

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

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March 7, 1970

Professor John W. Tukey
Department of Statistics
Fine Hall
P. O. Box 708
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Dear John:

I enclose a Xerox of the statement of World War II draft lotteries that I promised to send.

This statement is drawn from Probability with Statistical Applications, Second Edition, 1970, Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, by F. Mosteller, R. E. K. Rourke, and G. Thomas, pages 102, 103, 104. It appears in various other versions of their writings.

I suppose that the earliest reference to it is in their Continental Classroom text Probability and Statistics, 1961, as well as in the first edition of Probability with Statistical Applications and of Probability, a First Course.

I have read your new version, and I think that most of the criticisms of my letter of March 3 have not been taken account of. (You would not have received the letter in time to use in the new version, I imagine.)

Among other things, we cannot be extremely fair to every draft registrant, new version bottom of page 9. That wasn't a job we were asked to undertake.

Finally, the last remark on page 10 goes further than I like for a variety of reasons. By emphasizing the extreme care we are able to take with one small part of a process and neglecting the rest of the process, we put ourselves in jeopardy of considerable severe criticism.

Best regards,

Fred

Frederick Mosteller

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*An abbreviated version appears in
Introductory Probability and Statistical Inference
for Secondary Schools, Commission on
Mathematics, College Entrance
Examination Board, N.Y., N.Y., 1957.*

17p. 61-2.