

#116

September 18, 1963

Mr. James B. O'Connell
Managing Editor
THINK Magazine
590 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

a show

Thank you for your letter of September 12. I appreciate your interest, which is rare; in the significance of exobiology. However, I have already expressed my views on several occasions and doubt that I can add to these reflections, or to the well-formed consensus of my colleagues, e.g. the Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences in several reports.

There is, however, another area of crucial interest that warrants much closer attention than it has so far received, either from scientists or community leaderships. I refer to the impending evolutionary crisis which arises from the application of biological science to man himself. If this topic is worth thinking about in more sober tones than the daily press repeatedly shouts, I would be glad to arrange an interview. The format of your interview with General Clay would suit very well; that is, explicit quotation, so there can be no confusion between my own remarks and your reporter's interpretation. I hope it is not a fatuous suggestion that your reporter have some background in biology to give as serious account of such matters, as you would say, of U.S. fiscal policy from an interview with Secretary Dillon.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:as

John Pfeiffer

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O'Connell - THINK