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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

(CREATED PURSUANT TO SEC. 5(a) OF PUBLIC LAW 304, 75TH CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 12, 1973

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg:

It is apparent that the Air Force will justify the need for a new B-1 bomber in part by the reductions in the B-52 inventory as a result of their losses over North Vietnam.

Aside from the entire question of the War, which I oppose, the use of B-52's is particularly alarming.

Your point about the military justification of using SAC forces on a tactical mission is well made. This has generally been overlooked, but SAC forces have been nearly cut in half due to the Vietnam battle.

I will continue to be critical of the B-1 bomber and will object to any attempt by the Air Force to justify a new bomber on the basis of the reduction in forces occurring in Vietnam.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Sincerely,



William Proxmire, U.S.S.

WP:rtg

PROXMIRE, W.