PROF. DR J. TINBERGEN

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171.

Dr Andrew Pikler,
110 May Avenue
Monrovia, Calif.
USA.

Dear Dr Pikler,

Thank you very much for sending me some off-prints of recent articles. I must apologize for not having answered you earlier. The difficulty was that I wanted some time in order to give shape to my ideas concerning these papers. Unfortunately I was so busy that I did not yet find any time.

I may give you my provisional opinion about working with analogies between physics and economics. Being myself a physicist by origin and having myself tried in my thesis to work a little bit on this subject, I have some opportunity to consider this subject: my feeling is that there is a danger in working with these analogies, since one is so easily tempted to misinterpret the economic object desirous as one is to make the analogy as complete as possible. The art therefore is, of course, to avoid this.

On the other hand the use of analogies consists, of course, of solving with its help problems so far unsolved. I am therefore particularly interested in knowing which problems you claim to have solved on the basis of some of the analogies you drew our attention upon.

Please, do not consider this as a criticism: I have not really carefully studied your papers for lack of time. It is just only to show you my interest. I shall do my best to answer your previous letter more definitely within due time.

Yours very sincerely,