Sunday
29 March 1953.

Dear Dr Lederberg,

Just a note - a longer to follow. First of all let me apologize for not answering your very helpful letter much sooner. It has been a real guide and will continue to be for the next couple months.

One reason I held off writing was to see if I could follow my Chicago trip up with a few days with you in Wisconsin. However, I think I shall go out there - quickly give my paper on the viruses work & return here. It would be much more satisfactory if I do a little more work before I take your time.

Will you be at Cold Spring Harbor in June? I hope so.

Your skepticism about the O & K

antigens was more than justified. We just followed a cook book procedure & there is no proof at all that we have both antigens. I naively accepted Kaufmann Manual of preparation as sufficient & from your remarks I guess I should not have. At any rate we still use the serum to identify our strain & K12 & Coli 15 & others do not cross.

That strain we use came from S.S. Chen. It is hit by the T phages & certainly is biochemically coli. We sent same to Ewing after getting your letter to check.

Our work on the new virus stuff & virus DNA in general is tremendously interesting & rather cuts in on the "Cu" bug.

The rejection by J. Bact has led to good deal more thought than might otherwise have occurred - so as is true with all things it turned out to be the right & profitable way.

Will write again. Soon.

Very Sincerely —

Larry Weed