Dr. George Lefevre National Science Foundation Washington 25, D.C.

## Dear George --

I heard only recently that you will be leaving NSF for Harvard. Best wishes to you -- I know you will be missed at NSF, and that geneticists throughout the country will also regret losing your help at the foundation. I suppose you must be concerned about finding a replacement, and I scratched my own head over this (gratuitously) for a few moments. I wonder if you'd thought of <u>Dave Perkins</u> as a possibility. We'd be very sorry indeed to lose him from Stanford, but it can hardly be less important to find the best men for the job in Washington. I have no idea whether Dave would be interested (I suspect he's underpaid in his job in the Biology Department) but I do think he'd suit, on the basis of general temperament no less than his good grasp of the whole field of genetics.

This isn't the main thing I wanted to ask of you however, which is if youcould get for me a copy of the Killian subcommittee report on National Information Services which decided a central bureau was not needed. (I can't agree with that conclusion myself— I think it is one of our mostle urgent needs in science). This is quoted by James Rand in testimony before the Humphrey Subcommittee for a Dept. of Science (Committee on Govt. Operations, 86th Sen., Subcom. on reorganization; May 28, 1959 Part II, p. 140.)

While I'm asking you about Information, I hope you and Bill Conselazio and Lou Levin and all have taken a hard look at Eugene Garfield's scheme for Citation indexing as a way out of the abstracting impasse in science. I am completely sold on the idea, and would be even if it were just used as an adjunct to effective subject-indexing. Dwight Gray has the details. I hope Garfield can be more effectively encouraged rather than deflected, as he may feel he has been in the past. This may mean trying to help him work out a better concrete proposal— the objections to doing this for research projects surely don't apply to this kind of service. Most or all of my colleagues who've sat still long enough to assimilate a proper explanation of this approach have been quite enthusiastic for its utility.

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg