

September 19, 1973

Mr. William Austin
Doubleday & Company Inc.
277 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Austin,

Thank you for your letter of September 17th concerning my introduction to Joseph Fletcher's "Morality and Genetic Control".

I, of course, understand that the special relationship of this writing to Dr. Fletcher's book argues against my own customary insistence on reserving all the rights to my own intellectual productions that are not essential for a given publishing project. I have been concerned for some time that the customary contracts are generally unfair to authors with respect to the disposition of possible future gains but this is hardly the place to persevere in my private campaign. Let me try to spell out what my specific concerns might be and ask you to put them in language appropriate to a contract, and I hope consistent with your own needs. I had anticipated two possibilities for the use of this writing in other contexts. Neither of them is very probable but I thought it important for obvious reasons of prudence to take them into account.

1. A comprehensive collection of my own writings on various subjects, which might help to display the evolution of my critical thought on just such matters as are the subject of Dr. Fletcher's book.

2. The reworking of perhaps a page or so of the same kind of arguments for other articles. Since I would hardly want to capitalize on the introduction having been embedded in a fine work by another author, a anticipated reworking that I can now imagine would be so extensive that it probably would not be in conflict with the rights you would retain. I do not see how either of these projects could be in conflict with the promotion of Dr. Fletcher's book; rather to the contrary, they would be more than likely to help advertise it.

I guess then my formal concern really centers only on number 1. If you can give me some assurance that there would be no substantial impediment, on your part to such a project, I would be more than pleased to proceed.

I have spent many hours in critical review of this manuscript and I would hardly believe that I am asking an exorbitant fee.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr