John Macomber

NOV 2 1980

Celanese science advisory

Dear John —

I very much appreciate the friendliness and seriousness of your invitation. Having carefully reviewed my other commitments, I don't think I can take on the full vocation you ask — and what my own inquisitiveness and sense of responsibility would impel. There are three major government agencies and four public service institutions for which I play a similar role -- not to mention this university -- of over-sight over their general programs; and it is temperamentally difficult for me to "hit-and-run", and reduce my commitment to less than the opportunity and responsibility.

Let me be so bold, however, as to suggest a counteroffer, of more modest scope. That is to be a consultant to the committee, ad hoc, when matters closest to my central professional competence — in microbiology and molecular biology — are at issue.

[X] ....

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see p 229

Others might well believe that these specialized perspectives would have the greatest marginal value to you. I had in mind that two or three (part ?-) days a year would exhaust my utility to you in this mode, and still be feasible for my own calendar. Above all I would not be tempted into too far-reaching a commitment.

I can imagine many reasons why you might not wish to take up this offer; and above all I would not want to preempt any more useful alternative. So please don't waste much time in "politesse" in responding to my suggestion along any motives other than what you sees Celanese' best interests.

Of course I would be happy to discuss this with you further after you have decided on a response.

Yours,

Jim.