

University of Wisconsin—Madison



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January 26, 1976

Dear Members:

Please read the attached letter from Tibby Russell and the final version of the Genetics/IQ document (dated January 1976) which is attached to it. Most of you know the history of the document. Briefly, its preparation was set in motion at our business meeting at Berkeley in 1973. An Ad Hoc Committee, appointed by Mel Green, prepared the first version which was sent to you for consideration early in 1975. Many replies and letters were received commenting on this 1975 version. The nature of the comments suggested that we ought to prepare a revised version before publication. Our business meeting at Chapel Hill in August 1975 authorized preparing such a revision. The enclosed statement is the revised and now final document. It is the result of many days of diligent work by the original Ad Hoc Committee, under Tibby Russell's chairmanship, with the later inclusion of Jim Crow, to fill a resignation, and with the help of Doug Futuyma and Sewall Wright. All comments offered by our members and by others were considered in its preparation.

Your response to the effort made by the people who have worked most valiantly on this task is now requested. Please, RETURN THE ENCLOSED RESPONSE CARD. On it you will see spaces to indicate whether 1) you wish to be associated with the Genetics/IQ document, 2) you do not wish to be associated with the document or 3) to say you think no statement should be made. You should sign and print your name on one line. The two page document will be published in Genetics and released to the media with a tabulation of the responses: total sent out \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_% wishing to be associated with the document; \_\_\_\_\_% not wishing to be associated with the document; \_\_\_\_\_% preferring to see no statement made; \_\_\_\_\_% not responding. The names of the responders will be filed and open to inspection by anyone on request, but they will not be published.

Personally I have found this whole experience very educational - it has shown me the need for meticulous and scientifically rigorous work in preparing for lay persons a document attempting a fair presentation of a socially sensitive and scientifically difficult topic. It has also been worthwhile because we do now have a statement which is both likely to be helpful in informing the public, and should also be able to stand valid criticisms from all sides.

Let me end by wishing you all the best for 1976.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oliver Smithies".

Oliver Smithies  
President GSA, 1975

OS:fm

Enclosure