

BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

SCIENCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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May 10, 1971

Professor Joshua Lederberg
 Department of Genetics
 School of Medicine
 Stanford University
 Stanford, California 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I believe that you can adapt your radiation debate piece in the Post of May 2 for September publication the Bulletin quite readily by making these suggested changes:

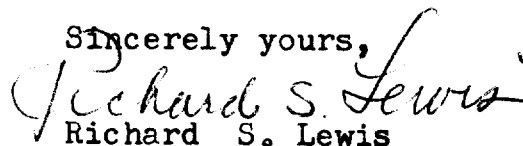
Updating the lead to reflect the shift in the focus of the radiation debate, thus introducing this theme in a paragraph or two at the beginning of the article.

Amplifying the economic argument. Please let me have the copy on this by June 10. Along with any other changes you wish to make.

In reference to Dr. Seaborg's National Press Club speech, we are publishing it in the September issue, with some updating he wants to do. In many respects, I feel it is a landmark speech, a statement of policy of considerable consequence, but, like you, I wonder about the implementation. Will the industry go along? The cost of nuclear power rises as the emissions of radioactive gases and particles are reduced. If the present policy is to keep emissions to the "lowest practicable level," the question arises, what is practicable and in what context?

I am not concerned about the likelihood of a genetic cost discussion being outdated by September, and I think calling attention to shift in the debate will be very timely at that season. You would be describing a phase in the evolution of the radiation effect outlook, a new phase in an historical process.

Let me know if you do not agree with the above suggestions or if you anticipate any difficulties or delays in sending us the copy.

Sincerely yours,

 Richard S. Lewis

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