

# Earlham College

RICHMOND



INDIANA

*Attn: General Manager*  
*Com. 404979*

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.

*Laurence E. Strong*  
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 proceed 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

**DOE 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>from SM's ops re status</i>		
TO (Name and unit) <i>Mr. Baker</i>	DATE <i>21/10/47</i>	REMARKS <i>of attached letter. Last call</i> <i>to told Mr. Baker reply was</i> <i>in draft &amp; final should</i> <i>be forthcoming within next</i> <i>few days.</i> <i>M.E.</i>		
TO (Name and unit)	INITIALS	REMARKS		
FROM (Name and unit) <i>Burlogh</i>	INITIALS	REMARKS		
PHONE NO.	DATE <i>7/11/47</i>	REMARKS		

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

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DOX ARCHIVES

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

gdk

Via Secretariat for notification  
of Commissioners

TO: Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Bush

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. Strasser signature?  
gcs

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

10-19-54

IL