STANFORD UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

Jan 21 46

Dear Lederberg:

I apologize for not having answered your previous letter. I've been pretty swamped with work of one kind or another and just didn't get to it.

In the Dec '41 Amer J of Bot there is a paper telling the origin of all strains and mutants were used. This should be out by the time this letter reaches you. I'm afraid 4637, 15300, and 33757 have recovered from outcrosses and are not the original strains. No careful record of this was kept in the early work. In any case, since each mutant strain has two parents which were certainly not isogenic, there is not much advantage in knowing pedigrees in detail. I'm afraid all that can be done where it's necessary to have isogenic stocks is to make them so or use many stocks and treat results statistically. This isn't very satisfactory I know and if we knew at the beginning what we know now and

had had time we might have considered making stocks isogenic. I shall have all our mutant type strains sent to you so that you can at least determine how much variability exists among them. Dr Harris has found considerable variability in day night responses of different isolates of the same mutant type and is having the same difficulty you are.

Your results with leucineless sound most exciting and we shall be glad to hear more when you've got it figured out. Regnery is working nights now getting some of the leucineless strains in shape and making preliminary studies on them. He is of course very much interested in your work. I hope you can get together one of these times. If he doesn't get east or you west I'll suggest he write to you. Alternatively you might drop him a note.

Best regards to you and the Ryans.

Sincerely

M.W. Beadle