

Please address reply to address checked:

May 11, 1970

Students and Faculty of the Department of
Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences
Room 231 Cory Hall
University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the copy of the statement of May 7, 1970, addressed to Management and fellow engineers in industry. I feel that I am in sympathy with your statement. However I have difficulty in responding, because the organization of our social institutions does not allow me to function as a "whole person" ---- I must tear myself into several pieces and try to maintain reasonable communication and balance between my different roles of "citizen," and "philosopher," and "corporation engineer."

I note the "Please Post" label on your statement. As a corporation engineer, I do not have authority to post your statement on the bulletin board at IBM Corporation, Los Gatos. However, I shall pass the statement on to Mr. Ed Stobbe, who handles the review of what can be posted on the company bulletin boards.

As a philosopher, I can say that the nature of business and government organization in our industrial society has destroyed the connection between the religious ethics of our culture of a few generations back and the decision making in our present day institutions. Therefore my paper of ten years ago on "Social Responsibility...." was ineffective. To solve the problems of our civilization, we have to get at the roots of the problems, and use all the analogies we can think of from various sources, such as cybernetics and general systems theory, in order to develop any viable hypotheses.

As a citizen, I find it necessary to assist the voters and religious leaders to develop an understanding of social evolution in order to approach the political problems of our time.

I enclose some reprints that illustrate certain aspects of the different roles I must balance in order to fight the forces of our specialized technologically advanced society which brutally try to suppress any communication of human values.

Sincerely yours,
Frederick B. Wood
Frederick B. Wood

enc: SSRS #6
Cybernetics
SEPR No. 139-D
SEPR Nos. 211-B,
226, 226-B, 231
cc: California Engineer
Sociology Dept.
Stiles Hall X

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This letter format is part of a one-man experiment in helping maintain democratic procedures in our complex industrial society. Studies in the period 1957-1967 at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Box 4068, Santa Barbara, Calif., have shown there is an ongoing deterioration in democratic procedures in our country. Their work is summarized in reports such as: "Politics and the Corporation," "Cybernation: The Silent Conquest," etc. The philosophy underlying this experiment is outlined in the Society for Social Responsibility in Science Pamphlet No. 6: "The Social Responsibility of Scientists," available from S. S. R. S., 1545 Winding Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966.