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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE STATE OF COLORADO
DENVER

February 26, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I walked out of Federal District Court last week, where in final argument I had cited Dr. Joshua Lederberg (I'm chief trial counsel in a conservation attempt to stop the A.E.C.'s Project Rulison) to find your letter. I am honored.

I enclose some legislation, speeches and articles which reflect my thinking along with some newspaper accounts of the battle going on here in Colorado.

I do not presume to have a solution, I propose only a few unoriginal halting steps in the right direction. The question whether we must ultimately go to "governmental controls", to my mind is largely academic. They are not now within the realm of the possible. Al Smith, one of the world's most practical politicians, once said "a politician can't be so far ahead of the band he can't hear the music". That might be the ultimate tragedy of the commons.

Thus to the extent that population control is a political product and purchased on the political marketplace, we must (now) talk "disincentives". This may not be enough to save the species, but it is a current political reality. To come out for anything stronger, however necessary, would (now) not only not help - it may be counterproductive.

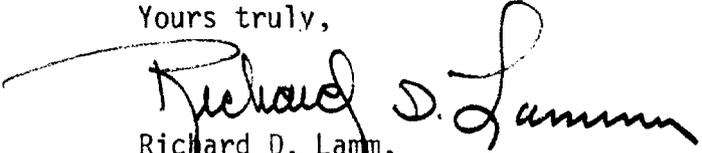
I am preparing a series of bills on disincentives which will help serve as an educational device toward the necessity of two child families. They include in addition to H.B. 1087, a bonus for welfare and other non-taxpayers, and certain other attempts to initiate a state policy toward small families. I will forward them to you when prepared.

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Senator Packwood (Oregon) introduced a similar disincentive bill in the U.S. Senate yesterday. He suggested exemptions for three natural children, which while it stays closer to political safety does not deal with the unpopular yet inevitable problem of the "third" child. We can avoid the problem no longer - if the third child is not made a faux pas in this generation, it will be made illegal in the next.

I enclose a copy of a statement to other politicians which I hope will have some dramatic educational effect. I welcome your comments.

Yours truly,



Richard D. Lamm,
State Representative

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Enclosures