

# CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY

April 29, 1975

Dr. Oliver Smithies  
Laboratory of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Dr. Smithies:

You may recall my letter to Elizabeth Russell dated January 29, 1975 (a copy of which was sent to you) giving my reasons for opposing the draft resolution on race and IQ that was being circulated to members of the Genetics Society of America. If so, you can imagine my dismay on learning from Tibby at the National Academy meeting in Washington last week that of more than 1000 replies she has received from the membership, some 90% are in favor of the resolution.

I was also informed by Dr. Russell that it is planned to publish the results of the balloting in a future issue of GENETICS. I wish to register a strong objection to such publication, since it will in effect constitute an endorsement of this highly controversial resolution by the Society without debate and discussion. Indeed, it may already be too late to prevent press announcements, since a writer for BioScience was interviewing Dr. Russell on this subject at the Academy building last week. Nevertheless, I think it is important to keep in mind that the resolution as of now has the status of a committee recommendation that has not been discussed by the membership.

In view of the complicated and emotional nature of the subject, I think it would be inappropriate to discuss it in the usual way at a 1-1/2-hour business meeting of the Society. I would like to recommend that something more formal be considered - such as a special issue of GENETICS with written arguments from both sides, or an organized session at an annual meeting of the Society, with invited speakers from each side. This would be followed by floor discussion and a vote. Anything less than this would, in view of the strange history of the resolution to date, be suspect.

One result of the fact that there has been no open discussion of the resolution is that only the officers are in a position to know who favors and who opposes the resolution, and what their different reasons are. Yet such considerations

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are of great weight in democratic decision-making processes. I, for example, would like to know at this juncture who among our membership shares my opposition to the draft resolution. I have no way of finding out, except through a request to you. Please consider this letter such a request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. H. Horowitz", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

N. H. Horowitz  
Professor

cc: J. Crow  
J. Lederberg  
E.B. Lewis  
R.D. Owen  
E.S. Russell  
S. Wright  
D. Perkins  
D. Stadler  
E. Roman