

February 19, 1963

Dr. Nicholas Anastasiow  
Coordinator of Research  
Board of Education  
25 Churchill Avenue  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Anastasiow:

We are conducting a study on the effect of season of birth on human performance. To help clear up some of the nonsense that has been published on this subject in the past it would be helpful to have more information on the distribution of birthdates of children born to families of different occupational groups. While the numbers available probably will not allow very profound statistical conclusions, I propose a pilot study on the Stanford and Escondido School records, which should at least help to expose the problems involved in a more extensive study.

The specific information we request on each item is merely the birthdate and the father's occupation. There are additional data we might seek, e.g., kindred records, birthplace, parents birthdates, and perhaps academic performance (within an occupational group, specifically the Stanford faculty), but these questions are doubtless better left for a later stage. We have no special interest in names except insofar as these may help to identify duplications of data and siblings, and any information that could be related to individuals would be regarded as confidential.

This study is a project of the Kennedy Laboratories under my direction. Miss Dagmar Cechanek, R.N. is assisting. We will of course keep you informed of the results of the study, and are much obliged for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

81055 J. L. 6/1/63