OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

December 5, 1966

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
c/o THE WASHINGTON POST
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your column of December 4 leads me to believe that you would be interested in several activities of this office. *

First, I enclose a release and report recently issued by a panel on telecommunications which agrees with your own point about the inadequacies of existing voice transmission. This report looks at the broader problem of spectrum utilization, with the social implications and public policy aspects. The fact that the individual may not be able to hear clearly when conducting a long-distance conversation is but a small manifestation of the broad problem.

Second, I enclose the report of The President's Commission on the Patent System. A forthcoming report on invention and innovation will also be of interest, I believe, in line with your statement: "With great pain, we may learn how to cope with single innovations, but we are surely a long way from dealing effectively with the cumulative process of innovation and displacement." I will send you that report when it is available.

Finally, I enclose several recent speeches of Dr. Hollomon's bearing on these problems.

Sincerely yours,

Odom Fanning

Odom Fanning
Special Assistant to the
Assistant Secretary for
Science and Technology

Enclosures

Jam wicked, and am grateful for your attention.
I hope you will continue to keep me in mind.