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DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

December 12, 1979

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

We have delayed response to your Memo dated September 5 (regarding our proposed new method to measure optical activity) while we follow up on your suggestion to contact ARPA. It appears that it may still be some time before ARPA makes any response to our "Pre-Proposal Summary" (a copy to you was enclosed with our letter of August 30), so we take this opportunity to reply to your other questions.

On the matter of protection, the proposal has not been publicly disclosed to date. The option of filing an application for patent remains open, but at the moment it is not intended to do so. Several years ago contacts were made with a number of persons, both academic and industrial. A few university people reacted with mild interest, but at the industrial level there was no interest whatsoever. Therefore the proposal does not now appear to merit patent protection. You are certainly free to discuss it with industrial personnel, should the occasion arise.

One of the persons contacted several years ago was Carl Djerassi. He referred us to his assistant, Ed Bunnenberg, who had been heavily involved in developing much of Djerassi's instrumentation during the early 60's. Dr. Bunnenberg in turn referred us to someone at Syntex who was responsible for instrumentation, and whose opinion it was that the device described would not be of any particular value in research at Syntex.

The only positive reactions thus far have come from yourself, Prof. Mosher of the Stanford Chemistry Department, and Prof. Moscowitz of the Chemistry Department at the University of Minnesota. Others have felt that interest in measurement of optical activity peaked during the 60's, but is now in decline.

You have also asked about a possible "flying-spot" spectropolarimeter version. This would require major modifications to the presently conceived scheme. In principle it should be possible, but the engineering problems

in developing such a version may be formidable. Thus, it should not be contemplated for the near term.

We continue to be persuaded of the technical merits of our proposal and shall pursue the ARPA contact, and perhaps one or two others. We are very grateful for the encouragement we have received from you.

Sincerely,

Clayton W. Bates, Jr.

C. W. Bates, Jr.
Professor

Howard Greenstein

H. Greenstein
Research Associate

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