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science policy
fellowship funding

April 13, 1970

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

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I apologize for my long delay in answering your letter of March 20, 1970. The intervening period, however, has allowed me to clarify several points of some importance to our discussion.

The first of these is the question of The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. As I told you, I was attempting to feel the Institute's way toward a close collaboration with the Bulletin which would have justified our investing a good deal of money in its activities. It now appears that while a number of areas of mutual concern are identifiable, a really close relationship is probably not possible. There appear to be a number of historical and psychological reasons for this state of affairs. It may, consequently, change over a period of time. In light of this, I plan for the Institute to take a series of limited and discreet ventures in collaboration with the Bulletin but think it unlikely that the kind of significant breakthrough that you and I discussed is in the cards in the next few years.

However, this does not mean it will be impossible to accomplish a number of the suggestions that you put

forward and I would like to take advantage of your suggestion to arrange a meeting between you and the editor of the Bulletin at your mutual convenience.

Regarding your suggestion on Myron Tribus, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology, I believe we agreed, tentatively, that you would sound out the possibility of having him do a book possibly in collaboration with you for the Institute.

Once you have worked out your negotiations with the Nobel Foundation, I would be delighted to discuss further with you the issue of global epidemics.

Regarding the question of the feasibility of a "fellowship in situ", I would like to go ahead and consummate our arrangement. I have authorization, in principle, from our Board of Directors to do so. It remains for us to work out the necessary details and I think the easiest way to do this would be on my next trip to California or your next trip east for us to sit down to discuss it in some detail. Would you consider an alternative suggestion? Kenneth Hansen and several of my colleagues from the Institute plan to meet with me and the Chancellor from the University of Denver on the 15th of May in Denver. Is there any chance that you could join us for a part of our meeting so that we could work out these arrangements? This is, a modern American analogy to the old British notion that half a loaf is better than no bread: Perhaps half a continent is better than a delayed meeting!

I read your columns and enjoy them very much.

With warm personal regards,

As ever,

B in