

June 27, 1957

Professor J. Lederberg
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Dear Josh,

Thanks for your letter of June 14 and the various suggestions it contains.

- 1) The dates of the Symposium I am organizing, which I gave you, are tentative and I may have to modify them. Postponing the Symposium is extremely difficult for several reasons. Shifting it to an earlier date in March would be possible. I shall consider this after I get the reply of the Navy.

Supposing we held it earlier in March and had Navy transportation, could you come ?

- 2) I can now answer the question you asked in your letter of June 3 : in conformity with our earlier published statements, B-26 retains the plasmids, i.e. gives normal ("grande") zygotes when crossed with a vegetative petite.

We now have the recessive of B-26 in a marked chromosome and can use the prototroph technique to study the kinetics of the loss of the cytoplasmic factor : this is in fact what I have under investigation, as well as several other problems posed by the segregational petites.

This, you will notice, signals my return to active work and the petite problem which I, incidentally, find fascinating after a year's vacation. Meanwhile, Hydra is going on slowly and rather desappointingly.

With best regards to both of you,

Sincerely,


Boris EPHRUSSI