

Sept 25, 1972

Dear Dr. Stone,

I apologize for not responding before to your letter of July. A back ailment since beginning August had me confined to bed. Now I am allowed to be up a little and the acute phase seems over.

Tomorrow my husband will make reservations for the flight to Argentina. Should the conference not materialize or should you not be able to play my expenses, we can always cancel.

I have no contact for securing the necessary funds. I am an employee of the Philadelphia Public Schools who are entering their fourth week of a strike. The school system is financially bankrupt, has increasing difficulty in getting the right kind of federal support. I have not kept up my contact with foundations except for a small writing grant from Ford for work of my teacher colleagues.

It is actually very difficult for me to go away at this time because of the critical conditions caused by the strike. Yet my associates & superiors encourage me to do so.

My family lives in Chile and since my husband plans to accompany me on this trip, we intend to spend some time there after the conference. I would like to do some workshops there or anywhere else on the west coast of South America on the way back. Perhaps an interest in this will develop naturally at this conference.

I will prepare a speech in writing prior to the conference. My personality, point of view or scope of knowledge will not allow me to live up to the formal style exemplified in the reports of the two past conferences which I studied extensively.

Much thought I have already given to where any contribution I have to make might be. Since my main effect in this country has been to enliven instruction by example and thus perhaps release new energies, hopes, talents in other teachers, I have that to contribute to the conference. Somehow my talk must succeed in that. It is by a field worker to an audience who are not themselves on the firing lines but who can perhaps become more sensitive through me of what the spirit and conditions are needed to make good mathematics learning possible for children and those who teach them.

I don't know if you remember that: a) I never went to high school; b) I've never been in a college class in mathematics. The little I know I have learned in the most unorthodox way and much of that by teaching children and teachers or by studying on my own so that I could teach better. If mathematics was a man-created language to better understand the universe, then I or all the other laymen could start however clumsily to invent and/or learn some of that language. Desire and felt need for learning it became my motivation which generated all else.

Lore Rasmussen