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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

October 22, 1974

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg:

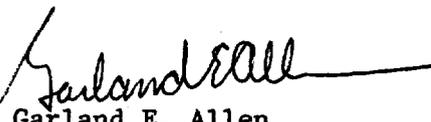
Thanks for your note and comments sent recently.

I think you are absolutely right that Beadle played no role in Lindegren's original work on Neurospora at Cal Tech. Beadle and Tatum's work was, of course, at Stanford not at Cal Tech. As far as I know, while he was at Cal Tech Beadle was mostly concerned with Drosophila.

More touchy is the question of Lindegren's actual role in pursuing the genetics of Neurospora. I, too, was aware of the bitterness which Lindegren later expressed about how his own initial work was overshadowed by that of Beadle and Tatum. In my book on Morgan I have tried to give an as accurate a picture as I can of Lindegren's role (as I understand it). In my original draft I had written that Lindegren worked out some aspects the genetics of Neurospora in the middle and late 1930's. This past summer Dr. Isabel Mountain (T. H. Morgan's daughter) read over the manuscript and made a comment about this point. She said that Lindegren told her in 1966 that all he did was "clean up" the cultures originally obtained from Dodge. I am currently writing a letter directly to Beadle to ask for his opinion on this point. This is still a difficult issue to sort out.

Thanks again for your comments and sketches.

Very sincerely yours,


Garland E. Allen
Associate Professor

GEA/cn