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May 17, 1958

Dear Joshua,

It's difficult to think of anyone you would not already have thought of. Sydney Brenner? Alan Garen? George Streisinger (now almost a biochemist)?

Regarding Ernst Freese, it is amusing to note that nowadays, for a genetics – biochemistry position, one thinks of a physicist – with good reason, of course. Freese originally did theory with Heisenberg, and then with Feynman, but felt he could accomplish more in biology. Delbrück (in trying to dissuade him – "left handed seduction") perhaps reinforced his determination to switch. At Cal Tech, he worked on recombination in neurospora, but decided later that phage was more favorable.

In the short four months he spent at Purdue (on a Damon Runyon Fellowship) he worked hard on the bacteriocin story with good success. He discriminates well between what is and what is not interesting or important, is able to formulate clearly what he wants to do, and comes right to grips with the obstacles. He works well on his own, although perhaps overlooking somewhat the other things going on around him. Personality – wise, he is well disciplined and can be very gracious, but at the same time is also resourceful and tough, with apparently few illusions.

Characteristically, he has set himself to learning genetics and biochemistry. Because of his late start, he naturally is under some pressure

to establish himself in his new field, and, with his intelligence and drive, I believe he is very likely to succeed.

I thought you were going to Berkeley. But then, perhaps you thought I was going to Baltimore. Do you think we can frustrate Cy's ambition to "clean out the middle west"?

Best regards to Esther and yourself,

Sincerely,

Seymour.

P.S. See you in Roquemont?