

CARNEGIE COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNMENT

10 WAVERLY PLACE, NEW YORK, NY 10003, PHONE: (212) 998-2150, FAX: (212) 995-3181
EMAIL: CARNEGIE@ACF1.NYU.EDU

FAXED
6/18/91

June 18, 1991

COMMISSION

William T. Golden
Co-Chair
Joshua Lederberg
Co-Chair
David Z. Robinson
Executive Director
Richard C. Atkinson
Norman R. Augustine
John Brademas
Lewis M. Branscomb
Hon. Jimmy Carter
William T. Coleman, Jr.
Sidney D. Dreil
Daniel J. Evans
Andrew J. Goodpaster
Shirley M. Hufstetler
B.R. Inman
Helene L. Kaptan
Donald Kennedy
Charles McC. Matthias, Jr.
William J. Perry
Robert M. Solow
H. Guyford Stever
Sheila E. Widnall
Jerome B. Wiesner

Dr. Harriet Zuckerman
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
140 East 62nd Street
New York, NY 10021

Via fax: (212) 888-4172

Dear Harriet:

The Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government has now passed its midpoint, and we are beginning to contemplate what the impact may be of the entire process. Our tacit model has been that objective analysis could show how the scientific method and technical expertise could improve the general welfare in a self-evident way, if but applied to the appropriate problems. We have given much less attention to (1) the ways in which rational judgment must be coordinated with democratic political process, and (2) how the scientific community itself may be judged as a special political interest group. Indeed, some might argue that the appeal to rationality is itself a political ideology intended to further the interests of the 'technocracy.' We have also to consider how the scientific community can in fact and in perception moderate the power implicit in special knowledge so as to be equitably responsive to a public interest that may not share the idealization of rational process.

The Commission has until now given little formal consideration to these questions at any high level of abstraction, though they often inform some of our pragmatic recommendations. We are planning an informal workshop in New York City on July 11, 1991, to try to delineate the questions more clearly, and to advise the commission on whether further special studies might be recommended.

We apologize for the short notice, but are capitalizing on the fortunate presence in the U.S. of Dr. Yaron Ezrahi (visiting professor at Harvard this summer) — and we do recommend his recent book *The Descent of Icarus* as a starting point of discussion.

Thanks for your help on the invitation list, and I hope you will be able to join us. Please call Maxine Rockoff at (212) 998-2152 when your plans become clear.

Sincerely,

Josh

Joshua Lederberg
Co-Chair

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Graham F. Allison, Jr.
William O. Baker
Harvey Brooks
Harold Brown
James M. Cannon
Ashton B. Carter
Hon. Richard F. Celeste
Hon. Lawton Chiles
Theodore Cooper
Eugene H. Cota-Robles
William Dreyton
Thomas Ehrlich
Stuart E. Eizenstat
Hon. Gerald R. Ford
Ralph E. Gomory
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh
Walter E. Massey
Rodney W. Nichols
David Packard
Hon. Lewis F. Powell, Jr.
Charles W. Powers
James B. Reston
Alice M. Rivlin
Oscar M. Ruebhausen
Jonas Salk
Maxine F. Singer
Hon. Dick Thornburgh
Adm. James D. Watkins (Ret.)
Herbert F. York
Charles A. Zraket

*Through April 1990
**Through January 1989

Regular mail
Brochure
Midpoint
Congress
E3
New Thinking