

April 13, 1938.

Mr. L. H. Lazotte, Jr.
International Business Machines Corporation
1111 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lazotte:

You doubtless recall our discussion some months ago concerning the randomizer attachment in which I tried to interest IBM through our friend Lesson and Mr. Osgbury. You will also recall that after a couple of years' study, Mr. Osgbury reported that they didn't think the device was useful, or that it had a place in the line. My attention was called the other day to a statement which I think will be of interest to you. Mr. Dickson H. Leavens, Research Associate, Cowles Commission for Economic Research, Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the "Report of 3rd Annual Research Conference on Economics and Statistics, June 28-July 23, 1937", has a paper entitled "Drawings from Rectangular Distributions". Mr. Leavens in the course of this study makes the following remark: "Punched tabulating cards facilitate recording and checking, but an automatic mechanical mixing device for them is not yet available."

I know, of course, that there are uses, Mr. Osgbury and his associates to the contrary notwithstanding, but of course, I realize that he is in a better position than I am to know whether these uses are sufficiently important to warrant having a special gadget for it. Anyhow, I thought I would call this to your attention to do with what you please, if anything at all. I may add that recently I have had to go to the trouble to get one of these gadgets built by a local firm.

I have not heard one single word from Walter since the last letter, which was early in February, and I guess the whole matter is dead. What a washout he is!

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman.