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Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics and Biology
Stanford University
CALIFORNIA
U.S.A.

June 28th 1974

Dear Professor Lederberg,

On behalf of producer Dominic Flessati, I am now following up last week's phone call.

As I mentioned, we intend to record six programmes in our 'Controversy' series in the Royal Institution in London, three in early September, and three probably in the third week in January.

Apart from the paper by Sir James Lighthill which you heard, our main speakers in recent years have included: Professor Thomas Szasz, Professor Jaques Monod, Dr Edward Teller, Professor B.F. Skinner, Professor Sir Ernst Chain, Herman Kahn, Dr Christiaan Barnard, Professor Hans Eysenk - and many of them have taken fairly wide themes within their own fields.

It is not essential that our programmes take the form of a confrontation between one main speaker and others in opposition. We could in fact stage any sort of debate suitable to the auditorium at the R.I.

Though we have not yet definitely decided to drop the idea of staging a debate on the social implications of modern biology and genetics, I do fully take your point that some of the issues are now pretty well-worn. We are also interested in the prospect of the sort of debate you suggested about whether scientists are doing all they can to provide a more humane world technology.

Can you suggest how such a debate might be presented, or who you would like to see involved (bearing in mind that not all our contributors can come from the U.S.A.)? What particular issues would you like to see thrashed out, perhaps associated with world health problems?

If you were invited to present a paper yourself in such a context, what would be your theme - and could it be related in any way to your own scientific work?

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Martin Freeth
('CONTROVERSY')