

CBW file

November 30, 1970

Dr. Sidney Halle  
Principle Investigator  
Genetics Branch  
Virus and Rickettsia Division  
Fort Detrick  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Dr. Halle:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 16. Do you really think that the facilities and personnel at Ft. Detrick would be particularly well-suited to the task of screening human enzymes and other proteins for mutant variants? I realize that Fort Detrick possesses an excellent capability in animal virology and in certain other areas but I must admit that I do not fully understand your suggestion of using Detrick facilities and personnel for a genetic monitoring program.

A person most likely to be involved in the planning of any major genetic monitoring effort is Dr. James Neel at Michigan. A conversation with him would be much more helpful than anything I could contribute for I am not, myself, directly engaged in this type of work. If you come up with a specific program you should send a copy to Dr. Ivan Bennett at New York University Medical Center. Bennett's advice would undoubtedly carry considerable weight within the government.

I am sorry not to be able to offer any more specific assistance toward your objective of utilizing the accumulated talents at Fort Detrick although I certainly hope you are successful.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson

MSM:mcm