

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Dr. Bresler

JUN 9 1971

You should, I think, ask for a restatement of the calculated human exposure to additional radioactivity in terms of total man-rads per year, integrated over the entire exposed population.

I doubt if you will get a number as high as 0.1 millirems per capita. If you accept my estimate of health costs of \$100 per man-rad, this will amount to a "tax" of about 1¢ per capita, and I do believe this is a fair way to judge the impact. It also gives you the leeway to accuse me of a 10- or 100-fold underestimate of the burden; but the implication of the latter is already to say that we attribute a health cost of \$1000 per capita per year to natural radiation, and more than \$500 to diagnostic X-rays -- which would more than outweigh our total expenditure on health care.

On these arguments, attributing a social cost of \$1 per capita per year to a 0.1 ~~millirem~~ millirem exposure must be regarded as an inflated upper limit (according to my own view by about 2 orders of magnitude.)

Sincerely,