

Hutchins

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE

May 17, 1990

Mathew Meselson
Department of Biology
Harvard University
Cambridge Mass. 02138

Dear Professor Meselson:

I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with you on the phone Wednesday about the history of herbicides in times of war and peace. Every article I look through and every person I speak to about this peculiar story convinces me of its importance in the larger context of science in twentieth-century America.

Although it is still in the developmental stages, one section of the exhibition, "Science in American Life" will treat science in the 1950s, looking at the substantial impact of World War II on R+D and how that plays out in the post-war years. The discovery and incredible growth of herbicides will be central to this section.

I look forward to meeting you and going through the materials you have relating to this story. In case you need to reach me before then, my number at the Smithsonian is (202) 357-2095; my number at home is (302) 366-1869.

Sincerely,



Louis P. Hutchins
Division of Agriculture
and Natural Resources

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