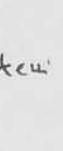
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY
KERCKHOFF LABORATORIES OF BIOLOGY

May 27, 1955

Dear Francis

A brief note. I have finished writing a MS with Don Caspar on TMV. The typist now has it and when its finished I shall send you a copy. The point of this letter is to inquire about Potato Virus X. Have you inquired about the possibility of getting some grown for us. Either Markham or Bawden are possibilities. If we obtained the infected leaves, this would be sufficient. In fact its best if we isolate the virus as it tends to aggregate in a merry fashion. The people at Berkeley have learned that isolation in distilled water is the best procedure for keeping it non aggregated. We should need at least 1 gram, probably 2 or 3. This should require about 50 infected plants. I think Roy should be cooperative, certainly its best if we do not have to travel to Bawdens lab. Let us say we need the leaves by Sept. 1, so we could start to work after the August holidays.

I now have definite plans for doing the O^{18} analysis at Brookhaven. Its proved impractical to get it done here since isolation from PO_4 is very tricky indeed. Arthur Kornberg will be one of the participants so we shall have a very first rate biochemist on the problem as well as Dan Koshland, the O^{18} expert. The result in any case will be interesting since even a disproof of chemical bonds to the protein via a  of the P-O-P idea will be very useful in limiting the

structural arrangements.

Chargaff was here earlier in the week. I dont believe he likes me (or you for that matter) He has a new rule (the same Nature story) - 6 Keto = 6 Amino but it doesn't hold for TYM Virus so I wonder if it will prove useful. His seminar was slightly ludicrous - a long introduction on scientific method and the harm that premature hypotheses can do.

I am leaving here, a week from today. After June 20th, I can be reached at Biological Laboratories Harvard. Still hope to be in England by early July. Should like to have O^{18} result with me. Caltech models are on their way - Tell John that I have talked to Corey about the matter

Regards to Odile

Jim

Dont procrastinate about PVX

PP/CRI/D/2/45