Blind copy to: Dr. Lederberg ←

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

July 31, 1968

Mr. Templeton Peck
San Francisco Chronicle
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Temp:

I'm intruding upon your time to make a not entirely disinterested plea for the Chronicle to take up Professor Joshua Lederberg's weekly column, syndicated by the Washington Post.

No doubt you know Josh's incredibly many-sided gifts; surely there must be few Nobel Prize-winning scientists capable of turning out such consistently interesting copy for the intelligent reader. He keeps up with Washington developments most energetically, and it's no accident that the Washington Post is his patron. Several times lately it has seemed to me that he got right at the heart of the major questions of our time, brushing past the mountains of trivia that tend to fill our field of vision (well, mine at least!). When historians are writing about us, fifty years hence, assuming that there are some, they'll be writing about the topics Josh writes about now. And if there aren't any historians left it will be because too few people paid attention to the problems that preoccupy him.

It would be a notable public service for the Chronicle to publish Dr. Lederberg's column, and I should think that there would be a certain regional pride that such a polymath lives and works among us.

Please forgive me for intruding in what is none of my business. I hope you're having as restful a summer as 1968 conditions permit!

Sincerely,

Richard W. Lyman
Vice President and Provost

Enc. (Column of 7/6/68)