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THE PRESIDENT

April 3, 1978

Professor Joshua Lederberg
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Lederberg, J

Dear Josh:

Thank you for your note regarding the National Medal of Science. I feel quite strongly that Maclyn McCarty should have received it long ago. Anyone who followed the history of Dr. Avery's work will know that he leaned quite heavily on others for chemical expertise. In reconstructing what happened there is no doubt in my mind that Mac's role was an absolutely essential one in connection with the discovery that DNA is the genetic material. It was a question of the right man in the Avery Laboratory at the right time. These comments are not intended to denigrate Avery's work at all but rather to emphasize the importance of Mac's work. Incidentally, I knew MacLeod well in his later years. While he was a very fine man he did not have the scientific depth that Mac possesses.

Sincere regards,

Fred

Frederick Seitz

P.S. As I said on the phone both Stan Moore + Dick Knauss are helping.