

nal memo from
UA LEDERBERG

Matt

12/23/99

I thought you might
not mind seeing this.

Happy '00.

John

JAN 7 2000

→ Messelers

Lederberg, J.



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December 11, 1969

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

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Mr. A. Schou
Nobel Peace Institute
Oslo, Norway

Dear Mr. Schou,

This is to follow up our conversation in Stockholm in which I advocated a broadening of the mandate of the Nobel Peace Prize to include those scientific studies which might have a direct bearing on the rational ordering of human affairs towards the peaceful solution of group conflict.

May I take the occasion now to recommend a concrete step that would at least facilitate the consideration of such proposals without imposing a binding commitment on you. I suggest merely that you enlarge the field of qualified nominators for the peace prize to include previous recipients of the other Nobel Prizes in the sciences, medicine, and literature.

I would be happy to think that you would be burdened by a large number of additional nominations for if this were the case it would bespeak further intellectual attention to the problems of peace. My expectations are more modest but in that same direction.

Having requested such a self-serving gratuity it probably is already incumbent upon me to illustrate the point with some of my own suggestions.

For their important clarification of the role of instinct in aggressive behavior of animals and of men I would suggest Nikolas Tinbergen and Konrad Lorenz. Their findings should be no means be confused with the pernicious simplification that has been advertised, for example, by Ardrey.

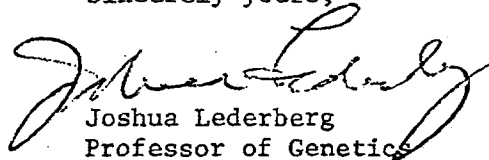
In another sphere, namely the specific contributions of scientists towards initiatives for peace I would happily nominate Jerry Wiesner for his remarkable role in the development of the non-proliferation treaty. I am sure that you are already far more acquainted with this than I could be.

Finally, I would call to your attention a very able scientist whose dedication to an extremely important peace-related activity has just been crowned with a very significant concrete action, namely President Nixon's recent statement concerning U.S. policy on chemical and biological warfare. In my opinion this step has an importance that transcends even the crucial issues of biological weaponry as it may be a major avenue for international consensus on problems on global concern. My candidate is Professor Matthew Meselson about whom you may not have heard so much but whose contribution to this field has been accurately summarized in a recent profile in The New York Times, a copy of which is enclosed.

I have already intruded myself too far but in the event that there is indeed an avenue where people like myself can make explicit nominations for the Peace Prize I would be happy to undertake the effort of a more complete statement of justification.

Please accept my very best personal regards for Madame Schou as well as yourself.

Sincerely yours,



Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

1 Enclosure
JL/rr