

March 31, 1958

Green
Dear Mel:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter.

Of course we were disappointed, but we had always kept the possibility in the back of our minds, so we were not caught entirely off guard. I hope the issue can be revived some time, and meanwhile we are not at all badly off in Madison.

We did and do appreciate how hard Jim Jenkins and our other friends in California worked on the arrangements, and are sorry that they were let down in this fashion. I especially hope that there were some personal, or rather individual, factors in the administration's decision, and that it did not speak for any lack of standing of the Department of Genetics on the Berkeley campus. It did seem as if there would be some problems ahead if Genetics were, on the one hand, to remain in Agriculture, while most of that College was being shifted to Davis.

Don't confuse our disappointment with any touch of resentment: administrations move in mysterious ways their wenders to perform. There were enough specific obstacles in connection with my appointment that I don't think the result will be any serious reflection on Berkeley of the kind you feared — at least no more than seems to be inevitable with such an immense organization.

The hottest news in the lab here concerns the odd mutants Kether is picking up among the Gal⁺. Most of them, as you know, fall nicely into the two cistrons, which correspond in turn to the two enzymes (kinase and transferase). But there are also some odd birds, including two which give position effect in both cistrons and which, according to Kalckar may have a quantitative defect in both enzymes, but which behave as ordinary point mutants in recombination and in reverse mutation. Their position effect is therefore more reminiscent of V-type p.o. at least in respect to a diffuse effect down the chromosome.

I trust we will see you in Montreal, if not sooner.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

John Lederberg
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