

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

March 26, 1963

Mr. W. F. Krumreig
1350 Sloane Ave.
Cleveland 7, Ohio

Dear Mr. Krumreig:

Thank you for your letter of March 23. I understand the text of my speech before the ABA will become available through their New York offices by the end of the month. You can read there exactly what it was that I said at that meeting. It is not ^{easy} to be objective about one's own views, but since you have asked for my opinion on the subject, I am glad to give it to you.

I have been studying economics full time for more than a quarter of a century. On every subject that comes up, I try to get all the facts that bear upon it and acquaint myself with all the complicating interpretations and theories. Precisely because the exactitude characteristic of some of the physical sciences is not possible in economics, I think it important that economics scholars be conscientiously aware of scientific methods. This is not so true of the physicist because the possibility of experiments keeps him from going off the reservation even if he is not conscious of problems of scientific method.

It is not my custom to write to strangers praising myself, and I have not tried to do so in this letter. I have known leading scientists in this country and abroad: and while it is not possible to transfer in any mechanical way the methods of one discipline to another, I believe that one can discern the contents of what might be called scientific method; to the best of my ability I have endeavored to apply that method to the data, and hope to continue to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Paul A. Samuelson

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