December 8, 1953

Dr. Alexander Hollander
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My dear Dr. Hollander:

Thank you for keeping us in mind in your inquiry of November 27. Larry will not be through with his studies here until June or possibly January 1955 and is therefore probably not immediately available for the position that you have in mind. I have to mention, as I have probably indicated before, that his performance here has been quite splendid. He has accumulated a great deal of experimental data on transductions in E. coli, some of this work being in collaboration with Esther. Unfortunately, the results do not lend themselves to presentation in small bits and it may be some time before the whole of the work can be published, but when you see it I am sure you will concur in this appraisal of his abilities.

At the instant I can not refer to any candidate who would be immediately available and best suited for your position. Tom Nelson is working with us on a fellowship which will, however, not expire for somewhat over another year. I do not now have any other students who would be available for consideration. Without giving a detailed appraisal as to their availability or qualifications, however, I would like to mention just the names of Dr. Stanley Shapiro, now in the Department of Bacteriology at Iowa States College at Ames, Iowa; Dr. P. David Skaar, currently at Cold Spring Harbor; Arnold Raven, who is now at Rochester; and Ellis Engelsberg, who is at the Hooper Foundation in San Francisco. These are all young men who have done some creditable work and are probably not yet in their definite berths. There may also be several other persons at Cold Spring Harbor who do not yet have permanent appointments with tenure, but you possibly know rather more about this than I do.

I would like to mention a rather outstanding person who is, as far as I know, not yet in a happy, secure position and would be an undoubted intellectual asset to any organization that had the foresight and the ability to attract him. I am referring to

Haig Papazian, who is now temporarily at Yale in the Botany Department. Papazian is not, strictly speaking, a bacterial geneticist but his work on the genetics of hymenomycetes is exemplary.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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