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Professor Daniel Klein Editor, Econ Journal Watch Department of Economics Santa Clara University Santa Clara, CA 95053

Dear Professor Klein,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in a symposium on the distinction between knowledge and information. I am afraid the topic does not inspire me. In my old-fashioned positivism, concepts have meaning only in the context of a model (which may be very general), and I can't think of one which will accommodate this distinction. Of course, there are many kinds of information and different modes of transmission and apprehension, e.g., tacit vs. coded knowledge (which is a very important distinction). If I had time, I guess I could find a topic close enough to your question which does interest me, but unfortunately I have several very important commitments (research and policy studies), and I could not concentrate on your subject before early March. I realize you have asked for a weekend's reflection, but my general view is that it is easier to write a 25-page paper replete with formulas and footnotes than an expressive 5 pages.

Congratulations on the distinction of your Advisory Council.

Sincerely yours,