe
College of Engineering
New York University
University Heights
New York 53, New York

Dear Mr. Rathe:

The title Cybernetics and Management seems to me perfectly all right, and roughly speaking I can talk in the territory that you wish. Please give me however time to think it out.

In general, if I am allowed the degree of freedom to improvise on the spot in a field that has been already agreed upon, I do my best work.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Mr. F. Roberts
Department of Anatomy
University College London
Gower Street, W. C. 1
London, England

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I have been delighted to receive your letter. Meantime I shall be in Europe sometime around the first of February with Paris as my headquarters, but frequent trips to England.

Go on with the good work.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

[Faint handwritten notes in the bottom left corner, including "W. C. 1" and "Gower Street"]

September 19, 1950

Mr. F. Roberts
Department of Anatomy
University College London
Gower Street, W.C.1
London, England

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I have been delighted to receive your letter. Needless to say I shall be in Europe sometime around the first of February with Paris as my headquarters, but frequent trips to England.

Go on with the good work.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Wiener

NW:z

Handwritten notes:
7th
Fulton Road
London
W.C.1
Sept 1950
Mr. F. Roberts

September 19, 1950

Mr. F. H. Rockett
Airborne Instruments Laboratory
160 Old Country Road
Mineola, New York

Dear Mr. Rockett:

You already know that I have decided not to give a talk to the AIEE, but to pass the responsibility on to my colleagues Mr. Wiesner, Mr. Fano, and Mr. Lee. I appreciate very much your turning to me first, but I feel both that I have been a little bit overactive on the platform and that my younger colleagues deserve a hearing.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Dr. Arturo Rosenblueth
Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia
Calzada de la Piedad, 300
Mexico, D. F., Mexico

Dear Arturo Rosenblueth:

I shall be with you in about a year. Meantime, I am up to my neck in getting my French lectures ready. They seem to be coming along very nicely, and I am very hopeful of success from the trip.

My Human Use of Human Beings is out and doing very well in the line of contributing to a little change for our old age. Family things are going excellently, and we are both of us looking forward to our next Mexican trip with a great deal of anticipation. I promise you that by that time, I shall have no other obligations but your own.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Mr. Porter Sargent
26 Weybridge Road
Brookline, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Sargent:

I am very gratified by your letter. I shall be interested to see your early work on neurological matters.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Mr. Charles R. Suska
The Bristol Company
Waterbury 91, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Suska:

I suggest very strong that you get in touch
with Mr. Bernard S. Benson, Benson-Lehner Corp.,
11941 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 25, California.

Mr. Benson has been working on an apparatus of
exactly the type your letter concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Miss Dorothy Thompson
237 East 48th Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Thompson:

I notice that today an appreciable part of your column in the Boston Globe is devoted to me. It seems to me that you have completely misunderstood my point of view. I am quite as disturbed as you are concerning the consequences of the replacement of labor by automatic machines which is coming at a reasonable speed at present, but which will come at an immoderate speed if we engage in a major war.

I happen to know what the technical possibilities of this field are, and I have considered it my duty to tell these possibilities to other people. Among the people whom I have chosen to announce my results to is Mr. Walter Reuther of the Union of Automobile Workers. He can tell you very well that I am neither indifferent to the social consequences of what is happening, nor gratified by them.

I am seeing that my publisher send you a copy of my new book The Human Use of Human Beings. May I ask you in fairness to record in your column your opinion of what I have said after you have read this book, rather than depending on newspaper articles which as you know are very often beyond the control of the interviewee.

I have admired a great deal your stand in many matters of European and world politics, and I value your good opinion very highly.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

September 19, 1950

Miss Louise E. Thornton
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Miss Thornton:

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I do remember Foxboro very well, and I am not sure that we did not meet there. It belongs to the very early memories of my childhood.

Although my recollections are quite limited, I remember a little stream with a dam across it; I remember a pond where we used to go swimming, and I remember the walk to the village from where we lived. I remember the old engineer who was hospitable to me when I came in and looked at his machinery.

This is a jumble of recollections, and doesn't mean much, but it brings you my thanks and good wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 19, 1950

Dean B.K. Trippet
Wabash College
Crawfordsville, Indiana

Dear Dean Trippet:

Thank you so much for your cordial invitation. I should like to accept for Wednesday, November 8, but I shall not be able to leave Boston until after my nine o'clock class Wednesday morning. I will arrive by plane and spend Wednesday night, and as much of Thursday as I can-- that is, I have to be back at MIT for another nine o'clock class on Friday morning.

I sincerely hope all this meets with your approval, as I am looking forward very much to my visit.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

[see 11-13-50

September 19, 1950

Dr. Arthur A. Ward
Department of Surgery
School of Medicine
University of Washington
Seattle 5, Washington

Dear Dr. Ward:

Many thanks for your letter of September 5.
I am a little short of photographs at present,
shall send you one as soon as I get one.

Meanwhile our family is in a turmoil in connection with my planned trip to France for the second semester.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

[ans 10-19-50]

Aschwin Lippe, Asso. Curator, Dept. of Far Eastern Art
THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

September 20th 1950.

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass

Dear Dr. Wiener:

First of all I wish to apologize for letting you wait so long for an answer. While in Europe, I had not left a forwarding address as I moved around a lot, so I only found your letter in Holland shortly before my return beginning of September. I decided to speak to Tucci first which I have done in the meantime.

I was very surprised and very glad when I read your letter, and I greatly appreciate your attitude. As to your judgment of Tucci's character, I am inclined to agree on most points, with the exception of the "rather shallow emotions." He certainly is very unbalanced, to an extent sometimes that worries me. Unfortunately I do not have the influence on him to be the balance-wheel you are speaking of and which he would need. In this concrete instance however, I think I can be something like it. In any case I shall try to mediate between your different view points, and I can guarantee that not a word is going to be published without your written consent. How far he will be able to understand and interpret you and your endeavours in a way acceptable to you, we shall see. I myself have had lengthy and violent discussions with him on the subject of science and scientific thought and method which, I am afraid, he has a tendency to blame for abuses due to the human weaknesses of the scientist, and for the people who employ him and exploit his output. The products of science and the specialisation of the scientist who lost his humanitarian basis have helped to further authoritarianism but, but, to my mind scientific and rational thinking on an individual plane is still the only, if feeble and incomplete, safeguard against just this development. Scientific thinking and method, if they deserve this name, are naturally and essentially opposed to any authoritarianism, political, religious, or otherwise.

I do hope that my function as an umpire, I would rather say mediator, will not end by both of you being "brouillé" with me. Tucci - if I did not mention that before - agrees with your terms.

As to armageddon (Which I had to look up in Webster's, my Bible knowledge being somewhat weak)- it would really be so much more simple if we could speak or think in terms of the forces of the good waging battle against the forces of evil. One even would not mind the big bang afterwards quite as much.

Very sincerely yours

Aschwin Lippe

Ans. 9-25-50]

September 20, 1950

Mrs. H. M. Ahearn
Arthur D. Little, Inc.
Chemists-Engineers
Memorial Drive
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Ahearn:

I like your bulletin for the memories. There are two or three suggestions I should like to make. One is that a recorded memory or tape can be modified by past experience, and that in that way we may construct a mechanism which learns.

Another important consideration is that a machine should never believe any statement not checked by two independent channels. A rapidly operating machine has not the time to go back on itself and correct, and it is far better that the correction be continuous and instantaneous.

There is far more to be said about these things, part of which I have said in my Cybernetics and in my new book The Human Use of Human Beings.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 20, 1950

Mr. Franz J. Horch
325 East 57th Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Horch:

I would like to have you take charge of the translation problem of my book in foreign languages. There are two people who are competent to do a translation job into their respective languages and if it will be possible to find publishers to take them on, I would be very gratified.

In Japan, Dr. Shikao Ikehara, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Oh-okayama, Meguroku, Tokyo is extremely well-qualified and anxious to do the job; and similarly for German, Mrs. Gertrud Walther, Fichtestrasse 32, 15 Darmstadt, Germany. If you could manage to act as mediator, and put these very competent people together with the right publishers, it would be doing me a great favor!

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 20, 1950

Professor Robert Kline
Center Sandwich, New Hampshire

Dear Kline:

I am sending this application to you along with the man's letter. I have no direct knowledge of his work, and would rather have his application signed by some of the officials of the Society.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 20, 1950

RG 2850

Mr. G. Seger, Director of Public Health
Federal Security Agency
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Mr. Seger:

This project seems to me well thought out and perfectly practical. It is very much along the lines that we are working on at MIT under the leadership of Dr. Jerome Wiesner and myself. I do not think that in a field like this which accrues to the public good that there can be any real excess of workers in the field and we welcome competition.

The young man who is recommended seems good and his ideas are in the right direction. His report is sane and intelligent one. Without accepting any responsibility except such facts as have been handed to me, my reaction is to encourage his work and his project.

I have been out of town and I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 20, 1950

Mr. J. Prentise Womack
201 Park Way
Dinuba, California

Dear Mr. Womack:

I am very much interested in your letter of the 15th of August. Since my Cybernetics has come out, I have actually got in touch with the Labor Unions through Mr. Walter Reuther. I appreciate very much the problem of itinerant farm labor, but I have not sufficient direct experience of them to be in a position to take action by contacting Washing authorities in the matter myself.

I suggest very strongly that you see my new book, and particularly the chapter on the Second industrial revolution. It may give you ideas for going ahead yourself.

Very sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

4 November 1950

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I cannot put down The Human Use
of Human Beings without telling
you how much I admire the
scope and method and purpose
of your argument. The combina-
tion of intelligence, human in-
sight, and courage you display
in that book sets a high level
for the rest of us. I feel as if
I should thank you, not just
personally, but on behalf of

The human race!

with warm respect

Faithfully yours
Lewis Mumford

Sept. 21, 1950
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

I have just finished reading your book "The Human Use of Human Beings." I found in it much to agree with, considerable to shudder at, and at times disagreement. However, what I am pleased with most is that you took time out to write it. That you as a practicing engineer, inventor ~~or~~ if you will, looked beyond the immediate use of your findings to consider their social impact.

I am one of those who suffered under the narrow limits of an engineering education. It has taken me about 8 years to get rid of a lot of nonsense taught me in this grab bag that passes for education. Since my graduation I have come to the conclusion that if America has educated men it is not because of her institutions but in spite of them.

(2)

The question, What is Technology? has haunted me ever since my contact with the subtleties of science. For it seems to me that when gadgets are designed for humanitarian reasons they are anti-human. The social consequences of a new idea, a new gadget, are always overlooked except in their immediate use. Indeed, it would seem that inventors are not even too much concerned with the immediate effect. At least not as much as they are in perfecting the gadget itself. It would seem that technology is indeed perfection without purpose. That the engineer, as Ortega has pointed out, invents life as the novelist would.

I am but a parasite on the thought of Owen, Ruskin, Thoreau and Eric Gill. Mankind ignored them as I have no doubt they will ignore you. However, it is heartening to find a book such as yours, and that engineers are looking up before history pulls the rug out from under them. That some men are not using that feeble excuse of claiming they

③ are only scientists, engineers etc. and cannot speak on other problems - that's out side their speciality. I think you will agree this is mostly mental laziness. And also the result of an educational system that amounts to a betrayal of youth. - Diseases we have in abundance, but perhaps the most hideous disease is specialization. Its a creeping paralysis.

I sincerely hope your warnings are heeded. (Although as a Catholic I do not believe you need be frightened at the Jesuits) In the long run they probably will, but it may be that we have enmeshed ourselves in such a tangle of technicalities that only catastrophes can set us loose.

Sincerely Yours.

Charles S. McHarness
4010 44th S.W.
Seattle, Wash.

[ams 10-3-50]

My dear Dr Wiener,

I am a Victorian.

I should like to know
what kind of world
my grandson is going
to live in. Will you
kindly give me the names
of some of your books
on the new industrial
revolution, — referred
to in the enclosed

clipping; Some nice
easy ones - pleasant
to read.

Sincerely yours,
Ella J. Meyer.
(Mrs. J. Franklin Meyer)

3727 Locust St.
Washington
D. C.

September 21, 1950.

2071

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PARKER WHEATLEY, *Director*

Telephone: KENMORE 6-6522

September 21, 1950

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2-165
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am most happy to confirm the arrangements for your discussion of the question "Will Machines Replace Men in Industry?" with President Leonard Carmichael of Tufts and Dean George R. Harrison, Professor Harold L. Hazen and Professor Douglass V. Brown of M.I.T. We shall meet at four o'clock Tuesday afternoon, September 26, in the Moore Room, 6-321, M.I.T. It appears almost certain that we should conclude the discussion by six o'clock at the latest.

At this writing we have not yet completed our search for a qualified high school student who might be invited to put questions to you and your colleagues at an appropriate point in your conversation.

Dean Harrison and I are particularly pleased that you are going to join in this experiment in science broadcasting. I feel confident that the outcome will be worthwhile and satisfying.

Yours sincerely,

Parker Wheatley
Parker Wheatley

cmh

September 21, 1950

Mr. F. H. Rockett
Airborne Instruments Laboratory
160 Old Colony Road
Mineola, New York

Dear Mr. Rockett:

Professor Wiener has asked me whether I would be willing to take his place in connection with the talk to the joint AIEE and IRE section as suggested in your letter of September 11. I am very happy to do this if the subject in which your committee is interested is "Information Theory," and including perhaps something of the more general aspects of cybernetics.

I presume that this is the case since I understand from Professor Lee that he is scheduled to talk on correlation techniques on November 21. I would appreciate your advising me what your wishes are in this matter, and also as to whether the talk should be of an introductory character or be more advanced. It would also help me to know who the other speakers in the winter lecture series are to be.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Fano
Department of Electrical Engineering

Arthur D. Little, Inc.

CHEMISTS · ENGINEERS



CAMBRIDGE 42, MASSACHUSETTS

MEMORIAL DRIVE
AT KENDALL SQUARE

ESTABLISHED
1886

September 22, 1950

Professor Norbert Wiener
Room 2-165, M. I. T.
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

We wish to thank you for your comments on our INDUSTRIAL BULLETIN article on automatic memories. A copy of the Bulletin in which this article appears will be sent to you when it is published.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR D. LITTLE, INC.

By

Mary H. Ahearn

Mrs. H. M. Ahearn

FRANZ J. HORCH

AUTHORS' AND PUBLISHERS' REPRESENTATIVE
325 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

September 22, 1950

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

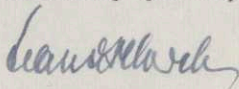
Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you for your letter of September 20th.

I am handling the translation rights in Houghton Mifflin's for many years including THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS.

As far as your suggestions concerning a Japanese and German translator are concerned I have forwarded your instructions to my respective representatives and asked them to see to it that the publishers in the respective countries try to work out an arrangement with the persons named by you.

Sincerely yours,



Franz J. Horch

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DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS
MASSACHUSETTS INSTIT. OF TECH.
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

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By accepting this order you hereby warrant that the material to be furnished hereunder will be in full conformity with the specification, drawing or sample and agree that this warranty shall survive acceptance of and payment for the material, and you agree to save us harmless from any loss, damage or expense whatsoever, including attorney's fees, that we suffer as a result of your failure to abide by such warranty. We reserve the specific right to have rejected material replaced by you or not at our option and at the purchase price stipulated in this order. Material rejected shall be returnable to you for full credit at the price charged, plus transportation charges. We reserve the further right to accept a part of any shipment which fulfills our specifications and to reject any part which

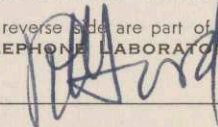
does not fulfill such specifications and to consider this order breached to the extent of the amount of the rejected material.

By accepting this order you certify that you comply with the "Fair Labor Standards Act, 1938, as amended." Should we receive credible evidence that you have not done so we may cancel this order and refuse to take delivery under the same and may return goods delivered hereunder and obtain reimbursement therefor.

By accepting this order you hereby guarantee and agree that all machines, devices and materials furnished hereunder (and the normal use thereof) are and shall be free and clear of infringement of any valid patent, copyright or trademark, and that you will, at your own expense, defend any and all actions or suits charging such infringement and will save us, our customers and those for whom we may act as purchasing agent, harmless in case of any such infringement.

We are not bound by any printed matter on suppliers' acknowledgment forms or invoices which impose upon us conditions at variance with the terms of our contract or with this order.

Additional conditions on reverse side are part of this purchase order.
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By  BUYER

A 19188 RF

485 WEST STREET, NEW YORK 14, N.Y.

CHAS. S. FORD

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

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DATE 9-22-50

PROFESSOR ROBERT WIENER

DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS

MASSACHUSETTS INSTIT. OF TECH.

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

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All obligations hereunder are subject to Governmental Agency Regulations, including those affecting or limiting prices, production, purchase, sale, use or inventory of materials.

If the face of this order carries a notation that all or any portion thereof covers materials intended for use in connection with contracts of the United States Government then, in accepting this order, you agree to the following conditions:

1. Performance under this order will be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the statement of labor policy contained in House Document No. 950, 76th Congress, Third Session, September 13, 1940, relative to overtime pay and Federal, State and Local statutory provisions affecting labor relations, hours of work, wages, workmen's compensation, safety and sanitation; further, you will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color or national origin.
2. You will bring to the attention of each person employed by you in performing under this order the provisions of the following:
 - U. S. Espionage Act.
 - Section 1 of U. S. Congressional Act of January 12, 1938, relative to photographs, etc., of military and naval installations and equipment.
 - U. S. Presidential Executive Order No. 8381, dated March 22, 1940, pertaining to Section 1 of Act of January 12, 1938.
3. If the face of this order carries a notation "Walsh-Healey Act Applies" you shall comply with the provisions of the Walsh-Healey Act in the production of goods covered by this order. See Act of June 30, 1936, Public 846, 74th Congress, as amended.

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[Handwritten signature]

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CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

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THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT INDICATES OUR ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR ORDER FOR ABOVE
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(GIVE APPROXIMATE DATE)

SUPPLIER _____

DATE _____ SIGNED _____

September 22, 1950

Dr. S. A. Simeone
Cleveland City Hospital
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Simmy:

I hear you have left Boston between two days. We are going to miss you a lot. Meanwhile, I have a question to ask you. It may be very embarrassing, but I am a little worried about a good many changes in plan that Arturo has made.

First he was going to Europe, and then he did not go. He is emphasizing to me that he is in a mad working vein, and that he is pushing his schedule harder than he ever has. We both know that if anything serious had happened to him that is exactly what he would do. I haven't any direct evidence that anything has gone wrong with his health, but if it had you would be the first to know it. If then you can find it at all consistent with your medical responsibility and everything is in order, will you please give us, his dear friends assurance in the matter and remove a serious source of worry.

Margaret joins me in sending regards to you and your wife.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

Columbia University
in the City of New York

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

WALTER B. PITKIN

P.O. Box 524, Los Altos, Calif.

Sept. 24, 1950

Dear Mr. Wiener:

Your pleasant note in hand leaves me with a sense of guilt. I am always more voluminous than luminous when aroused by somebody with creative ideas. This time you are teh vctim. (typing errors.)

Pay no further attention to my effusions. If they put an idea into your head, that will be reward enough. And if they don't, treat them as background noise.

Just to annoy you a little, may I suggest that you put some over-eager student at work building an electronic tennis player? Here we see the simlest dichotomy in action; our robot merely has to return the ball to the spot in the court furthest from its opponent. The robot's racket might be attached to a free-swinging arm at the center of the back line of the court.

This new champion might soon discourage all college sports and start a great movement back to the classrooms. The most sport-crazy frshman can hardly keep his enthisasms for sport at fever level when he emerges from a bout with the robot. I hope higher education may some day exterminate college athletics with some such gadget.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Pitkin

RALPH S. BANAY, M.D.
709 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.
BUTTERFIELD 8-9060

Sept 25th 1950

Professor Norbert Wiener,
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston,
Mass.

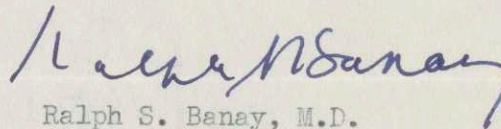
Dear Professor Wiener,

As Secretary of the Section of the Legal Aspects of Psychiatry of the American Psychiatric Association, I would like to extend to you an invitation to deliver a paper at the next annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, to be held May 7th to 11th, 1950, in Cincinnati, Ohio. We are arranging a symposium on "Anti-Social Behavior" and there will be three other speakers of eminence.

The theories which you put forward in your book "Cybernetics" are considered to have great significance in psychiatric thinking and we feel that your paper, if you are able to accept this invitation, would fill a scientific need.

The paper will take between twenty and thirty minutes to deliver. I shall look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will see your way to accepting this invitation.

Sincerely



Ralph S. Banay, M.D.

Secretary, Section of Legal Aspects of Psychiatry
American Psychiatric Association

RSB:mc

[ans 10-3-50]

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

25th September 1950.

Dr. Norbert Wiener,
Professor of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 39, Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

I thank you very much for your kind letter of August the 24th, which reached me via Vienna 4 days ago.

I very much appreciate the interest you have taken in my manuscript and the understanding you have shown for its spirit.

With your application of statistical mechanics to control problems, you have helped greatly to overcome a conceptional difficulty of my Collisionmechanics.

This difficulty was the very reason for my reluctance to publish it fully uptil now, inspite that it had proved its power and its results are in perfect agreement with experimentally established facts.

After the Indian Science Congress early this year, two well known Theoretical Physicists challenged the quantity " α " which appears in my equation for Plancks Constant "h". I was accused to have fixed its numerical value arbitrarily as 1.

"Alpha" has the peculiar property of being either of measure zero or measure 1, but all my attempts to prove conclusively why it must behave like this failed.

Contd.....

When I read your "Cybernetics", I knew at last not only why ∞ must behave as it does, but why my own attempts to find it out were bound to fail.

Nothing short of re-inventing Lebesgue's theory of measures could have been successful.

In my first enthusiasm, I was tempted to identify ∞ with the Lebesgue measure straight away, but I saw very quickly that the matter was not so simple as all that, since my system is non-linear.

Fortunately it proved possible to make it linear by introducing a new independent variable.

There is quite a possibility that the operation by which I made my non-linear system linear may have a much wider range of application, than just for my present problem.

There is strong evidence that the specific type of stable non-linear oscillation appearing in Collisionmechanics is the only type which can exist in an assembly containing one ergodic component.

If this is so, any stable non-linear oscillation appearing within a stationery non-ergodic system, should be reducible to a set of linear oscillations, by introducing new independent variables, according to the procedure I have used for my specific problem.

If my assumption should prove correct, your "Generalized Harmonic Analysis" could deal in a general way with any stable non-linear oscillation appearing in stationery statistical assemblies.

I believe this aspect will interest you particularly in connection with your physiological work and this is my excuse for asking you to spare a bit of your most valuable time.

I should be grateful indeed, if you would agree to criticize Collisionmechanics before publication and to write to me your opinion. There is nobody I should trust more to put his finger on any weak spot.

When I receive a positive reply from you, I shall forward immediately
the manuscript.

Very sincerely yours,

George Foges

Dr. George Foges.

SCRIPTA MATHEMATICA

PUBLISHED BY YESHIVA COLLEGE, NEW YORK CITY

September 25, 1950

Professor Norbert Wiener
Mass. Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

It is with a nervous feeling of guilt and mortification that I find myself compelled to report to you that your valuable review of Frank's biography of Einstein has been misplaced at my office or at the office of our printer. We have been diligently searching for it in both offices, but so far of no avail. It will probably turn up at some later date but in order to avoid further delay in publishing it, I take the liberty of asking you to please send me ~~the~~ carbon copy of the manuscript.

I am extremely sorry to have such a thing happen, especially to a paper written by you. Please accept my humble apology for the annoyance caused you by this matter. I can assure you that it will never happen again.

With many thanks for your kind cooperation and with reiterated apologies, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jekuthiel Ginsburg

Jekuthiel Ginsburg

JG:EE

Jekuthiel Ginsburg
Jekuthiel Ginsburg
Jekuthiel Ginsburg
47 Lincoln St
Watson

Case 1-10-10
Dear Sir,
I am sorry to hear of your illness and hope you are getting better.
I will send you a copy of the book as soon as it is published.
I am,
Sincerely,
Your friend,
H. H. S. S.

Dear Professor Winters:

Cambridge, Mass.
September 22, 1900

PUBLISHED BY ALBANY COLLEGE NEW YORK CITY
SCRIPBA MATHEMATICA

THE ALBANY COLLEGE NEW YORK CITY
PUBLISHED BY ALBANY COLLEGE NEW YORK CITY
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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, NEW YORK 53, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF
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TELEPHONE: LUDLOW 4-0700

September 25, 1950

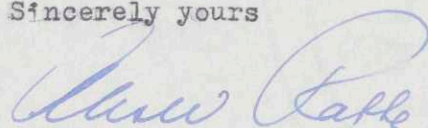
Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am very happy that the general outline of the territory suggested in previous correspondence appeals to you. Of course, improvisation will be fine if you prefer this. How would you like to have a small group of executives available for an equally improvised discussion of your paper through the eyes of the practitioners of management? Once your thoughts have crystallized, it would be an easy matter to develop a few questions which the panel would take up.

I am looking forward to hearing from you again when matters have taken on more tangible form and also where we may perhaps pick you up prior to the meeting which is slated to start around 6:30 PM.

Sincerely yours



Alex W. Rathe
Associate Professor

awr/eop

September 25, 1950

Mr. Aschwin Lippe
Associate Curator, Department of Far Eastern Art
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York 28, New York

Dear Mr. Lippe:

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 20th. By this time I am thoroughly started in the new semester after the birthpangs of my new book and the confusion of the late International Mathematical Congress. I am sailing for France in January, and in between I have got myself into a schedule of lectures and organization of courses that the very devil couldn't make easy.

In view of this I don't think it is appropriate time for my profligation--or is the word proflilement. Let's let the thing slide until my return from Europe.

Meantime, thank you very much for your letter which I greatly appreciate.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 25, 1950

Miss Patricia Mac Manus
Houghton Mifflin Company
432 Fourth Avenue, Corner 29th Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss MacManus:

Many thanks for your delightful letter of the 19th. It is a pleasure working with you people in view of your understand and consideration. We have the best news of the book here, which by the present time has exceeded 6,100 copies.

I have a suspicion that at Wellfleet you are visiting the Wilsons. I probably will appear there next week. I hear that Mr. Edmund Wilson thinks rather well of the book.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

September 25, 1950

Professor John von Neumann
Institute for Advanced Studies
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Johnny:

Mr. Felix Browder of our Department finds himself on the job market. He is the son of Earl Browder of the Communist Party. He has been here for some years and is a brilliant and dignified student and in his own dealings completely non-political. The termination of his job here is due to the fact that it was definitely a limited fellowship, and implies nothing unfavorably either about his ability or his character. Under present circumstances, it is rather hard to find a job for a man with this name whatever his qualifications are.

I would like to see him find a stipend from the Institute of Advanced Studies, and I know that if you get him you will be delighted both with his work and with his personality.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

JOSIAH MACY, JR. FOUNDATION
565 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 21

WILLARD C. RAPPLEYE, M. D.
PRESIDENT
FRANK FREMONT-SMITH, M. D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE
REGENT 4-2461
CABLE ADDRESS
MACYFOUND, NEW YORK

Sept. 26, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

I am writing to take advantage of your generous offer to help when you said that you would be happy to give me a list of the purchasers of your book on Cybernetics.

If your secretary could send me this list, it would help a great deal in the advertising transactions of the Macy Foundation Conference on the same subject.

It would also be a tremendous favor if your secretary could send me the addresses of the following publications so that we may send them copies of our books for reviews.

"Bulletin of the Mathematical Society"

"American Scholar"

"Endeavor"

"Scritta Mathematica"

Also, would you please tell me where I may obtain a copy of the "Hixon Symposia on Feedback Mechanisms".

Thanking you for all your help in this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

Janet Freed
Janet Freed,
Asst. for Conf. Pro.

JF/jmc

[ans 10-3-50]

Enclaves

{
\$ Road 44th St, New York City

Enclaves
Imperial Chemicals, Ltd
Rebel House
Buckingham Gate
London, S.W. 1

Sociedad Matematica
Historia de la Matematica
1861/2
- 33

Very truly
yours,
J. W. I.

557 Kosciusko St.
Brooklyn 21, N.Y.
Sep. 26th 1950

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

From a short biography of a recently deceased mathematician abroad, I learn of the object of studies by these professionals. I find that the time element plays a very important role in their field of observation. Since time is of their appropriate field, may I interject that I feel it is time from May 12th, the date of my dispatching the Ms. Capitalism Overhauled, to receive a reply, especially as I wrote you seven communications. True, you wrote me on May 2nd of the current year and I quote: "that I must insist on my own rules and regulations." You will readily admit that no man is boss over himself. In this time lag you were called that many times for your physiological functions and thus may you discern that one cannot set out rules as to his movements and actions. Besides we have imbibed from our earlier upbringing to be civil and polite when a passerby in Cambridge says: Good morning, Dr. Wiener, you surely tell him: good morning and it is a nice weather. Well, since last May, the lovely spring, we have autumn now and you have not told this man, Max Pasternak, boo! And speaking of time, permit me to quote from the Commissioner of labor statistics: "The first half of this century saw amazing changes in industry. In 1900, corporations produced only about 65% of manufacturing output in the U.S. but today, corporations produce about 90%. The corporation has grown in economic significance because it is the form of business organization best equipped to achieve maximum efficiency in production." And you know that my proposal is to the effect that the 10% lag is to be also under the corporate setup, obviously as one pool in our economy. And is this hard to understand? Why do you consume that much time. You realize how much is wasted in the meantime. Over here in New York we have the General Assembly and it is said that the U.N. has some sixty points on its agenda, while one word from Dr. Wiener is to suffice to tell them how to resolve their nerve wrecking points and fold up and go home to celebrate their Christmas among their own. The word to spread around is that Capitalism Overhauled takes adequately care of their worries. And speaking of time you surely are aware that we have built up some morals on this earth. Are you not aroused by a sentence in the Prologue on page one: "Every fellow human is in duty bound not to go in waste his life, but to contribute something useful and for the betterment of the contemporaries and posterity. And another: Any so aware of this solution and by staying still is an accomplice to a capital crime"? Much blood is spilled over in Korea and for what? It is an erroneous ideology that men shed blood and one word from you Dr. Wiener may resolve this bloody mess.

The word is to the effect to notify the Secretary General of the U.N. and the American Delegation that hereafter let Capitalism Overhauled and its directives take care whereupon I shall indicate the whole approach. In conclusion a joke I overheard on a television program the other day: A Viennese professor came to this country and had an interview. This professor expounded I presume the Platonic philosophy that all objects in nature are mere concepts and nothing else. He took as an example the interviewer's hand and said there is no hand and told him to slap him on the face. The interviewer tried it ~~fixt~~ first softly but upon the admonishment of the professor was told to do it harder. Well, the interviewer did it and the professor keeled over and told him to control the nothing

a little better and the moral of the joke is that this writer has a heart and a hope to see his brain-child operating in our lifetime and for the good of mankind and for the interests of a stabilized economic life .May I be successful this time, the 8th, to receive ^areply that you endorse wholeheartedly the corporate way of life and that you obligate yourself to collaborate providing it does not interfere with your professorial duties.

Very sincerely yours

Max Easternak

Horter Sargent

EDUCATIONAL ADVISER
TO PARENTS AND SCHOOLS

11 BEACON STREET

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
SARGENT'S HANDBOOKS

Boston

September 26, 1950

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

Dear Norbert Wiener:

The shock of Zipf's death and the realization that his last letter remains unacknowledged leads me to hasten to acknowledge your brief note.

I don't know how much you admired him, but I look on you two as the best brains in Cambridge.

I haven't found a separate paper to send you. It would be only the latter part and the diagrams that would interest you in any case. Probably you may find it in the Tech library.

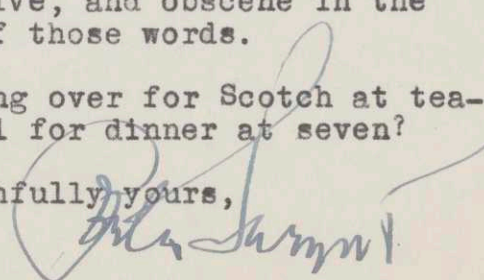
It is marked in the bibliography on the back page of the enclosed leaflet.

What I discovered was a third nervous system whereby messages could be cabled from the optic lobes to the musculature, avoiding the usual synapses. But its significance was not seen by the orthodox, and it has not been accepted.

But I continue like a few others to be unorthodox, subversive, and obscene in the original meanings of those words.

How about coming over for Scotch at tea-time or better still for dinner at seven?

Faithfully yours,



PS:B

[enc 10-3-50]

26 septembre 1950

Cher Monsieur,

J'ai finalement renoncé à mon voyage
au Mexique, trop compliqué à orga-
niser pour un si court séjour.

Nous espérons vous revoir bientôt
à Paris et Nancy. En attendant, avec
mes remerciements, croyez à mes
plus respectueux sentiments.

Schwarz

Laurent Schwarz, 30 Cours Léopold,
Nancy, France.

[ans 10-3-50]

WOR

1440 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 18
LONGACRE 4-8000

Sept. 26, 1950

Dr. Norbert Wiener
c/o Pat McManus
Houghton Mifflin
432 4th Ave.
N.Y.C.

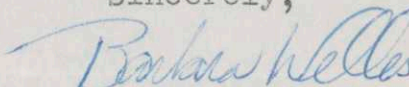
Dear Dr. Wiener:

Your guest appearance on the Barbara Welles show certainly gave us an interesting program, and I did want you to know how much I appreciated your cooperation.

I thought the interview was excellent, and many listeners have written to say how much they enjoyed hearing you.

Again my thanks.

Sincerely,



Barbara Welles
(Helen Hall)

MARTIN GUMPERT, M. D.

728 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

REGENT 7-4870

Sept. 27. 50.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

This is just to thank you for your last book. It contains the ~~most~~ earnest and most provocative thoughts I have read in a long time and shows the rare quality of courage for which so many are longing in this country. I am talking about it and I am giving it to friends and I shall try to contribute to the success that it so greatly deserves.

Sincerely yours,
Martin Gumpert.

September 27, 1950

Mr. Richard Moran
316 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Moran:

Dr. Wiener has asked me to return your manuscript to you as at the present time he simply does not have the time to look over the many papers that are sent to him.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. M. Zemurray, secretary
to Dr. Norbert Wiener

z

The City College

CONVENT AVENUE AND 139TH STREET
NEW YORK 31, N. Y.

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

September 28, 1950

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

As chairman of the program committee of the Basic Science Division of the New York section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, I have the pleasure of inviting you to be our guest speaker at one of our meetings during the coming season.

These meetings have been tentatively scheduled for the following evenings: Thursday, January 11, Tuesday, February 20, and Thursday, March 8. We are most anxious to secure you as a speaker. We therefore extend this invitation to you before contacting anyone else, in the hope that one of the dates will be convenient to you.

These sessions are planned as one to two hour lectures addressed to large audiences having an average electrical engineering background.

Your recent books have greatly stimulated our interest, and one topic that we would like to hear you discuss would be: "The Sociological Implications of Electrical Engineering Progress". However, we will of course leave the choice of the title and the content of the lecture to you.

I sincerely hope to receive a favorable answer and I look forward to meeting you on the evening of your lecture.

Yours very sincerely,

Cecilie Froehlich

Cecilie Froehlich,
Associate Professor of
Electrical Engineering

CF/s
c.c. Prof. Schwartz
c.c. Mr. Bramhall

[ans 10-3-50]

Tel:
2300, Ext. 650

Graduate College,
Princeton, N.J.

28th. September 1950.

Dear Professor Wiener,

I would be very pleased if you could speak on November 2nd. at one of the Wednesday Evening Forums held in the Graduate College.

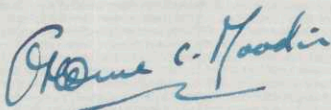
These meetings are held at 7.15 pm immediately after dinner, and normally consist of a talk lasting about 30-50 minutes, followed by a question period. I leave the choice of a subject to you, but since the audience is composed of graduate students in all fields, I would suggest something not too specialised or technical, but still preferably connected with cybernetics.

If this date does not suit you, are there any other Wednesdays in the next few months (except those from December 14th. through January 3rd.) when a talk might be arranged?

Should you be able to come, the House Committee would be glad if you would join them for sherry at 6, and then for dinner here in Procter Hall. We would also pay your expenses and, if desired, provide accomodation for the night. Other details can be arranged later, if necessary.

I very much hope that you will be able to come, and that we shall have the pleasure of meeting you.

Yours sincerely,



(Graeme C. Moodie)

[ans 10-3-50]

September 28, 1950

Mr. Arthur Upham Pope
The Asia Institute
13 East 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Pope:

Thanks so much for your letter of the 19th.
I trust that I have not been too libellous about
the domestic cat. Otherwise I appreciate
everything about ~~your letter~~, although I am
wondering when I can sluff off the memory of
my shameful youth and be regarded at the age
of fifty-seven as a mature scientist.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW:z

Chicago, Ill. Sept. 29, 1950

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

Dear Dr. Wiener:

You may be interested in the Growth-Reproduction Cycle - biological counterpart of the Carnot Cycle. This was first described about ten years ago as you will see by the enclosed reprints. Such interest as appeared at that time vanished with the onset of the war and has not since been resumed.

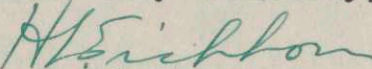
I have, however, continued to check the inevitable effects of the cycle with available information and am more firmly convinced than ever that it exists. No one has offered evidence that it does not exist. I have considerable that it does.

Sometime ago I came upon Life, Thermodynamics and Cybernetics by L. Brillouin and then, of course, upon your Cybernetics. I felt that the time might be ripe for further discussion of my subject. Accordingly I began again to apply my spare moments to the project. My purpose has been to justify the cycle with organic evolution, to simplify and clarify my presentation and to extend the work somewhat.

What causes me to believe that you may be interested is the passage to be found on page 46 of Cybernetics. You infer that life processes are irreversible but you seem to be careful not to be too specific. Whether paths are reversible or not is seemingly quite important. The paths of the G-R cycle are reversible in theory. It can also be shown that they actually do become reversed under certain circumstances. I touch upon this point in my new paper.

I write you with considerable hesitation. You may or you may not be interested. I expect your reaction to depend entirely upon this point. If you feel that I have something which may increase man's understanding, I will be pleased to forward my new paper to you.

Yours very sincerely,


H. L. Eichhorn
10942 S. Church St.
Chicago 43 Ill.

September 29, 1950

Dear Professor Wiener:

This year marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of The Nation, the oldest political weekly in the United States.

To celebrate almost a century of service to the enlargement of the democratic way of life, we shall publish on December 9, 1950 a special issue on "Peace With Russia -- Can it be Negotiated?"

For months The Nation has given much thought to the consequences which would ensue if an atomic war should begin. Last April The Nation Associates organized a two-day conference for the single purpose of discussing this danger. In the opinion of the experts who participated in the meetings, were such a war launched, no country could emerge the victor. For all nations the issue is the survival of the basic institutions of civilized society.

We have come to feel that it should be possible through negotiation to remove at least some basic causes of conflict between the East and the West without sacrifice of the principles which underlie the democratic way of life.

Historic precedent supports our view. Britain, Russia's traditional rival in the centuries-long struggle for power, has, at certain critical periods, been able to resolve its differences with Russia without resorting to war.

In spite of the mutual hostility demonstrated in Moscow and in Washington, we believe that both governments would welcome a face-saving formula which would make negotiation possible. Even more important is the fact that whether or not they would welcome such a formula, the desperate alternatives that face the world make an effort at agreement absolutely imperative.

We propose in our special issue:

- 1) To demonstrate the point that negotiation is not appeasement.
- 2) To define the issues underlying the conflict between the East and the West.
- 3) To support solutions which might be reached through agreement.

Adopting as our premise the proposition that peace by agreement need not mean appeasement, the special issue will dig down to the roots of the conflict in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

It will examine the revolutionary ferment in the world, and its bearing upon the struggle between Russia and the United States. It will consider the policies which must be followed in poverty-stricken and backward areas if that ferment is to lead to peaceful change rather than to uprisings and war.

It will discuss the clash of ideologies and the question whether communism and capitalism can co-exist in peace if imperialism and policies of expansion are held in check.

It will present and analyze the solutions which might be applied to each particular situation and to the overall conflict.

We have invited to participate in this discussion Prime Minister Nehru of India; The Right Honorable Anthony Eden, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Britain; H.E. Edouard Herriot, President of the French Assembly; Foreign Minister Osten Unden of Sweden; Israel's Ambassador Aubrey Eban; Jean Paul Sartre; Harold Nicolson; and a number of experts in the special fields to be considered. All have in common a devotion to democratic principles and to peace without appeasement.

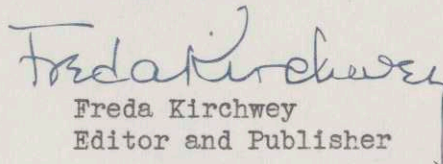
I am writing to ask if you would join a small committee sponsoring the special issue and the purpose it hopes to achieve.

I know I do not have to say to you that action by governments to bring about peace with honor depends, in its most fundamental aspects, on the will of the people.

The discussion we shall publish is intended to bring a measure of sanity into a situation which is complicated at the moment by hysteria and panic. We are under no illusion that in the present atmosphere a discussion of peace by negotiation will immediately fall on receptive ears. But in the end this view must prevail and liberal spokesmen in this country and abroad must accept the responsibility for promoting it.

I look forward to your acceptance of this invitation.

Cordially yours,


Freda Kirchwey
Editor and Publisher

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
CLEVELAND CITY HOSPITAL
CLEVELAND 9, OHIO

29 September 1950

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Mass. Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wiener,

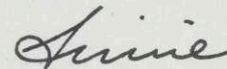
It does my heart "good" to have your letter of September 22nd expressing concern about Arturo. As you know, Arturo is my very dearest friend and I've been concerned about him for some time. As each month goes by, however, I feel that the chances grow better and better that he will not have trouble from the tumor which we removed. Whenever I hear from him, I scrutinize every word and try to read between the lines in fear that he is not telling everything in order to keep us from worrying. In fact, however, I had a nice letter from him about ten days ago, and I find no indication whatsoever that he is not well. I do believe he is in good health.

The pace he keeps, of course, is not particularly good for him although I know he enjoys it and it would be next to impossible to convince him he should be more leisurely. His mind is so very active that it doesn't permit him to relax for any length of time. I think Arturo wouldn't be happy if he didn't keep up his terrific pace. You may rest assured, however, that to the best of our knowledge, he is in good health.

I shall miss your meetings of the Philosophy of Science Club. I felt that I was with the original "Founders Group" way back in '34 and I know I shall get lonesome for the stimulating discussions.

We are gradually getting settled down here in Cleveland. Martha and I want to be assured that if you and your family are ever in or near Cleveland you will not fail to come to see us.

With best wishes,



F. A. Simeone, M.D.
Director of Surgery

FAS/ak

[ans-10-3-50]

TONI STRASSMAN

TELEPHONE
TEMPLETON 8-7974

24 EAST 61st STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

Sept. 29, 1950

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Thank you for your note of September 18.

I shall look forward to receiving material
from you when you have accumulated enough
to place it in my hands.

Sincerely,

Toni Strassman

TONI STRASSMAN.

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

ts/cap

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 29, 1950

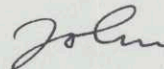
Dear Norbert:

Thank you for your letter of September 25th concerning Dr. Felix Browder. I am now writing you to tell you that we considered his application this week, and I regret that I have to report that we could not act on it favorably.

All the personal recommendations that we received on Browder were favorable and sympathetic, and so were our feelings on the subject. I read Browder's thesis and I think I have, on this basis, a first-hand evaluation of the quality of his work. It seemed to me, and this was the judgment of my colleagues too, that Browder is quite good, but not so obviously first-rate as to justify the emergency measures which we would have to take at this point. He obviously needs a teaching position, but it would not seem to any one of us that our granting him a one-year membership would provide a sufficient momentum to achieve this.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



~~JOHN VON NEUMANN~~

JVN:eg

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

[ans 10-16-50]

AMHERST COLLEGE

Amherst, Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

September 30, 1950

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

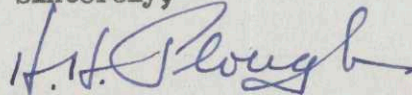
Dear Professor Wiener:

There has been a good deal of interest - I hope intelligent - on the part of some students and teachers at Amherst College in your book, Cybernetics, and the problems it suggests.

I wonder if we could persuade you to come to Amherst some time this winter for a lecture on the subject to be presented before our general student group. I think we can assure an interested if not a competent audience.

Could you let me know at your convenience if you would consider the proposition.

Sincerely,



Harold H. Plough
Professor of Biology

HHP:M

[ans 10-3-50]