

Highlights

February 22, 1980

Prof. Matthew Meselson
The Biological Labs.
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16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Matt:

Thanks for the opportunity to preview the Scientific American paper. It is of course excellent. But over the years I have come to expect that as routine whenever I see anything with your or Julian's name attached.

I did not receive your letter until yesterday because it had to be forwarded twice. I have retired from the research business. Just prior to the holidays I opened the first of what I hope will be a series of contemporary gift shops. The story is that I got both my kids through college, got a divorce discovered that I was mobile, and decided -- what the hell, I might as well change everything-- so I did.

Being a verification man, I would have liked to see more on that issue in the paper. But, I understand that it is a survey paper. You folks put down in a few pages a good bit more than I managed to learn in fifteen years of hanging around the CW problem.

One parting shot -- I never was particularly concerned with CW per se. It always was a side issue, but as such, it seemed to me that the Soviets might find it easier to reach an agreement on. My advocacy of a strong verification system was based on the notion that it was a good way of penetrating and opening up Soviet society. I didn't and don't believe it can stand the light of day. Thus, verification doesn't make a damn with respect to a CW agreement but does serve a larger purpose and should be pursued to that end. I hope you agree and will do so.

Give my very best wishes to Julian.

I do my own typing and spelling nowadays. I was never very good at either.

Sincerely,


Robert E. Roberts