

August 12, 1955

Dr. Abraham White  
Associate Dean  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
1710 Newport Avenue  
New York 61, N.Y.

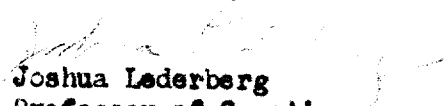
Dear Dr. White:

Thank you for your letter of August 9. Would it be possible for you to give me a partial answer to some of my questions that were asked in my previous letter, before arranging any further discussions?

I have given the matter considerable thought during the last week, and I would conclude that this excellent opportunity has simply presented itself five or ten years too soon. At the present time, I am still too much interested in the laboratory to consider myself available for a position that would probably keep me out of it most of the time. I am conscious of the challenge and opportunity for public service that are at stake, but not only my inclinations but my competence have to be considered. If the facts that I asked for would put a different aspect on the position, I will be happy to consider them. Otherwise, I should have to conclude now that I was simply not yet ready for the position, and that it would be a waste of time, energy and money to proceed with further discussions.

If I can be of any further service, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics