

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER
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DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
Professor Joshua Lederberg

MAY 14 1970

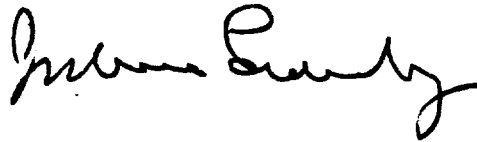
Dear Dr. Alfert

I feel I have wasted enough energy on the "Hensen affair", and I do not think I would add anything very useful by calling him a "charlatan". He is certainly not a well-rounded geneticist, but the flaws in his thinking would be within the customary variation I see among my colleagues. He happens to be stumbling like a bull in a china shop, in a territory that calls for infinitely more sensitivity than he seems to be capable of. Needless to say, I disagree violently with his politics, and I think I have made my contribution to the polemics.

A few relevant items are enclosed; there will be more from time to time that criticize precisely the narrowness and unproductivity of a purely statistical approach, so likely to be confounded with unresolvable factors.

I suggest you also look out for an article that will appear shortly in LIFE.

Sincerely,



Dr. Max Alfert
Zoology Department
U/C, Berkeley

LT. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE
dedicated to the study of mental retardation
Molecular Biology Heredity Neurobiology Developmental Medicine

Dr. Max Alfert
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