



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

DEC - 4 1969

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

First, let me take advantage of your cordial comments and thank you for "cheering me on". Your letter of November 17 was genuinely welcome, for its candor all across the critical spectrum.

As of course you know, "stamping out research" is not among my highest priorities. But the fact is, for decades, we have been heading toward the health-care crisis in which now we find ourselves. In every professional and paraprofessional category, we are dangerously short of skilled manpower. Indeed, we lack the capability of translating research breakthroughs into actual and accessible health services.

In my remarks to the Mayo Alumni Association, it was this situation I attempted to pinpoint. Also, I stated my strong conviction that it denigrates both biomedical research and medical education to permit the one to dictate to the other --- and that applies both ways. We must begin to target resources more precisely, whatever the budgetary situation, and that is the process we have begun.

Again, my thanks for your forceful and thought-provoking comments. I hope you will often give me the benefit of your truly authoritative ideas.

Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,


Secretary

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, California 94305

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