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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

8/22/77

Hon. Les Aspin
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Aspin--

This is to say how keenly I support your effort to regulate the abuse of telephone privacy. I would appreciate receiving a copy of the bill HR 13267, and other information on its legislative status.

This is not a peripheral issue of minor personal irritation. The telephone system is central to the whole network of inter-personal communication in our culture. We will see many further technical advances that will doubtless reduce its costs -- and make it ever more attractive to unsolicited intrusions. It is insufferable that this instrument of personal conversation should be abused to the extent it already has; and if unchecked, this trend will surely become ever worse. Even unlisted numbers are not a sure protection. And before long, telephone salesmen will have recourse to computer-mechanized dialing, which can automatically scan through every possible telephone number, whether in the directory or not, in the search for sales prospects.

I may have some technical comments, if I may have the opportunity to peruse your bill; but I have no doubt of being an enthusiastic supporter of your initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg

Aspin

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