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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT RESEARCH
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 218, 89TH CONGRESS)

May 13, 1966

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Genetics Department
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Doctor Lederberg:

Dr. Meyer, of my staff, has told me of the long and stimulating conversation he had with you today concerning the plans of my Subcommittee on Government Research. Because the conversation clearly defines you as an individual who has given deep thought to precisely the kind of question we must grapple with, I especially hope that it will be possible for you to be with us.

In order to give you some orientation, I might say that the seminar will be held for the purpose of discussing questions related to the development of a National Science Policy. It will be held on May 20, 1966, in room 4110, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., from 10:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.

At the seminar, we plan to discuss the following questions:

1. What problems of science policy are of greatest concern to you?
2. How may the nation's scientific and technical resources best be directed toward the national interest?
3. Should there be national science goals, and how should they be established?

In the last three years, the federal R & D budget has levelled off at about \$16 billion. It appears that it will continue at this level for the foreseeable future.

FRED
HARRIS

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
May 13, 1966

In light of this, it has become necessary to consider what our national goals for research and development should be, and to establish a series of priorities for the input of R & D funds. Some of the other questions which arise in this regard are: Who should make Science Policy? How can a National Science Policy best be developed? What is the effect of R & D expenditures on our universities, our society, and our economy? and How may we best plan the input of resources, i. e. money, manpower, etc., to obtain optimum social benefit?

I hope you will be able to attend the Seminar and be our guest for lunch. We are looking forward to hearing from you as to whether this will be possible

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



FRED R. HARRIS
U. S. SENATE

FRH/jag