

Memo from  
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Professor Charles  
Frankel

Columbia  
JUN 28 1972

Social Science and Policy

I have given much thought about your proposal, and after some vacillation, have decided that I had better decline. After hearing a seminar by Herrnstein yesterday, it became ever clearer that the content of his and Jensen's assertions (a coupling made by himself) has had very little to do with public (and policy?) reactions. The style has been all important; and this would carry me beyond my depth in sociological analysis of public opinion. (The matter of style is even more egregious in re Shockley, who has so little else to offer.)

I hope you will not avoid the issue (as, in a way, I now must do) but will find the appropriate expertise to deal with problems of social propaganda and how they influence public policy.

If you do find someone (un)wise enough to attempt such reflection on the Jensen etc. issues, I may still be able to contribute, if you wish, with a critical reprise on the scientific validity of the genetics invoked or implied therein. There are times when I feel you should find the highest competence in an actual field of work; and I am still an amateur in social science and philosophy.

I might perhaps nominate M.H. Haller (U Chicago??) author of an excellent historical work, on EUGENICS, Hereditarian attitudes in American Thought (Rutgers.)

Sincerely,

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