Memo from JOSHUA LEDERBERG *To:* Jay Savage

MAY 6 1976

OTS.

Thank you for sending me the material on this distressing story.

I am afraid that my judgment is that it would be wasted effort to even try to "sell the debt" in its present form except to a sponsor that had the most vital, direct interests in your field stations: e.g. that had made recent use of them or related work.

What is notably lacking is word from the "academic creditors" about their position. If they organized (with you) with a plan about their own contributions, e.g. partial rescission or deferral of

PROFESSOR JOSHUA LEDERBERG
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

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the debt, you just might be able to fire up some steam to contributions for constructive investment in further programs, a side-effect of which is to get the debt paid off.

~~Can you~~ Have you succeeded in getting some refunding of those debt obligations?

I wish I could be more optimistic; but I can't see putting time and energy into efforts that I know would be foredoomed locally.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

PROFESSOR JOSHUA LEDERBERG
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305