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Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Population and Family Planning
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mrs. Oettinger:

This is an obviously belated reply to your very kind letter of January 22. I am enclosing a copy of it to help refresh your memory.

I do, of course, share your deep concern for infant mortality as a major national problem, and also the overwhelming importance of making family planning services as widely available as possible.

I had indeed drafted a letter for prompt reply, and if I had included in it merely an acknowledgment and thanks for your kind comments on my columns, you would have heard from me very much sooner. I did, however, add to it my own personal appeal for assistance in funding our own research programs that bear in various ways on these problems. But then I thought there was little point in burdening you with just one more cry of distress when the overall condition of federal finances and the political situation put us all in the same dire straits together.

I know I do not have to tell you what the impact of retrenchment in federal support in medical research is at the present time, and what its long term consequences are going to be.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

OETTINGER