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Dear professor Meselson,

for a whole month now, I tried unsuccessfully to speak with you. Although my motives are honorable, it was an efficient way to remind me that I do not belong to the same league as you scientifically, intellectually, socially and otherwise: a healthy experience in humility.

Before granting you the peace you seem to wish from me, I have decided to inflict on you a sample of my written prose. You can always throw it in the dustbin.

The first reason I was calling you, was to interest you to contribute to a book, I coedit with K. Olson. It would take too long to explain the intention of the book, so I send you an internal memo I wrote to Kyle, which expresses it, and informs you on whom would participate. You would be free to participate on the subject of your choice. The idea is to write think pieces (deadline for first draft: december 1991, for final piece, March 1991, one receives 1500 \$). If you do not want to suffer the indignity to have to give a reply to this invitation to me, you can call Kyle Olson (202- 638-3535, his fax is: 202-638-3536). In case he also belongs to the caste of the untouchables, no answer will be taken as a no.

2 My second preoccupation deals with Jessica Stern. She invited to belong to her committee. I accepted before knowing more. I would have greatly profitted from your advice in this matter, as you are clearly a central figure. I am putting together a plan B whereby I will call directly Al Carnesale and try to guess the best course of action.

3 Since I am writing to you (you may not be reading anymore), I profit to send you a copy of the last piece we finished and that I plan to circulate in the convention. This is based on analysis of waste streams given to us by chemical plants, we actually made during the summer with a GC-MS from CMU. This helped us calibrating the false positive.

4 I send it to you also to give you the opportunity if you are if you feel so inclined, to see what we add to what the Dutch did. I am going through the agony of the scrutiny of a promotion committee in CMU and had recently to face the insinuation that we hardly added anything to what the Dutch did. Since the people in that committee are morons in all subjects and in particular the chemical convention, this idea must have been planted in their brain by an outside expert. Since you are unambiguously the best scientist in this field, they may have contacted you and you may have a responsibility in that situation, although this may not be the case.

If you are still reading this letter, receive my most respectful regards,

cordially

Benoit Mand