

JUN 18 1965

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SINCE 1888

June 16, 1965

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stanford Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your very thoughtful and thought-provoking letter of May 31. It seems to me that my intentions and the aims you express are quite similar. The fundamental biological knowledge which is needed will indeed have an impact on a wide range of areas of investigation in addition to aging.

I agree with your modification of the first sentence of the third paragraph of the proposed letter to the President and shall suggest this change to those associated with me in the project. I have read Section II of your report on mental retardation and am in accord with the procedures outlined therein. It seems that we have a common purpose, namely to reduce "discrepancies between length of life and useful life that we would all deplore." The problems of discovering fundamental knowledge are indeed different from the specific engineering problems of developing a mechanical heart pump. Nevertheless, we can accelerate a discovery of such basic knowledge by increasing the funds and talent allocated to this objective.

I believe that Marott Sinex and I would like to accept your offer to prepare a draft version of a letter to the President to convene a commission to accomplish the objectives stated in your letter. My own opinion is that a letter signed by you and your colleagues, accompanied by your own specific action program, based on your careful deliberations, might achieve your goals in a much shorter time period.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,



Paul F. Glenn

PFG:ajh

cc: Lucius Burch; Stanley Buckman; Marott Sinex

Paul  
GLENN

VIA AIR MAIL