



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE

USPHS Tbc. Research Lab.
411 East 69th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

January 6, 1953

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua,

Enclosed is my reply from Plough, which I thought you'd like to see. I don't believe I'm betraying any confidence in showing this to you, but I suppose it would be better not to mention this in any correspondence you may have with him. It seems to me that he is ~~weakening~~ ^{weakening} rapidly on the requirements of his strains. As to his other objection, as I understand the transduction phenomenon, it was an accident that the phage had to be induced into your donor strain from without, and I don't see any conflict ^{between} ~~of~~ your observations and his finding of a donor strain that was already infected. Anyway, I'm just as glad to be out of this problem, and since Plough is an honest if not a very reliable worker I'm sure you and he will ultimately be able to come to agreement about the facts and their interpretation. I still think you might find direct contact with him the quickest way to settle the matter.

Sincerely yours,

BDD/em

Bernard D. Davis