

June 23, 1967

Dr. Leo J. Gehrig  
Acting Surgeon General  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Gehrig:

I have given careful consideration to your letter of June 6 inviting me to service on the National Advisory Mental Health Council.

I have decided to accept the invitation, and will be happy to ~~service~~ to the best of my capacity. This is limited both with respect to the total amount of time that I will have at my disposal for this responsibility, and to my qualifications over the very broad field of the Council's concerns. I will simply do the best I can.

Since I have the opportunity to comment in the columns of the Washington Post on matters of public interest that may include topics in mental health, I would like to be sure before my appointment is confirmed that (1) you are aware of this activity, and (2) that my membership on the Council in no way restricts my freedom of expression. I will, of course, respect the confidentiality of information received in the course of my official duties, and which would not have been available to me in any other capacity.

My form HEW-474, if not enclosed, will be sent promptly under separate cover.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics