

January 27, 1955

Dr. O. H. Gaebler  
Henry Ford Hospital  
Detroit 2, Michigan

Dear Dr. Gaebler:

Thank you very much for your cordial invitation to attend the symposium next November. I have had an opportunity to discuss the plan with Dr. Green, and have also heard from Bernard Davis on the matter. As you must be able to judge from the tentative assignment, I know very little about the subject, and the symposium would be an opportunity to educate myself and to meet many old friends.

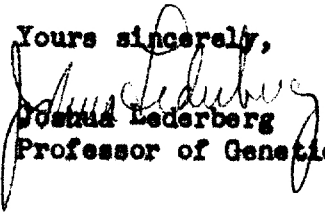
I should like to accept your invitation, but unfortunately I cannot give an unqualified acceptance, for two reasons: a committee meeting that I would have to attend (but which probably, but not certainly, will prove not to conflict in time) and more depressing, the likelihood that at that particular season I will be more than usually distracted with other general obligations. I would well understand if anything but an unqualified acceptance were unsuitable. In view of the tenuous assignment that was scheduled, however, I hoped you might consider accepting a qualified reply, namely, that I could not definitely contract to come, but that I would if possible. If you would prefer to schedule another speaker who could be sure of attending, please just let me know.

"Critical summing up" may be too optimistic a description of my own contribution. I would prefer simply "Commentary", and leave it to the audience to decide whether it proves wither summary or critical.

Since my text will depend on the other speakers' remarks, may I request an exception to your rule on mss. being available at the time of the meeting, if at all?

Whether or not I can enjoy it myself, you have an outstanding roster and I am sure the symposium will be an unqualified success.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics