

April 7, 1966

Dr. T. H. Piette
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Piette:

Dr. Morbon Mandel, who is now completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, has asked me to write you concerning his qualifications for a position in your department.

Dr. Mandel joined our department in a rather exploratory move which did not really have the intention of a definite commitment to biological research. While he was here, however, he did become sufficiently interested in some more fundamental issues to wish to continue his training, which of course he has been doing in Stockholm with Dr. Bertani. Since his major development as a biologist has then proceeded since he left here, I would by all means refer you to Dr. Bertani for a realistic evaluation of how he might be expected to perform in a department like yours.

His work here during the early transition of his interests was, to say the least, entirely creditable, both from a theoretical and experimental standpoint. I think his studies on the NMR spectra of amino acids and proteins are a significant contribution to the methodology of conformational analysis, even though it may be necessary to anticipate some improvements in the physical technique before many concrete questions about polypeptide conformation can be answered. Dr. Mandel's capacity to approach these problems was really not adequately brought out at his prenatal stage of development here, and I really would earnestly recommend that you give the utmost weight to Dr. Bertani's evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics