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August 18, 1959

Dr. John F. Loutit  
 Radiobiological Research Unit  
 Atomic Energy Research Establishment  
 Didcot, Berkshire, England

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Loutit:

I am sorry to be slow in writing but since my return about July 15 I have been terribly busy at the office and also engaged in moving into a new house. Consequently I am just now catching up on my correspondence.

I do want to thank you for the courtesies extended during my recent visit. I am sorry that one's visits must always be rushed and sometime I hope to have several days free to spend at Harwell so as to really become acquainted more intimately with the people and the program.

I have not forgotten your request that we supply some information with respect to our population genetics program. As I indicated to you, we are increasingly aware of the lack of population genetics research in our total genetics program and are taking some steps to remedy this deficiency. We are also concerned with the related problem of the effect of radiation induced mutations on quantitative or polygenic systems but the design of good experimental attacks on this problem is difficult. Under separate cover I am sending you copies of research proposals or renewal proposals of research projects carried out by Earl Green, Dr. J. L. Lush, Dr. A. B. Chapman, Dr. L. C. Dunn, and Newton Morton and James Crow. From what I could learn of your interests, these are the most important for your purposes. In addition to these studies, we are supporting quite a little research in *Drosophila* population genetics. The investigators involved here are Dobzhansky at Columbia, Bruce Wallace at Cornell, Elliot Spiess at the University of Pittsburgh, Wilson Stone at Texas, and Danko Brncic at the University of Chile. I am not sending copies of their proposals since the nature of their research projects should be well-known to your geneticists from their published papers. The most important programs, I would say, are those of Dobzhansky and Wallace. As I indicated to you in our conversation, I quite agree that the lack of knowledge of population genetics is one of the most serious shortcomings and I am pleased that you are contemplating an expansion in this direction. Incidentally, I feel that Dr. Godfrey

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has some very interesting techniques which might be very valuable in quantitative studies of experimental mouse population genetics.

It is my understanding that the news that Carter is leaving the project is now widespread. Despite the fact that there has been a certain amount of friction between the Harwell and Oak Ridge projects, I have enjoyed my contacts with Carter and I am very sorry to see him leave the project. I hope that future misunderstandings of this nature can be avoided, and I assure you that I shall do all that I can from where I sit to insure the fullest possible cooperation. If there is any further information you desire about our program in population genetics, please don't hesitate to call upon me.

Again, many thanks and kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

M. R. Zelle  
Chief, Biology Branch  
Division of Biology and Medicine

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