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E. Riverdale, Maryland 20840  
April 12, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
% The Washington Post  
1515 L St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I have read with interest the enclosed column of yours from the Washington Post, April 11, 1970. I must agree with you that there are present in the environmental movement a number of extremists whose overstatements detract from the very legitimate concerns of the majority involved.

What disturbs me, however, is your value judgement made in the closing paragraph. The innuendo is that those who question an ever-expanding economy are somehow against certain needed social expenditures and thereby counteragents to social justice, i.e. "most immoral". In a world in which 6% of the population consumes nearly 50% of the natural resources, I find little justice in the urgings

to increase the disproportions in this (technology notwithstanding) close approximation to a zero sum game. Furthermore, I must join with those who are becoming disenchanted with the so-called "trickling theory" — A bigger pie means a bigger piece for everyone. And finally, I note other nations where the gross and per capita wealth are less than ours, but where a better distribution goes far in eliminating social injustices. In short, I fail to see where all rectitude lies with the proponents of Boosterism and Babbitry.

Nevertheless, many of my colleagues favor such growth policies. I am hesitant to label their attitudes as immoral, since the unknowns in this most pressing issue are great enough to call for reasoned debate amongst all holding sincere opinions. I am most disappointed that a gentleman of your stature has already closed the issue.

Most immorally,  
Robert E. Ylanowicz