

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

January 21, 1960

ADDRESS REPLY TO

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN YOUR REPLY  
REFER TO FILE NO.

11.2

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Mr. Peter Naur  
Regnecentralen,  
Gl. Carlsbergvej 2,  
Copenhagen - Valby  
DENMARK

Dear Peter:

I do not object to your amendments to ALGOL 60. I do hope that you will publish on schedule.

I am sure that there will be other errors and inconsistencies in ALGOL 60, but this should not delay publication. Rather, we should consider a mechanism for officially correcting errors in the published report without calling an international meeting. The ALGOL Bulletin can be very useful, and I am prepared to propose some rules for officially changing the language.

Please remember that others of the ALGOL 60 committee, e.g. Rutishauser, have had strong personal objections to items in the report. After it has been circulated and carefully studied, it should be possible to arrive at some very effective and agreeable ways to improve these weaknesses. I think that in ALGOL 60 we have a fine vehicle for further work, and I urge you, my friend, to not re-arouse further objections from members of the conference to the publication of ALGOL 60. In this sort of venture, faults are necessary and forgivable if we at once set to work to correct them.

William Turanski died on Saturday, January 16, 1960, and so the note of dedication should be included. (About a week earlier they had operated on him for brain injury. The portion of the brain controlling breathing was damaged and he was in a respirator all week. They knew he could not survive when they found that he could not breathe without the respirator.)

Sincerely yours,



J. H. Wegstein