

P.O. Box 85
Campbell, Calif. 95008
October 4, 1964

Dr. E. R. Plore, Vice Pres. of Res. & Engin.
International Business Machines Corp.
Route 22
Armonk, New York 10504

Dear Dr. Plore:

I look forward to seeing you and Dr. T. R. Horton at the Inaugural Dinner of the American Society for Cybernetics in Washington, D.C., on October 16th. As you may have heard by now, I sent a letter to Mr. Watson on October 1st, and a letter to Mr. C. R. Bowen on October 2nd. I guess I haven't made a good adjustment to the business environment of the Los Gatos Laboratory from my early training in the Signal Corps R.O.T.C. and my engineering development work at the M.I.T. Radiation Laboratory, and my work on Air Force contracts at the University of California. I am writing this letter under my "philosopher's hat", and expect to send you another letter under my "engineer's hat" going into more specific problems of cybernetics-related IBM projects.

As you probably know, I have been invited by Dr. Frank Fremont-Smith, New York Academy of Sciences, Interdisciplinary Communications Program, to become a charter member of the American Society for Cybernetics. I had thought that IBM Corp. would be proud to have one of its engineers so honored for his contributions to the development of such an important field of science. On the contrary people here seem to be scared of Cybernetics. At first I got no action, then I was told Los Gatos Laboratory would not pay my travel expense, and then an arrangement to synchronize the timing of some interviews with other IBM divisions and offices in the East concerning my possible transfer elsewhere permits me to get to the Inaugural Dinner, October 16.

For a number of years I have been advocating plans for applying cybernetics to the US political and economic system to enable our country to meet more effectively the challenge of the Communist System, protect our own individual rights and economic system, and provide aid through UNESCO to show the developing countries how to establish their own goals and work toward them in ways that will increase human freedom on our planet while maintaining appropriate organizational stability.

I have established files on many points relative to the above program. Also I have duplicated for limited distribution certain files which have reached the stage appropriate for review by scientific societies, government agencies, or political groups.

I have submitted the basic proposals relative to this work to West Coast IBM ASDD management. Since there was an insufficient match with the mission, then edited the portions clear of IBM Confidential material for submission to outside agencies. I have exchanged reports with National Science Foundation, Office of Science and Technology, State Department, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Department of Defense, etc. This I have done at my own expense as a hobby.

Some of my more significant documents are enclosed together with a checklist of my documents in process. They are listed in abbreviated form below:

- No. 20-D, "Three Hats....."
- No. 20-E, "Direction and Control of Technological Change."
- No. 3-A, "Identification of Stage of Development of Incomplete Manuscript."
- Nos. 10-B, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, "Checklists..."
- No. 65-D, "Research Plan....."
- No. 65-E, "Abstract of Research Plan...."
- No. 7-B, "Allocation of Space....."
- No. 66, "Creativity, Ethics and Specialization in Engineering."
- No. 76-A, "The Connection....Man-To-Computer Relationship....., Three Eras: Force, Power, and Information."
- No. 77-A, "Application of Philosophy and Sociology to Estimate Requirements for New Computers and-or Terminal Devices."
- No. 92-B, "General Systems Model.....Estimation of Negentropy Sociological Systems."

To properly test the ideas developed in the above and related studies requires a network of interdisciplinary communication channels between the established scientific societies. This does not exist, but Dr. Frank Fremont-Smith is trying to develop such channels.

I had hoped that the I.E.E.E. Cybernetics Committee would provide the means to test and develop my ideas, but not much happened. The Society for General Systems Research in cooperation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science has provided opportunities for testing some parts of my plan. This August I presented some parts to the First International Congress of Social Psychiatry in London.

Some of my notes are scheduled to be published in the proceedings of the June 1964 Conference on the Cybercultural Revolution. The Institute of Cybercultural Research is interested in publishing more of my studies, but I foresee some problems in their review procedure. I am not convinced that this institute has adequate connections with established scientific societies to insure as thorough a review process as I would prefer. Although I am eager to have my studies published, I do want them properly reviewed & labelled as to stage of development so there will no confusion as to stage of acceptance of hypotheses.

are

Also there/possibilities that the impetus of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Triple Revolution may inject too much enthusiasm for particular solutions for the social problems of automation that techniques more easily digestable by the established organizations of our business and governmental community may be overlooked by the Institute of Cybercultural Research, unless I maintain a more vigilant stand. There fore I am considering resigning from the Institute for Cybercultural Research, provided the American Society for Cybernetics really develops a plan of positive action.

I consider the Georgetown University Cybernetics and Society Conference of November 19th very important. I am working on making my contribution to the conference a significant step in the application of Cybernetics and a demonstration of my desire to cooperate with the business, governmental, and cultural leaders of our country who perceive the problems of the transition from the power age to the information age.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick B. Wood

Frederick B. Wood

enc; list

cc: Dr. T. R. Horton
Mr. R. B. Johnson
Mr. D. Royse