Memo from JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: T. Caspersson

OCT 3 1972

I hope (and am sure) you did have a successful meeting.

May I ask your help on a historical matter?

Wyatt raised a silly question (see encl.) as well as made some confusing misinterpretations, which I intend to answer more fully in due course. The question was, why did not Avery receive a Nobel Prize? (It is not so unreasonable in relation to his earlier work on polysaccharide immunochemistry; I must surmize that the 1930 prize to Landsteiner was viewed as an appropriate level of emphasis on that field.)

Without pressing such a question, I could still think that the Nobel Foundation may have some documents that would be quite illuminating with respect to that history; and I wonder if there is any possibility of extracting any commentary that could further illustrate the visibility that Avery had in the eyes of biologists between 1944 and his death in 1955. Is it possible to ascertain whether he was even formally nominated?

I would also be most interested in the route of your own early discovery of Avery's work, and your impressions of it. Were you in communication with him prior to 1944?

X

PROFESSOR JOSHUA LEDERBERG
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305