

W. M. Birenbaum file



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

December 6, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. William M. Birenbaum
President
Antioch University
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

Dear Dr. Birenbaum:

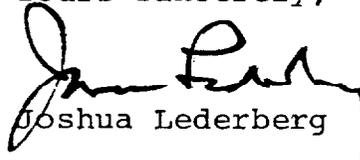
This is not to quarrel with the thrust of "Forward to the Basics" -- you will see some echoes of cognate themes in my own annual report, posted separately.

As a newcomer to New York City I would be delighted to discover immense reservoirs of basic research, either in chemistry or in economics, beyond the universities with which I am familiar. I think of Bell Labs, IBM Research and Brookhaven National Laboratories but none of these is in the "great city like New York" -- or should I not read such geographic precision in your remark? At that it is arguable whether your statement would hold for chemistry, as notable as are the contributions of the industrial and national laboratories, especially in physics. Further BNL has very close ties to SUNY-Stony Brook.

I am even more puzzled about your remark about economics, especially after NBER moved most of its work to Cambridge.

Certainly I adhere to your point about broader mobilization, but I am not so optimistic how much basic research we will find "over there", nor whether this is their special contribution. I would be happy to be wrong.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg