

DATE: November 9, 1976

TO : Howard Tatum
Rockefeller University

FROM : Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics

SUBJECT: Follow-up of our phone conversation

Dear Howard,

This is just to summarize the items that I asked you whether you could furnish some information about in our conversation today.

1. To get a copy of a complete bibliography (up to a couple of years ago) and as complete a c.v. as may be readily available from the university files.
2. As much genealogical detail as you care to record to put into the archive.
3. Did Ed and his family move from Colorado to Wisconsin to Chicago before going on to Philadelphia? My problem with the dates is how Arthur was able to get an M.D. at Rush in such a short time, although perhaps he had some kind of transfer credit for work he may have been doing at Wisconsin. So I just wanted to see if one could get more details to straighten out the dates between 1910 and 1915.
4. Your family returned to Chicago from 1918 to 1925. Elsewhere I saw a note that Ed was enrolled in the University of Chicago experimental school. I assume this would have been the equivalent of high school, but the dates do not exactly match. The point is not too crucial but I wonder if you have any more detail about that. My guess is, he did not quite complete high school at Chicago; continued some high school in Madison and then started on his B.A. to get his first degree in 1931. I do not have any documentation about his life as a college student although one can very readily use one's plausible imagination in a perfectly straightforward way. His first publication was in 1932: undoubtedly the work he started for an M.S. and later elaborated for his Ph.D. on the lactic acid fermentation.
5. The only real blank space in the record, as I have been able to put together so far, is Ed's year at Utrecht. Perhaps there will be some item in his complete bibliography that could clear this up. So far I have been unable to find out whom he worked with or what his work was on. If all else fails, perhaps you might make an inquiry of the records of the General Education Board, which I think is a subsidiary of the Rockefeller Foundation, to see if they have something on the file about his research program. What would make this interesting, would be the light it might throw on how Ed was recruited to come to Stanford the following year to begin the story that then helped to remake modern biology.
6. If you can think of any other biographical material already in print on Ed - or if you can recall any similar notices about your father (I will also inquire at Wisconsin) - it would be helpful to collect those for the record, too.

This material would certainly most helpful in getting started. I am sure a lot of details will come to mind as we start drawing it all together and at that time I hope I may call upon you again.

This small effort can only begin to repay a very large debt that I owe Ed.