HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
16 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

24 March 1967

Dr. Francis Crick
M.R.C. Unit for Molecular Biology
The Medical School
Hills Road
Cambridge, England

Dear Francis:

I have asked Harvard University Press to send you a copy of my newest version of Honest Jim. I believe you shall find that I have revised the MS to meet virtually every specific objection contained in your long letter of March '66. I should have liked to send you a new version much sooner, but, given the school year and the fact that it is easier to revise after a long interval away from the previous efforts, this is the quickest I was capable of.

Here I shall not go into the general principles involved in creating this type of book. I fear we are bound to disagree. I will only say that it is the almost unanimous advice (~49/50) of many friends (most of whom also know you well and know of your and Maurice's specific objections) that I should go ahead. I'm sure that they would not have so advised me if they felt its publication would be at all harmful to you or against the spirit of contemporary science.

As for other news, repressors dominate the atmosphere here. Wally now appears to have the lac repressor sticking to its specific DNA. My father has had a serious operation for an ulcer but now is quite well. Because of his illness I went several times to Florida. Except for that I've done little travelling, though it now looks like the Ford Foundation will send me to Turkey for the first part of May.

Of course I shall be interested in your reaction to the new version. I seriously think it is much better, both literarily and scientifically, and I hope you shall find it more acceptable.

With best regards to Odile,

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Watson

cc: Sir Lawrence Bragg
T.J. Wilson, Harvard University Press

JDW/sma