

1971
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

2:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION

Meeting Room

Egg Transplants--Josh Lederberg

Assume (as will be explicated on demand) that a technical possibility exists for "cloning" in man, most plausibly by transplanting cell nuclei into the egg. Assume further that some of the initial resistance to any application of such a procedure may have been surmounted by its use, e.g., to the relief of some forms of genetic defect or sterility.

A number of ethical and political questions arise:

- 1) If there is any possibility of authoritarian abuse, should scientists turn their backs on relevant research, even in animals? Suggest some non-obvious "abuses"; what safeguards are called for to avert statist intrusions, assuming these should be averted?
- 2) Will narcissism impel a widespread diffusion of such a method of reproduction?
- 3) What is the ethics of manipulating the genotype of the newborn (for any motive)? How is this distinguished from
 - educating-socializing the child in a predetermined cultural pattern?*
- 4) What would be the "shape of a world" in which 1, 10, or 100% of births were clonal? (A biologist can suggest some moderately, not very alarming, consequences.)

*This is the corner I would most wish to see illuminated.

J.L.

NOV 12 1971