Personal Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

Dr. A. Macfarlane

JUL 19 1985

Day of birth (9-22-84)

I was interested to see your note in Lancet, and would appreciate copies of your publications.

Some 20 years, I had a similar interest in these environmental effects on pediatric events — see enclosed — but did not succeed in getting much useful information on morbidity.

Without being able to get conclusive evidence, I am inclined to think that there is a psychosomatic component (maternal anticipation) in the rhythm of births; there may be problems of hospital staffing.... influencing morbidity. If elective inductions of labor were playing a major role, I would expect a pile-up on Fridays, rather than a spread through the weekdays as is generally observed.

There is also a diurnal cycle — and here induction may be expected to play some role.

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A few observations have come my way on day-of-week effects on patient care + outcome. If you can enlarge my bibliography, I would be grateful.

Yours sincerely,

John A Robbins letter to
New Engl. Jour. Medicine
28 July 1977

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encl. (Bus Week)

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