

It must be a week before Christmas, Mr. Dieker, I read in my favourite monthly an article, that informs us older people, about the prospective possibility to let ourselves be frozen on the promise to be defrozen 100 years later. Meanwhile all the physical disorders will be repaired and the brains will be supplemented, if necessary.

During my reflections I was roughly disturbed by telephone. The ringer was the well known Mr Kallenberg. He directed me to present this afternoon the price for the best thesis in the field of the mathematics of Operations Research, defended in the last three years. I foresaw, like old mathematicians do, that a stay for hundred years in the freezer may force Mr Kallenberg to look for hundred divided by three, and that is off the top of my head, about thirty three substitutes and that is too much to desire.

Nevertheless the idea to be absent here the forthcoming hundred years occupied my mind. I did wonder what kinds of subjects should pass in these thirty three presentations. After being so many years non-active in your field, Mr Dieker, I fully depend on my newspaper. Consequently, only subjects related to the present financial crisis, turned over in my mind. For that reason I came to the question: "Are these financial problems, hitting us all, inaccessible for operation researchers?"

As you know the financial crisis came into being by disturbances in financial networks. These networks are of stochastic nature. In your field researchers have been successful in analysing different types of stochastic networks. Of course, I am aware that a possible OR-approach must be more than a simple translation of poisonous derivatives into cars and trucks with hidden imperfections, of banks into nodes and of lack of trust into a queue. New models for the different problems are needed. Experiments with such models can show us towards the mechanisms lead.

Here in front of so many researchers and in the company of an expert in applied probability, I can't allow this question unmentioned. But sure, I am aware, it is not within the task for which I have been hired this afternoon.

But there is an other side to the matter. The status of the price, Mr Dieker and that is in our both interest, will increase if at least one of the next thirty three winners will defend a thesis with a title like "Stability rules for the financial markets". It needs not to be the next one, we have to be patient.

Anyhow this afternoon. Mr. Dieker, we heard again a most qualified jury being deeply impressed by your achievements, noted in your thesis. Comparing with the golden handshakes given in the failing financial world, this price is extreme modest, I admit. I have no say in the matter. But as you know, the honour to be a holder of a Gijs de Leve- price cannot be expressed into vulgar money.

Be convinced of our deep respects, warm congratulations and wishes for your future scientific life. I expect that your wife Cinty will also be proud, like the rest of us today.