

Jan Febr. 11, 1957

Dear Kim:

Thanks for your letter. I will certainly go ahead to see what can be done. The salary expectation may be unrealistic, in terms of current levels here —though I'm sure you can manage that elsewhere— but we'll see what some pressure can bring forth. In addition, there are solid hopes of an improvement of general faculty salaries by legislative action now pending.

Before our affairs get tangled badly, I'd better lay all my cards on the table. Please keep this discreet (though the grapevine is already loaded)

1. I have a concrete offer from Berkeley-Genetics, which represents the most attractive lure apart from here. This is under close consideration and we won't decide for another few weeks.

2. I have an equally concrete offer from Stanford (Biology), concurrent with 1. 1 & 2 are mutually interchangeable in the stochastic array below.

3. Dean Bowers is most enthusiastic about a Department of Medical Genetics and is convinced in principle of the necessity of a third appointment. The proposal is under study now by the medical faculty, and while there may be some interesting questions, it seems likely that it will be established. In addition, McArdle Lab. (Van Potter etc) is getting more interested in cellular biology = genetics, and there are good prospects for an appointment there that might effectively represent a 4th co-member. Further, ditto in Genetics, vice myself, I hope in the direction of cytogenetics.

The tactical situation is, as you say, very complicated, the more so as there is a ~~mess~~ weave of timing and personalities to cope with. But worst of all is trying to decide what we should do, after weighing these probabilities. Now there are many interesting permutations of (JL,KCA)(1,2,3). J3.K3 is what we're talking about now, and, honestly, represents a very large component of the attractiveness of J3. The others bring on mental fatigue, and it would be premature to discuss them before J is settled. However, if we should elect J1, I hope that would not preempt K3 (from either side); J1.K2 is not so unattractive to my mind either, but too hypothetical just now.

The whole situation is touch and go, which stresses the necessity for prompt and effective communication (complicated by our going to England March 6-April 1!) I can't ask any more of you now, until some proposals can be formulated here, except to think hard about your ends and means, and to let me know if anything else develops at your end that would be relevant.

Yours,


Joshua Lederberg