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[REDACTED]

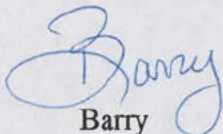
Colonel John Boyd, USAF Ret.
[REDACTED]

Dear Colonel Boyd,

To alleviate any concerns you may have about my seeing the friction piece through, enclosed is the current draft plus my topic notes for the remaining sections. All things considered, it has taken longer than I had hoped to work through §6, §7, and §8. Much of the reason for taking so long with these sections stemmed from Andy Marshall's suggestion that I deal explicitly with the overall magnitude of general friction. That induced rewriting throughout the entire draft, although I think his suggestion was truly inspired. Certainly it caused me to push some of the arguments further than I otherwise might have done.

At this juncture, I think I have gotten through the hardest parts. §9, §10, and §11 should be relatively easy to do. From the standpoint of making the case that general friction is likely to persist more or less undiminished in the future no matter what we do with technology, §6, §7, and §8 were the pivotal sections (at least in my view). And while each of these sections was something of a struggle at various stages, I feel they not only make a powerful case for friction's undiminished persistence, but they shed new light on aspects of friction about which almost nothing fresh has been said for over a century and a half (see, for example, the treatment of danger and exertion in §8).

You know as well as I do that when something starts coming together, you can sense that, and this piece really feels to me like it's coming together even better than I had hoped. No, it won't be an easy read for many people. It's way too interdisciplinary, and I have already been astonished at the total incomprehension some fairly smart people, whom I usually take seriously, have displayed after looking at portions of the draft. It would not be exaggerating too much to suggest that you and Andy Marshall are about the only two people I know who are enthusiastic about the piece. But I am pretty confident at this point that the piece will stand the test of time at least as well as your "Destruction and Creation."


Barry