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June 9, 1970

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

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

From the newspaper reports I have read, I gather that you are concerned about the need for more funds for genetic research and, I assume, study of the implications of such research. In case you are interested, it is possible that Congress will go into at least the latter of these issues.

The House has just passed and has sent to the Senate a bill to create a joint committee on the environment. One of the committee's responsibilities would be to study and review (it would be a non-legislative committee) "the character and extent of environmental and technological changes that may occur in the future and their effect on population, communities and industries .. and to study methods of using all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster, promote, create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans..." Admittedly there is no guarantee that the committee will perceive its mandate in so broad a light, but it might. Representative Steiger commented on the committee's extremely broad mandate during the floor discussion.

Another possibility is the bill Congressman Daddario is pushing to establish an Office of Technological Assessment. With some stretching of the present concept of such an office I believe it would be possible to include the question of the societal implications of genetic advances in its purview.

Sincerely yours,

Joel Margolis

Joel Margolis
Office of Representative
William A. Steiger

JUN 15 1970

I have been following these developments in the Congr. Rec., but would be pleased at any further documentation, hearing reports, etc.

Actually, I much more upset about whether there will be a reasonable level of genetic research than about the requirements for social control, which have been vastly inflated, outside the realm of biological ~~work~~

wafu.
Sincerely
John F.