

February 25, 1963

Dr. Robert S. Morison
Rockefeller Foundation
111 W. 50th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Bob:

I suspect that the thoughts put down in the enclosed preprints are not unfamiliar to you.

What puzzles me as much as the technical problems themselves is the consideration of the appropriate mechanism for worrying about them. I rather doubt that this can be government -- PSAC, for example, is much too much preoccupied with urgent short term and budgetary problems. The "university" is the obvious place for such thinking, but where do we find time for it between trying to teach and do experiments on the one hand, and raise money and fill out forms for the NIH on the other?

I hope I can persuade you to try reading this in an appropriate and serious mood, especially as it took me some time to reach that vantage point myself. This is the very point at issue, but my proposition is that euphenics must be taken very seriously as a short term outlook. The implications of the conscientious regulation of human cerebral development for the social order are no more trivial than are the world population explosion or the dissemination of atomic energy.

The transplantation issue is coming to a head even faster than I had anticipated a few months ago, and may furnish a good test of how well we can learn to cope with this kind of problem.

With best wishes,

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Morison