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STANFORD UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
School of Medicine

December 26, 1966

Mr. John Merriam
Legislative Asst. to
Senator Thomas Kuchel
Senate Office Bldg
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear John:

I was deeply gratified at the Senator's position on the arms race, and hope it will reinforce the feeble efforts the Administration is finally beginning to make. Did you see the unusually perceptive article in the WSJ, xerocopy enclosed? I am not so worried about starting a "light" ABM, but if we do we should reverse the usual security policies and try to keep the Russians very well informed about it so there is no misunderstanding about its functions.

MERRIAM

The 'Truth-Machine' parody has just been sent in to the Post. Make any use you can or wish of it. Could Congress be the Truth-Ministry?

Is there any further follow-up on the NATO conference? If none is likely I might use some of the text I wired for a column on an Atlantic University, but of course I would be even happier if the Senator took a continued interest in it.

Very best wishes,


Joshua Lederberg

P7 P.S. I am speculating over the idea of a sabbatical year in Washington, say Sept. 67-June 68. I mean this mainly for my own education in how the government is able to react to science, and don't have any ax to grind. One thought that occurred to me was to follow up on our earlier discussions of hearings on technological priorities. This would be specially pertinent if, God will it, the Vietnam war is quieted and we start worrying about reconversion again. Anyhow let me just drop this pebble into the pool.

