

March 2, 1957

Dear Jim:

Just received yours of the 28th. Obviously, I won't have much more time to think about Giannini plans for the next month-- except perhaps while flying from NY-Sfo when it might be a useful diversion. So if there are any further developments, please do write me c/o Ciba.

I am glad to note the information in your letter. Here are some notes in reply.

Distilled water-- if you mean to use this on the first floor, it would be most advantageous to have the still on the second. Unless your use is very modest, a pipeline is a tremendous advantage in convenience and, more to the point, safety. We can use about half the output of a 150 gallon-per-hour still, let's say about 50 gallons per day, mostly for dishwashing.

Windows: check.

Room-22SE service: is this shown as 40 on the 1929 blueprint? It is marked there as a janitor's room. It might be just the neck in which ~~the~~ to put the autoclave. I am anxious to have this built into one small room, opening into the area where it will be used. It is almost impossible to keep the maze of pipes clean.

It may be necessary to make a new start on the plans, as you say. But it has helped to lay out the principles to make the preliminaries.

I think you are entitled to the following information.

Kenneth Thimann called me Thursday, and this morning I had letters from him, Ernst Mayr and Dean Bundy, all of course from Harvard. Yes, you guessed it! I wrote back to tell them of the existing complexities, but that until I had made an irrevocable commitment elsewhere I could not ignore whatever proposals they might wish to make. However, I did ask that any such proposals from them be authoritative—Harvard has a long history of temporizing with prospective candidates. In fact, I first learned that they were seriously considering this one in 1951. While this issue needs a fair hearing, to forestall future regrets, I do not believe that it need add to your concerns. In particular, I hope it will not occasion undue haste or pressure on your own dealings with the administration. While I naturally hope there can be an early affirmation of our preliminary understanding, and a settlement of some of the legalisms and the financing in due course, I also need some time to get my bearings with regard to Harvard and developments here at Wisconsin. Curiously enough, Thimann had not heard of our negotiations, which perhaps speaks for the splendid isolation of Harvard. (The most unlikely people have commented to me about Berkeley).

I have also written formally to Stanford, indicating my probable preference for Berkeley under present circumstances. However, I am looking forward to the most cordial relations with the ~~Stanford~~ group: I hope I judge right that they have a sympathetic understanding of our motives. Clifford Grobstein has just signed there. He is a good friend (and an excellent acquisition for Stanford) and we had a very instructive visit together en route his return to Washington.*** I have been encouraging Stanford to consider Cavalli for their Genetics appointment, at least for a year's visiting professorship. If I could suggest some discreet way in which the (I trust) equally favorable opinions of (y)our colleagues, e.g., Roger Stanier, could be relayed to Palo Alto.... Genetics at Berkeley certainly has everything to gain from strong appointments at nearby institutions, and I have of course particularly strong ties with Cavalli since our several collaborations. I don't know whether you could have had occasion to meet Cavalli yourself. But you should know something about him: when we returned from our California trip, a letter from him was waiting, in which he asked me to write in support of his candidacy to you, which I would have no hesitation in doing.

You may receive some mail for me addressed to your care: please hold it if so. I will call you upon arrival at the airport, and will be in touch with my brother Seymour as regards living arrangements, etc.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

