UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY
362 NOYES LABORATORY OF CHEMISTRY
URBANA

March 8, 1955

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
College of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I have begun to assume my normal functions after the incident which I am sure you heard some rumors about. I hope you and my other friends discount much of the second-hand reports you may have heard. The truth is spectacular enough but I am sure pales by comparison. I have virtually recovered and have suffered no permanent damages other than a few scars.

I should like to answer certain questions which you raised in your P. S. With respect to my going to Israel, final arrangements have not been made and it seems likely that they will not be able to have a laboratory available until this coming spring. I fully intend to go and do what I can to start some research programs in Microbiology there with some young people who are anxious to get started and are certainly worth any efforts which can be expended in their behalf.

I also find it difficult (but not disturbing) to understand how the two of us can be confused. Certainly placed side by side there should be no difficulty; however distance apparently lends similarity as well as enchantment.

With regard to the review for the Annual Reviews, I must confess that in principle I feel more or less as you do. I spent somewhere in the neighborhood of two and one half months on the reading as well as the writing. It is certain that from a personal point of view I could have spent the amount of intense effort involved more profitably on other things. Nevertheless, I felt that until a more rational solution is obtained for the problem those of us in the field owe our colleagues the performance of this service which is undoubtedly a useful one. On the other hand, I will admit that this is a job that I will not assume again.

I hope that we will have the opportunity in the not too distant future to get together. It has been a long time since we have had the opportunity of an extended discussion.

With kindest regards to yourself and Esther,

Sincerely yours,

Sol

S. Spiegelman
Professor of Bacteriology

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