

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 · ILLINOIS
INSTITUTE OF RADIOBIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS
6200 Drexel Avenue

October 17, 1949

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
College of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I am writing with no particular purpose in mind except to say hello and to offer several minor ideas. Apparently a dinner is being planned for you on Friday after the lecture, and apparently it will be a male only dinner. In that event, I thought it would be nice if Esther and Jane could have dinner and see a play. If this idea appeals to Esther, we will order tickets immediately. The sooner we know, the better tickets we can get.

I trust you realize what famous lecturer company you are now keeping. Robert Oppenheimer had the lecture last year. In case you are not aware of who Slotin was, let me tell you. He was a physicist with a background in chemistry who was on the project. He maintained considerable interest in biological problems. As you may recall, he and Evans, from the Biochemistry Department here, wrote several papers together. I should know the work but it completely escapes my mind. My vague recollection is that it had to do with CO₂ assimilation. Slotin was fatally injured in an accident at Los Alamos. He was very much liked by everyone and consequently the lectureship developed. I think it very nice that you are giving the lecture. And only Szilard could arrange for such a lecture to be given in two sections (which I think is a nice idea). I will miss your first lecture and probably the dinner, as I am going down to give a talk at Wabash College as part of a roundtable Luria arranged in connection with a meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science. Spiegelman and Vertani (Dulbecco's replacement) will also participate. I trust that you will bring us up to date before the second lecture, or else promise to say nothing of interest in the first lecture.

Please forgive my usual stiffness of style, but again I am dictating to a secretary, and the solemnity restrains my normally ebullient personality. It will be good to see you and Esther again. As I said in the phone call, it will be nice to have you stay with us, but should you wish, we will get you a hotel room and our feelings will not be hurt. Incidentally, we now, as a result of visiting you, have a foam rubber mattress.

Best regards,

Aaron
Aaron

AN/sds