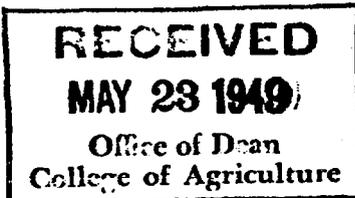


THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Madison 6

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

May 23, 1949



Dean R. K. Proker  
Agricultural Hall

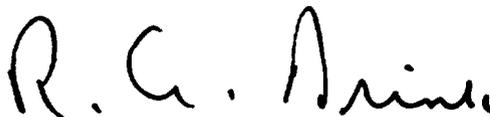
Dear Dean Proker:

On emerging from your office on Friday, after discussing the departmental budget, Professor Perry Wilson of the Department of Agric. Bacteriology stopped me in the hall to say that he hoped we were making every effort to protect Wisconsin's position with reference to Dr. Lederberg. Wilson had just returned from the annual meeting of the American Society of Bacteriologists at Cincinnati where Lederberg presented an invitation paper in the symposium on enzymology and a paper on some other phases of his work in one of the special sessions. Wilson told me that the Lederberg paper was the outstanding one in the symposium and that the man's work is attracting considerable notice among leading bacteriologists. Wilson warned that other institutions on the lookout for an exceptionally promising young man are likely to desire his services.

I pass this comment on to you because it is the same reaction that I had from a group of geneticists discussing recent developments in our field informally at the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington a few weeks ago.

We would be remiss in our responsibility if we did not pass such facts on to you in connection with the budget planning. The departmental request that Lederberg's salary be increased \$1000, we realize, is an extreme recommendation. Nevertheless, we feel his case justifies this special consideration. Lederberg was started at a low salary two years ago (\$3500 for the academic year) compared to what many men are receiving on completion of their Ph.D. work. It behooves us now to make up as rapidly as we can the deficiencies in view of the exceptional merit which Lederberg has demonstrated.

Very truly yours,



R. A. Brink  
Professor of Genetics

RAB/s