5/29/81 Lawrence

X Avery

MEMO

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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
NOV 27 1980
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I read with exceptional pleasure the report in Science on Rene Dubos and gramicidin. It has always seemed to me that one of the most unjust things science and medicine have done is not to recognize that the 4th floor of the hospital should be a shrine made so of two of the great men of our century. That antibiotics and DNA both came from Fess Avery and Rene has always been a marvel to me. At the time when I was working on the 5th floor, I had no idea how important they were.

To think that every one else got Nobel Prizes and Avery and Dubos did not, is incredible. It is true that Americans don't seem to care about getting think straight from the beginnings but the Avery-Dubos case is just too much. I would not expect the British to yield and inch; they never do but the fault lies with us.

I hope the Institute some day will proclaim to the world the truth of the greatness of Avery and Dubos. I've told Rene write a biography of Fess. By chance could your secretary give me the reference. I plan to write a short note in Modern Medicine stating my views hoping that no one cares.

Most cordially

Irvine H Page

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