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# American Scientist

30 November 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Genetics Department  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94304

Dear Joshua:

Vast apologies for the length of time since you last heard from me! A combination of a ten-day absence at the Sigma Xi meetings, consulting with the Editorial Board, and getting the next issue out on schedule was too much for me.

The consensus of the Board is that they would like to do your no. 218, with the cuts suggested on the enclosed copy. They were all somewhat perturbed by your stress on international and political problems of arms control rather than on scientific problems of genetics or chemistry, and their feeling was that deviation from our normal nonpolitical policy would open Sigma Xi to possible embarrassment, to say nothing of having its non-profit status challenged!

No one on the Board disagreed with anything you say in the pieces, but several suggested that they would prefer to have, for American Scientist, an article from you dealing with genetic engineering--as one put it, "the alteration of the genome of the individual by willful intervention." They would really welcome a paper concerning the near-possibilities of making these changes, with the dangers of irreversibility, etc., that are involved.

We are all glad that you are still interested in having something published in American Scientist, and we hope you will be amenable to the cuts in no. 218. If you are, we will plan to publish it in the March issue. The January issue is already closed out and is much larger than normal, because it contains the proceedings from those Annual Meetings I mentioned earlier. We will be going to press with the March issue in a few weeks, so I shall be eagerly awaiting your reaction.

Sincerely,



Jane Olson

JO:sc  
Encl.