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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS
1137 E. CATHERINE STREET
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
48104

TELEPHONE:
ANN ARBOR, 764-5490

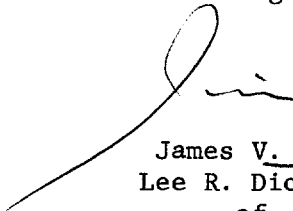
April 6, 1973


Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical School
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

It seems that you, Sir Otto, and Gunther Stent are the speakers on the Symposium which I will chair on "Genetics in Human Affairs" at the Berkeley Congress. When you get around to outlining your presentation, I would appreciate some indication of its general thrust. Sir Otto is fairly predictable, but Stent is not. In view of our recent exchange of letters, to what extent will you be countering a point of view which Stent may be expected to develop. I might say that with respect to my opening remarks, I expect to present the point of view that for the foreseeable future, the human geneticist should not regard himself as a knight in shining armor riding out to transmute bad genes, but a member of a team trying to define how genetic factors contribute to disease and then with his peers considering how we develop a culture that minimizes the expression of these genetic predispositions and gives each of our unique phenotypes the squarest shake possible.

Best regards,



James V. Neel, M.D. 
Lee R. Dice University Professor
of Human Genetics

D+ file

JVN:mw

*Int'l Congress Genetics
Berkeley 9/73*

NA uninterested