

OFFICE MEMORANDUM • STANFORD UNIVERSITY

DATE: March 29, 1960

TO : Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics

FROM : Henry S. Kaplan

SUBJECT:

Dear Josh:

I reviewed the enclosed, and I think there is a good deal of merit in calling attention to this potential hazard, particularly in view of the isolation of infectious DNA from polyoma virus.

It is entirely within the realm of possibility that deliberately-induced mutations, using the nitrous-acid method, might create mutants which are infectious for man, even if the naturally-occurring DNA were not. I think some kind of a study commission might be the best initial step.

Sincerely,

HSK (sm)