

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
1212/12-16

December 15, 1960

DR. WILBUR COHEN
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Professor Wilbur Cohen
School of Social Work
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Professor Cohen:

I appreciate having been asked to serve on the Committee and must apologize that the combination of a snarl in air transport here and my other arrangements prevented my attending your first meeting. This is a rather awkward time of year for me but I hope to remain in touch with you and perhaps especially with Dr. Cook of the other members of your Committee by telephone and will make every effort to attend at least the conclusive meeting.

Partly to make up for my absence, I have tried to do some homework for the Committee's objective and have asked Dr. Cook to transmit my own recommendations to the meeting, having forwarded them over the telephone. You should then have seen a copy of them but to be sure of their accurate transcription, I am enclosing two sets herewith for your further consideration.

The idea of the Academy of Health has been the most strategic item that I could think of that fell within the instructions of Mr. Sorenson's letter; however, I hope that the continued implementation of the Jones Recommendations on Federal Support of Medical Research will not be ignored as a matter of the highest value and urgency even if they do not now represent entirely new directions of federal activity. I have been able to discuss the Academy proposal with a number of my colleagues and have found very considerable enthusiasm for it. There may be some legal problems in establishing it as a corporate entity though they might perhaps be circumvented by taking advantage of the charter of the existing National Academy of Sciences. If the matter reaches this stage I would recommend that you consult Dr. Detley Bronk at the Rockefeller Institute as President of the National Academy of Sciences. It should be pointed out that the NAS does have an affiliated division of medical sciences which has done a considerable amount of special advisory work and is headed by Dr. Keith Cannon. However, this division has no counterpart in the actual membership of the Academy itself and in fact, it could not fulfill the kind of function of popular recognition that the proposed Academy of Health would do.

In accordance with Mr. Sorenson's suggestions, I have also added a page of recommended language concerning an announcement of an Academy of Health and other aspects of our medical research program. Whether or not the Academy

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proposal is adopted, and it should certainly be given intensive study during the next few weeks, I would strongly urge that the inspirational value of the President's addresses not be overlooked and that a strong statement on science and medical research on the part of the President would be highly esteemed by our colleagues throughout the world.

I earnestly hope that this work will have been of some use to you even in the default of my own presence.

With most cordial wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

cc: Dr. Cook, with copy of Lederberg proposal
Encs.