



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305 • (415) 321-1200

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Department of Genetics  
Professor Joshua Lederberg

September 22, 1971

Mr. Martin L. Gross  
Editor, INTELLECTUAL DIGEST  
110 E. 59 Street  
New York NY 10002

Dear Mr. Gross--

I was pleased at the courtesy of having been telephoned by one of your staff about the reliability of the quotations attributed to me in "The Pollution of Food", which appeared in your Oct. 71 issue. I was less pleased that some misattributions still permeate the article -- for example, I made no declarations about nitrite. I hope you might be more critical in future about a style that juxtaposes: " If you swallow any one of them straight you will probably die", followed immediately by another direct quote from me. Such writing leaves a false impression of my endorsement of the content and manner of Zwerdling's imprecations.

Of course, you are absolved of primary responsibility for such productions -- and your editorial reference to 'muckraking' may improve a reader's perspective on such writing. To fulfill my responsibility for some precision in public distributions which invoke my own scientific expertise , I would have preferred an opportunity, in such an example, to state that I did not necessarily agree with the context in which quotations attributed to me were embedded.

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To turn to another article in that issue, you may yourself be ~~wxixx~~ interested in a reply that I had written elsewhere to Jim Watson's piece.

Yours sincerely,

LT. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE  
dedicated to the study of mental retardation

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