

**UNION
OF
CONCERNED
SCIENTISTS**

P.O. Box 289
M.I.T. Branch Station
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

CRW

March 10, 1970

Professor M. Meselson
Biology Department
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Matt:

I and all members of the Union of Concerned Scientists thank you for participating in so many ways in the March 4 conference on the arms race. Your presence, your authority contributed a great deal to the success of that conference. It is already clear that the conference achieved several of its most important aims. I will summarize some of them below at the same time asking you to keep in mind our need for your advice and assistance in broadening the public support for our fight and offering to you all the assistance we can give in your own efforts on the CBW issue.

A year ago we asked the scientific community to join us in a concerted and continuing effort to influence public policy in areas where scientific and technical knowledge can play a significant role. The need for an organization of concerned scientists did not lessen this year and will not lessen in the years ahead; March 4 will likely become an annual event.

We felt it vital to maintain the momentum within the organization and increase the momentum in the country for fighting the arms race. March 4 certainly did this. One of the least discussed aspects of the problem is the need for focussed argument to tap the-for practical purposes-finite reservoir of public strength for these fights. For example, the clean up of the environmental pollution is now a bandwagon which we helped to build and to which we are committed. But the success of that involvement diverts the efforts away from the root problems of the arms race. If the arms race spirals the environmental solutions will stagnate.

We believe too that the timing of the conference was about right for generating a maximum public support when the congressional debates become critical. The March 4 events are already a rallying point for immediate campaigns to stop further deployment of the ABM and explicitly ban the use of anti-plant chemicals in a ratified Geneva Protocol. Organizations in the local area are looking to us for technical guidance and leadership in this fight. The visibility of the March 4 events in the local press- and the coverage was good- has already begun to gather to us the help of local and national organizations. In this connection one cannot underestimate the importance of the high quality of the speeches and discussions, which had an intellectual content which lived up to the high reputation of the speakers. This high quality in turn enhanced the credibility and repute of the Union of Concerned Scientists, which is so important in our relations with the public, the press and the legislature.

There were at least eight March 4 events across the country despite the fact that we started organizing in early February. Programs-some of them quite extensive-were held on the west coast at UCLA, Berkeley, Seattle and on the east coast and midwest at Northwestern, Syracuse, Stanford, Yale and Minnesota.

The educational stations will broadcast some of the talks. We will distribute copies of the speeches which together make a timely, current, coherent argument against the arms race.

Thus we expect to move ahead on several levels, both locally and nationally, starting from the base you have helped to build.

We will be in touch with you soon regarding early publication of the proceedings. We have tapes of the Tuesday evening symposium and I am hopeful that the discussions to which you contributed so much will become part of the proceedings. Your help here will be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank you on my own behalf for making the conference stimulating and rewarding and for making my own task easier.

Sincerely yours,



Lee Grodzins

LG/dls