Dear Josh:

This will acknowledge receipt of your November 16th letter, with its enclosures on the GND program, for which many thanks.

I will wait to hear something from Ken Warren before writing again, and at length, but this is to assure you that there is much to write about, and to discuss. The program makes sense, not only as a major enterprise of the Foundation, but also as a proper investment for the intellectual and educational resources built up in American biology during the past three decades.

I think that the MBL can and ought to play a key role. We can't and oughtn't to do tropical medicine, but what we can do, — superbly, perhaps— is to provide the focus of teaching, of laboratory experience in the fundamental zoology, and the opportunity for interaction with those at the frontier of life science, that is the hallmark of the MBL's historic role. It will take thought, hard work, and a certain amount of politicking to bring it off by 1980, but I think it can be done, and I should appreciate the chance to try.

I'll be in touch when next I'm in New York with a few free hours. Please think of doing the same when you come to the Boston area.

Cordially,

Paul R. Gross

XC: Dr. Prosser Gifford