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GEORGE W. BEADLE
5533 DORCHESTER AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

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Dear Josh:

Thanks for your note of Sept 13.

I'm sorry to say, all correspondence of the period 1944-45 as well as before and after has long been left behind and tossed out. And I don't remember any of the kind you mention, i.e. transforming Neurospora or on recombination in E. coli.

Ed may have told you, but if not you might be interested in my recollections of thoughts and suggestions on bacterial recombination. When the Neurospora work was well under way, I suggested to Ed that with nutritional mutants the Gowen experiments on possible bacterial

recombination could tried under conditions in which a much lower frequency of such an event could be detected, and why didn't he try it. In part I felt that at that stage Ed should have something going for which he was primarily responsible. As you no doubt know better than I, he put Gray on this, making mutants in E. coli. I don't remember how many they had or how extensively they looked for recombination or whether these lines were involved in your later experiments

Another interesting point: Before Neurospora, Ed's father paid him a visit and during this called me aside to express his concern as to whether Ed wasn't headed up a blind alley. "Here he is", he said, "neither a geneticist nor a biochemist.

It doesn't seem to me he has any apparent future." My own response I remember exactly — "Professor Tatum, don't you worry. It is going to be all right." I know he was not convinced

I've reverted to full-time work on the origin of corn — convinced that the whole business has been loused up for 35 years and that teosinte is the one and only ancestor. I think I'm filling up a pretty persuasive case. Anyway it's good clean fun growing 50000 or so hybrids.

Best regards

Beets