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INVITATION

March 10, 1975

To: Joshua Lederberg, Department of Genetics

From: Professor Holt Ashley, Aeronautics and Astronautics Department
Professor Thomas J. Connolly, Mechanical Engineering Department
Professor John McCarthy, Computer Science Department
Professor William C. Reynolds, Mechanical Engineering Department

Subject: Meeting with Professor Hans Bethe

There appears to be a substantial danger that the anti-nuclear movement will succeed in forcing some kind of moratorium on nuclear energy. It is already contributing substantially to the delays in developing nuclear energy, and it is picking up many activists who were formerly concerned with other issues.

In our opinion, nuclear energy is safe enough and can be made safer, so that it is important that the country rely on it for the major part of its new electric power generation given that the oil and gas presently used for this purpose should be reserved for transportation and chemical purposes.

A major reason for the political strength of the anti-nuclear movement is that its only organized opposition comes from the utilities who have a commercial interest in the matter.

Recently, Professor Hans Bethe of Cornell University, a Nobel Laureate in physics, has become concerned with the danger that America will not solve its energy problem, and a group of prominent scientists organized by him issued the enclosed statement, which unfortunately got rather little publicity in the media.

Professor Bethe is visiting Stanford for a few weeks and is giving several lectures on the Energy Problem - at SLAC on March 13 and March 17 at 4pm and in Physics 100 at 4pm on March 12. The lecture on March 13 will be a discussion of the objections to nuclear energy.

Professor Bethe has agreed to discuss the politics of saving nuclear energy at 8pm on March 17 at the home of Professor Thomas Connolly, 855 Lathrop Drive, Stanford. This letter is an invitation to that meeting. You are welcome to bring colleagues. If you plan to attend, please reply to Professor Connolly at 497-4021 during the day.