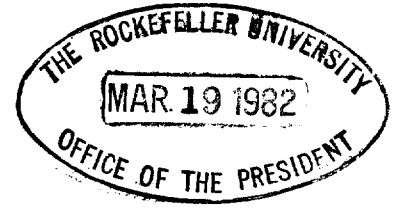


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919 6th ST SW #902A
Wash DC 20024
Mar 17 1982

Dr Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
New York, NY 10021



Dear Dr Lederberg -

My only response to your note of Jan 15th has been a call to your secretary to let you know that I am now located in Washington on a temporary assignment to EPA. On Sept 1, 1981 I accepted an IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) assignment to the Office of Research Grants and Centers. It's not a political assignment -- purely a technical one -- but I do suspect that it would not have come through had I not personally known John Hernandez, the Deputy Administrator. I am still paid by Texas A&M & EPA reimburses the University -- no overhead charges allowed. It was supposed to be a 2-yr assignment, but I wouldn't be surprised if it only lasts for one year. My wife likes it here so much that if I'm not reappointed, I'll still have to stay here -- and look for another job. She's working for Congressman

Martin Frost, an old friend from Texas. It's her first work-for-pay job since we were married and she loves it.

I cannot send you a copy of the letter you wrote me which I had framed because it's still in storage in Texas. If I can get back there, I'll get a copy to you. We moved from a 5 BR house into a 2 BR apartment so we had to leave most of our stuff behind.

Since you might not be aware of this "new" grants program in EPA, I have asked that a package be mailed to you.

We are, of course, fighting the battle of the budget -- as I'm sure you do 100+ % of your time. Our situation is particularly bad for 1983 as witness the statement by Gorsuch enclosed -- page 10 in particular. Also, the OMB statement enclosed. "Water quality" in EPA jargon really means waste water. Imagine -- not having any university help in that activity!

I have been very active with select Congressional staff on this problem and we

have lots of friends on "the Hill." I'm not supposed to do this sort of thing but if I'm fired because of it, I will not be sorry. It's too important to not involve myself.

By now you will have seen Time's article on sodium. I haven't made any headway on the hypothesis of drinking water salt impairing salt taste, but some colleagues at Texas A&M have submitted a proposal to study sodium content in drinking water as it may affect the course of hypertension in monkeys. I'm enclosing an abstract of their proposal and I like it. Course -- it has to go thru peer review and then compete for limited funds.

I think Congress will provide more money. Their concern is how to word the budget -- appropriations -- so it goes to the extramurally peer reviewed research grants program, and then make sure it's spent. Real interesting.

I'm delighted with your note -- I'll save it too.

Sincerely -

Harold Wolf