

JF 109-4

Box 1146  
Palo Alto, California

January 25, 1954

Mr. J. F. Byrne  
1114 New York Avenue  
Brooklyn 3, New York

Dear Mr. Byrne:

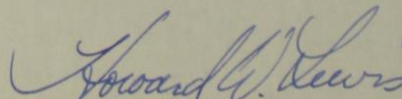
Howard Smith and I have spent several enjoyable evenings with your son Jack and have begun to learn of you, both through him and through The Silent Years. As we may enter into a business relationship it appears appropriate, indeed essential, that we establish a personal contact with you. Both Jack and my partner have written you concerning the practical details of our interest in promoting the Chaocypher. Perhaps you would like to know something more about us and about why we are so interested in the principle you discovered.

First, obviously, we are interested in the money. If when fully promoted your principle is worth, say, half a million dollars, the prospect of one hundred thousand for each of us is appealing indeed. But in distinct addition to that hopeful possibility, the opportunity of working with something really new, especially something with such wide potential application, is stimulating to us both.

Really new discoveries are rare. (From what Jack has said, it appears that "discovery" is a more appropriate word than "invention".) Most people have a block, not only to original creative thought in themselves, but to the acceptance of anything genuinely new from another. Happily, neither Howard Smith nor I behave in this way; to our mutual joy we refused to die when we were nine years old.

In many ways the other Howard and I supplant each other -- sometimes thinking exactly the same way, sometimes one of us pulling the other back from an illusion, sometimes building on one another's thoughts. The results are not only enjoyable, but often quite productive. I am sure he agrees with me that we are greatly challenged by the possibility of working with you and your son, for whom we both have considerable respect.

Cordially,

  
Howard W. Lewis

cc: Mr. J. F. Byrne, Jr.