

May 7, 1952

Dr. R. P. Levine
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Amherst, Mass.

Dear Paul:

I am sorry to hear that you have been, shall we say, restless in your position at Amherst. It can't have been entirely profitless however it may turn out.

If you are thinking about resuming discussions about coming here for a time as a research fellow or associate, I'm all for it. The financial situation is almost exactly as it was last year, as stated in my letter of February 24, 1951. The space picture is much brighter than it was then, but I have not yet reviewed next year's commitments. It is (as last year) a little late to start applying for fellowships, but the picture is not entirely dark. The same would apply to your wife's possible plans. Please let me know if this is what you have been thinking of. If a decent arrangement can be worked out, I'd like very much to have you with me. I suppose you are right in thinking there are not so many research jobs in *Drosophila* genetics that don't take a heavy teaching load. I count myself very fortunate in my present position, but I think the whole outlook is rather brighter in microbiology than in zoology.

Some interesting things have come up lately, especially a sex-compatibility system in *E. coli* K-12. We would have picked it up in the out-crossing program but Esther (and, contemporaneously, L. Cavalli at Milan) ran into it in K-12 first. We have a paper (Lederberg, Cavalli and Lederberg) in press, but most of the details are in the enclosed report, along with the *Salmonella* work. For the latter, I may add that the FA is probably attached to phage particles. As an evolutionist, I think you may be especially amused at the enclosed reprint.

With best regards to ~~the family~~

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg