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*Ans
6/16/1911
SAM*



Hon. Legislative Council

*The problem you speak of is issued by enormous difficulty of present time imagine how it could be done
11
J. Well sign*

Kingston, Jamaica,
Edison Esqr.,
Engineer etc.

JUN 12 1911

Dear Sir:-

Your world wide reputation has induced me to trouble you with the following:-

As by talking in the Gramophone we can have our speeches recorded why can this not in some way act upon a typewriter and reproduce the speech in typewriting.

Under the present condition we dictate our matter to a shorthand writer who then has to typewrite it. What a labour saving device it would be if we could talk direct to the typewriter itself! The convenience of it would be enormous. It frequently occurs that a man's best thoughts occur to him after business hours and after his stenographer and typist has left and if he had such an instrument he would be independent of their presence.

The days of sitting down and writing ^{out} one's thoughts are now over. It is not alone that there is always the danger in that process of striking out and repeating as we go along, but I am ^{afraid} most business men have lost the art by the constant use of a stenographer and their thoughts won't run into their fingers. I remember the time very well when I could not think without a pen in my hand, now the reverse is the case and if I walk about and dictate the result is not only quicker in time but better in matter; and it occurred to me that such an instrument as I have described is possible and that if it be possible there is no man on earth but you who could do it.

If my idea is worthless I hope you will pardon me for trespassing on your time and not denounce me too much for my stupidity. If it is ^{not}, I think it is a machine which would be of general utility not only in the Commercial world but also for Public

Speakers etc.

I am unfortunately not an engineer only a lawyer. If you care about wasting a few lines on me, drop a line to Philip Stern, Barrister-at-Law at above address, marking "Personal" or "*Private*" on the letter.

Yours very truly,

Philip Stern

The original of this scan lives at Rutgers's Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition site: "Letter from Philip Cohen Stern to Thomas Alva Edison, June 5th, 1911," Edison Papers Digital Edition, accessed May 6, 2018, <http://edison.rutgers.edu/digital/items/show/57054>. Thanks to Rutgers for mounting the collection and making it public.