

# PEOPLES BUSINESS COMMISSION

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July 14, 1980

Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
Department of Political Science  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, NS B3H 4H6, CANADA

Dear Ms. Borgese,

At the suggestion of Nicky Perlas, our International Director, I am forwarding to you, under separate cover, an advance reading copy of our book, Entropy: A New World View. This special edition is being disseminated to a select group of policy makers, opinion leaders and scholars. The hardcover book will be published by Viking Press in September.

Once in a great while, an idea changes the course of history. The Entropy Law -- or the second law of thermodynamics -- is such an idea. It states that all energy flows inexorably from the orderly to the disorderly and from the usable to the unusable. According to the Entropy Law, whenever a semblance of order is created anywhere on earth or in the universe, it is done at the expense of causing greater disorder in the surrounding environment.

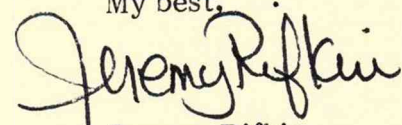
This law was first propounded in the 19th century, but its full implications are only now being felt and explored. Entropy helps explain why we have runaway inflation, soaring unemployment, bloated bureaucracies, a wildly escalating energy crisis and worsening pollution. This supreme law of nature also tells us why greater material progress, science and technology have not always resulted in greater peace and order but in fact their very opposites: crisis, chaos, and decay.

The Entropy Law challenges many of the central assumptions underlying the Modern Age. At the same time, it helps us to better understand the world around us because it governs the unfolding of all physical activity.

It is likely that within the next few years every academic discipline and public policy itself will be profoundly affected by the entropy paradigm which is now being formulated by scholars around the world. The entropy conception could prove as important in the century to come as the Copernican, Newtonian, and Darwinian revolutions of the past. We hope that our book will contribute to the dialogue.

I would enjoy hearing any comments you might have on the book.

My best,

  
Jeremy Rifkin

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29 February 1980

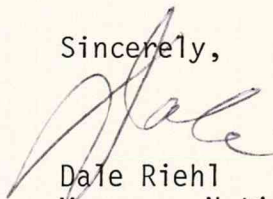
Ms. Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
Department of Political Science  
DALHOUSE UNIVERSITY  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H6  
CANADA

Dear Elisabeth:

I wanted you to know that I've had several months of correspondence and a couple of phone calls to people at UNESCO about THE DRAMA OF THE OCEANS, and they've expressed continuing enthusiasm for the project. In early January, I wrote Dale Krause asking for details on the fall, 1980 conference in Lisbon, and requesting very modest assistance along the lines I had earlier discussed with him and Phil Gaunt, a UNESCO PIO. Since writing, I've had no response. More than ten days ago, I telexed. Still no response. I thought you should be aware of this in case you are in touch with Dale.

I trust all is well with you, and that you will call when you're next in New York.

Sincerely,



Dale Riehl  
Manager, National Program  
Development and Funding



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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CENTRE FOR FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES

May 13, 1979.

Professor W. Riphagen  
Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken  
Plein 23  
S-Gravenhage  
The Hague, Netherlands

Dear Professor Riphagen:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 4 and the information it contained. I'll follow up on this immediately and shall be in touch with you about the paper which I hope to complete by June 15.

Lately you have, again, been much on my mind: I extensively quoted from a statement you made on the common-heritage status of the resources of the moon and the information gathered by satellites! I used it in a Report I prepared for the RIO Foundation for the Netherlands Government! The most important statements are always yours!

Very cordially yours,

  
Elisabeth Mann Borgese