

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

200
Dartmouth College
Artificial Intelligence
DATE: June 14, 1955

FROM: WW

TO:

RSM		KBy

COMMENTS:

DEC 28 1965

SUBJECT:

I have to handle this particular item in writing, since it relates to the luncheon you will have Friday noon with John McCarthy of Dartmouth, and I now understand Claude Shannon of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

You will have seen the diary record of April 4, 1955, of my previous conversation with McCarthy. I have the general feeling that this is rather a "personal" project, in the sense that McC. and two or three other people would enjoy spending time together, talking about various aspects of information theory. And they would naturally like to have somebody pay the bill. It is also personal, in the sense that no significant group or organization is back of this proposal, as far as I know. I would, for example, think of it in rather different terms if the idea came to us from the entire information group at MIT.

Thus (and in spite of my personal interest in the subject) I am very doubtful that the RF ought to do anything about this.

I think that it is on the whole rather better that I am not going to be at the luncheon. My personal connection with the subject, especially since Claude Shannon is now going to be present, tends to remove the discussion from the objective atmosphere in which we ought to approach it.

I really do not mean this note to contain any kind of hidden hint of advice or instruction. On the contrary, I am trying to make it clear that I think you ought to be absolutely free and unbiased to reach your own judgment in the matter.

Ww
W. W.

WW:mjs