ROBERT PAUL LEVINE

Amherst
September 2, 1951

Dear Leonard & Ben,

Our plans for a vacation with a stop over in Madison fell through completely. My final examination was delayed a week and then we had to move out of our apartment in L.A. This last forced us to get to Amherst in order to get the furniture into the house.

We thought that we might go to the AIBS meeting but after a look at our finances this becomes impossible. The moving just about broke us.

I would like very much to get together with you folks. Is there any chance of your coming

out this way?

H. H. Plough will be with the A.E.C. for the next two years as you probably know. His Salmonella work will be continued, however. I am still interested in what can be done in the of population genetics with bacteria, but before doing anything along this line I must talk the problem over with you. This summer would have been ideal if the mechanics of moving across the country had not interfered.

I'm afraid that this letter sounds like one long apology, but I guess that I'm just stuck.

So far everything is going well here. I have ample space for work and equipment also. I shall have some help too with a part time assistant. I want to get started on a problem involving the 4 chromosomes of Drosophila

Pseudoobscura. There are at least 6 morphologically different Y chromosomes & different geographic distributions and the problem is to see it, on the same background for the other chromosomes, the Y's have different genetic activities. Part of the work will be done in population cages, the rest may follow Mather's type of analysis of polygenic systems. This problem will take a year at breeding in order to set up genic stocks, but in doing this routine thing I shall have a chance to work on my lectures - and to think about bacterial genetics.

Next spring I shall be giving a course in population genetics. I hope to be able to run some population cages in the lab and to use some other organisms besides Drosophila. We might try some experiments involving adaptation of protozoa to different salt concentrations

in the medium- something like Gause's work, the validity of which I doubt. Perhaps we might also use bacterial populations for investigating adaptedness and adaptability?

If there is any chance that you might come to the far east please let me know. We have ample room in the house we have rented and would like very much to have you visit us.

Regards to you both,

Paul