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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Department of Genetics

JUN 6 1969

Mr. W. A. Koshland  
President  
A.A. Knopf, publishers  
501 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Koshland

It has just reached my attention that one of the characters in "The Andromeda Strain" has certain biographic resemblances to me, and might plausibly be believed to refer to me. At the same time, the novel exhibits some personal history that bears no such correspondance to facts, and casts the character in an uncomplimentary light.

I am writing to ask your cooperation in minimizing the personal injury that might follow from this publication, for example in the style of your advertising which stresses the "documentary versimilitude ... in authentic detail" of the book. I do not wish, at this time, to call further attention to the matter by any specific statements about it.

The further mutations that the script might undergo in being produced ~~for~~ as a movie are a matter of even deeper concern to me. I have written to Mr. Wise; but I would also ask you to use your own good offices to help assure that this is handled in a responsible fashion.

The book is an interesting one, and deserves to have a wide sale. But I do not think it would detract from its appeal if it were properly fictionalized. I assume that you will reassure me that the possibility of a personal identification (through such details as the academic position of the character!) had simply escaped your notice.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

Professor of Genetics and Biology  
Nobel Laureate (for work in  
bacterial genetics)