

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROBIOLOGY



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February 24, 1989

Dr. Marshall W. Nirenberg
Lab Biochemistry Genetics
National Institutes of Health, 9000
Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Marshall:

This year I find myself President of the Society for Neuroscience. As you might guess, one of my main preoccupations is with the animal activists. I've decided to concentrate on offensive tactics, rather than to limit myself to fighting brush fires.

When I heard Koop's (the Surgeon General's) comments on smoking a few weeks ago I was struck by the contrast between his boldness on that issue and his reluctance--and also that of the administration of the NIH and the NSF--to deal with the animal rights question.

I want to get your reaction to the idea of writing the Surgeon General a letter, signed by as many Nobel Prize winners as we can get, urging him to take a more active stance on this issue. Would you be willing to sign such a letter, and perhaps similar ones to the top people at NIH and NSF? If enough of us are enthusiastic I will prepare drafts of a few such letters for your approval.

Sincerely,

David

David H. Hubel, M.D.
Professor of Neurobiology,
Harvard Medical School
President, Society for Neurocience

P.S.: Too bad we don't see more of eachother. I well remember our conversation on the porch at Cold Spring Harbor.

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