

Earlham College

RICHMOND



INDIANA

Attn: General Manager

404979

Division of Natural Sciences

Respectfully referred for appropriate reply. Not acknowledged by this office.

Sept. 30, 1954

Pres. Dwight Eisenhower
White House
Washington, D.C.

James M. ...
The Assistant to the President

Dear President Eisenhower:

A recent article in Science by Professor A. H. Sturtevant raises what are for me extremely serious questions. He points out, in a way that is difficult to pass over lightly, the danger that atomic explosions present to the race. If you do not happen to be familiar with the article he makes five points which are: (1) High energy irradiations produce mutations. (2) The frequency of induced mutations is directly proportional to the dosage of irradiation. There is almost certainly no threshold value below which irradiation is ineffective. (3) The effects of successive exposure are cumulative. (4) The effects are permanent in the descendants of the affected genes. There is no recovery. (5) The overwhelming majority of these mutations is deleterious, that is, they deleteriously affect the efficiency of individuals in later generations in which they come to expression. These deleterious genetic effects may lead to early death or to any of a wide variety of defects, often gross ones.

If these statements are a complete and accurate representation of our knowledge, they surely raise serious questions about the continuing of testing of nuclear explosives. Do you or members of your staff have additional information which outweighs the points above? Surely to procede as if this is only a "calculated risk" is impossible when there is so little knowledge of the total magnitude of the harm we are doing to the human race. How you and your associates have resolved this matter in your own minds is a question that is of serious concern to me and to others. I would appreciate hearing from you about it.

Sincerely yours,

Laurence E. Strong

Laurence E. Strong
(Professor of Chemistry)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Received in Office of General Manager

OCT 11 1954
Date: Time:

40801

DOX ARCHIVES

MEMO ROUTE SLIP Form AEC-93 (Rev. May 14, 1947)		See me about this. Note and return.	For conc. ce. For signature.	For action. For information.
TO (Name and unit) <i>Mr. Brown</i>	INITIALS <i>away</i>	REMARKS <i>Note:</i> <i>I have rec'd 2 calls</i> <i>fr. SM's re status</i>		
TO (Name and unit) <i>Mr. Brown</i>	DATE <i>2/10/48</i>	REMARKS <i>2nd of attached letters. Last call</i> <i>I told Mrs. Baker reply was</i> <i>in draft & final should</i> <i>be forthcoming within next</i> <i>few days.</i> <i>WEE</i>		
TO (Name and unit)	INITIALS	REMARKS		
	DATE			
FROM (Name and unit) <i>B. Long</i>	REMARKS			
PHONE NO.	DATE <i>11/14</i>			

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

16-56687-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DOE ARCHIVES

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

gdK

Via Secretariat for notification
of Commissioners

TO:

~~Mr. Nichols~~

Mr. Busher

For appropriate handling
(Copy of reply to Chairman)

For preparation of reply for Chairman's
signature (Copy of reply to Secretariat)

For information

REMARKS:

Dr. Green: Will you prepare reply
please for Mr. Stranis signature?
jcs

Please prepare acknowledgment or reply to all
letters for the Chairman's signature within
six working days.

10-19-54
JL